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DRÖIT ET AVANT

Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1896

WHOLE NO. 206.

NEW YEAR'S DAY HONOURS.

STAR OF INDIA.

Knight Grand Commander.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Beilby, Baron Wenlock, G.C.B., Governor of the Presidency of Fort St. George.

Knights Commanders.

The Honourable Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Brackenbury, K.C.B., Royal Artillery, Member of the Council of the Governor-General.

Thakur Sahib Mansinghji Sursinghji, Chief of Palitana, in Kathiawar.

Companions.

Major-General Montagu Gilbert Gerard, C.B., Indian Staff Corps, Commandant of the Central India Horse, and lately in charge of the British Section of the Pamir Delimitation Commission.

Lieutenant-Colonel David William Keith Barr, Indian Staff Corps, Resident of the 1st Class and Agent to the Governor-General in Central India.

Denzil Charles Jelf Ibbetson, Esquire, Indian Civil Service, Second Financial Commissioner of the Punjab, and Officiating Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

The Honourable Mr. James John Digges LaTouche, Indian Civil Service, Chief Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and Member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor for making Laws and Regulations.

Arthur Upton Fanshawe, Esquire, Indian Civil Service, Director General of the Post Office of India.

INDIAN EMPIRE.

Knight Grand Commander.

Sir Alfred Comyns Lyall, K.C.B., K.C.I.E., Member of the Council of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Knights Commanders.

Major-General Thomas Dennehy, C.I.E., Indian Staff Corps (Retired), Extra Groom-in-Waiting to Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India.

Nawab Sikandar Jang Iqbal ud-Daulah Iktidar-ul-Mulk Vikar-ul-Umara Bahadur, Minister to His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad.

Companions.

The Honourable Mr. James Grose, Indian Civil Service, Member of the Council of the Governor of Fort St. George.

The Honourable Mr. Patrick Playfair, President of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, and an Additional Member of the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations.

Rana Dalip Singh, Chief of Raghhat, in the Punjab.

Frederick John Johnstone, Esquire, Chief Engineer of the 1st Class and Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department.

Colonel Richmond Irvine Crawford, Indian Staff Corps, late Collector and Magistrate of Karachi.

Charles Falkiner MacCartie, Esquire, Indian Civil Service, Private Secretary to the Governor of Fort St. George.

Richard Morris Dane, Esquire, Indian Civil Service, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Haslett Browne, M.D., Indian Medical Service (Bengal), Principal and Professor of Medicine Lahore Medical College.

Doctor Rash Behari Ghosh, Pleader of the High Court of Judicature in Bengal.

Vaman Abaji Modak, late of the Education Department Bombay.

Frank Henry Cook, Esquire, of the Firm of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Viceroy's Personal Staff.

Honorary Surgeon.

Surgeon-Colonel Thomas Maunsell, Army Medical Staff.

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS' DECORATION.

East Indian Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel (Honorary Colonel) Noble St. Leger Carter, retired.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Honorary Colonel George Alfred Barnett, C.I.E.

North-Western Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Captain (Honorary Major) Adam Clark.

Captain Henry Masters Cardew.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

Maharaja.

Raja Vikrama Deo of Jeypore in the Vizagapatam District in the Madras Presidency.

Raja Gobind Lal Roy Bahadur, Zamindar of Rangpur, in the Bengal Presidency.

Raja Bahadur.

Raja Shashi Shakharewar Roy, Zamindar of Tahirpur, in the Rajshahi district in the Bengal Presidency.

Nawab Bahadur.

Nawab Vilayat Ali Khan, C.I.E., of Patna, in the Bengal Presidency.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Raja.

Thakur Kamal Narya Singh, Chief of the Feudatory State of Khairagarh in the Central Provinces.

Rani.

Sri Aukicham Achayamma Garu of Vizagapatam.

Dewan Babadur.

Rao Bahadur Rednam Dharma Rao Nayudu, Deputy Commissioner of Salt and Abkari Revenue in the Madras Presidency.

Dewan Ram Nath, late District Judge in the Punjab.

Rai Bahadur Sodhi Hukm Singh, Vice-President of the Regency Council of the Bikanir State in Rajputana.

Shams-ul-Ulama.

Maulvi Zulfiqar Ali, late Superintendent of the Chittagong Medressa, in the Bengal Presidency.

Khan Babadur.

Kasim Haji Mitha, of Bombav.

Saiyid Amir Ali, retired Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Punjab.

Abd-ur-Rahman, 2nd Magistrate and Treasury Officer of the Bangalore Civil and Military Station.

Shaikh Taj-ud-Din Husain, Senior Hospital Assistant, Subordinate Medical Department, Bengal.

Khandkhar Fazl-i-Rabbi, Dewan to the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad in the Bengal Presidency.

Munshi Hamid-uz-Zafar Khan, Deputy Collector in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Vice-President of the Council of the Rampur State in the North-Western Provinces.

Khan Sahib Shaikh Amir Baksh, Senior Hospital Assistant, His Excellency the Viceroy's Dispensary.

Karam Dad, Subadar in the Kalat State Troops.

Shams-ud-Din Khan, Subadar-Major of the Reserve Battalion, Upper-Burma Military Police.

Rao Babadur.

Suru Vijayaraghavulu Das Nayadu, Supervisor and temporary Sub-Engineer, in the Public Works Department, Madras Presidency.

Mutlur Adinarayana Ayya, Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, in the Madras Presidency.

Shesho Krishna Mudkavi, retired Mamlatdar in the Bombay Presidency.

Tukaram Ramdin, retired Inspector of Police in the Bombay Presidency.

Narayan Meghji Lokhande, Proprietor and Editor of the "Din-bandhu" newspaper in the Bombay Presidency.

Balabhai Mancharam, Native Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda.

Bhargo Rao, Extra Assistant Commissioner, in the Central Provinces.

Balkrishna Kashinath Joshi, Assistant Commissioner in Berar.

Rai Babadur.

Lala Sagar Chand, Inspector of Schools in the Punjab.

Lala Karm Chand, Honorary Magistrate of Amritsar in the Punjab.

Lala Madan Gopal, Barrister-at-Law, Lahore.

Jenarden Singh, Senior Hospital Assistant, Subordinate Medical Department, Madras.

Rai Sahib Mungal Sein, Deputy Examiner, Public Works Department.

Babu Ram Okhoy Chatterjee, late a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in the Bengal Presidency.

Babu Sarat Chunder Das, C.I.E., Tibetan Translator to Government.

Lala Nathu Mal, Banker of Khurja in the Bulandshahr District, in the North-Western Provinces.

Munshi Raghunandan Prasad, Member of the Municipal Board, Benares, in the North-Western Provinces.

Munshi Dhiraj Lal, landholder in Bulandshahr and Muttra, Ali-garh, in the North-Western Provinces.

Lala Gursaran Das, retired Deputy Collector, Saharanpur, in the North Western Provinces.

Vinayak Jageshwar Buti, of Nigpur, in the Central Provinces.

Ram Singh, Subadar-Major, Chin Hills Battalion, Upper Military Police.

Sardar Babadur.

Sardar Hira Singh, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests in Ajmere-Merwara.

Khan Sahib.

Bapunia Shermia, member of the Dholka Municipality and Honorary Magistrate in the Ahmedabad District in the Bombay Presidency.

Makhdum, Karim Husain, Honorary Magistrate, Muzaffargarh District, in the Punjab.

Cowasji Hatti Daru, of Seoni, in the Central Provinces.

Khuda Baksh, Jamadar in the Berbera and Bulhar Police on the Somali Coast.

Rao Sahib.

Vishvanath Keshav Joglekar, Vice-President of the Taluka Board of Karagji in the Dharwar District in the Bombay Presidency.

Rai Sahib.

Babu Nava Krishna Rai, a retired Inspector of Police in the Bengal Presidency.

Kanshi Singh, Sub-Overseer, Military Works Department.

Babu Amar Nath, officer in charge of arrangements for European visitors to Kashmir.

Lala Bishen Das, Wazir-i-Wazarat of Ladakh.

Tbue gaung ngwe Da ya Min.

Maung Shwe O, Inspector of Police, Burma.

Abmudan gaung Tazeik ya Min.

Maung Pe (t), Extra Assistant Commissioner, Burma.

Kyet tbue gaung Salwe ya Min.

Saw Naw Maing Sawbwa of South Hsen Wi.

In the London list of New Year honours the following appointments appear :—

Peerages.

Sir Frederick Leighton and Mr. Henry Hicks Gibbs.

Privy Councillor.

Sir Richard Temple.

Baronets.

Surgeon-General Arnott, Surgeon-General Joseph Fayer, and Mr. William Coddington, Member of Parliament.

Knights.

Howard Vincent, and Justices Farran and Bayley.

Knight Commander of the Bath.

H. H. Johnston, Commissioner of Nyassaland.

Poet Laureate.

Alfred Austin has been appointed Poet Laureate.

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials, will be sent post free on application brought before
Box 39, Victoria

WEEKLYANA.

WITH the New Year we begin a new volume—volume XV—of *Reis and Rayyet*. We make no new promises, we propose no new programme, we announce no new arrangements, we offer no prizes, we make no show, but mean to continue on the old lines laid down by our great Chief, the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee. We cannot do better than open our present number with New Year's Honours. However earned, they are welcome to the recipients and their friends and may lead to charity and charitableness.

THERE was the usual Proclamation Parade on the first day of the year. But the Viceroy could not attend. It was no merry Christmas to him. Nor did New Year dawn happy to him. He still lies on a sick bed. The State Dinner at Government House has been put off and the State Ball indefinitely postponed. Lord Elgin's progress towards recovery is very slow.

WHILE shooting on Sir Edward Lawson's estate at Hall Barn, Bucks, the Prince of Wales met with an accident. The birds were plentiful and strong on the wing, with a strong wind blowing. As the Prince fired at a bird directly above him, some grains of unconsumed powder were blown into his right eye. The pain was very great, which was relieved by hot fomentations procured by Dr. Kennedy of Beaconsfield, who also applied cocaine to deaden the sensibility.

SHETLAND and Iceland are to be joined by a cable, Great Britain, Denmark and Iceland jointly guaranteeing interest on the capital for the purpose.

THE Elliott Prize for Scientific Research will be given this year to any native of Bengal, including any Eurasian or domiciled European residing in Bengal, for the best essay, giving the results of original research or investigation in any branch. Physical Science, composed during the current year.

IN the last M. A. Examination of the Calcutta University, 84 candidates passed successfully. Thus—

English I, 4; II, 14; III, 16, total ...	...	...	34
Sanskrit I, 1; II, 4 ...	...	...	5
Arabic II ...	...	...	1
History, II, 1; III, 1 ...	...	...	2
Mental and Moral Science I, 3; II, 3; III, 5 ...	...	...	11
Mathematics I, 3; II, 3; III, 3 ...	...	...	9
Natural and Physical Science:			
A. Chemistry II, 2; III, 6 ...	...	...	8
C. Physics I, 3; II, 8; III, 2 ...	...	...	13
F. Geology II ...	...	...	1

The institutions which sent up most of these are the Presidency College, F. C. Institution and Duff College, General Assembly's Institution, Dacca College, Sanskrit College, Hislop College, Hughli College, and City College. Of the 84, 21 are Private Students and 3 Teachers.

THE Calcutta Electric Lighting Act, 1895, passed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in Council, received the assent of His Honour on the 17th August, 1895, and the assent of the Viceroy and Governor-General on the 19th December 1895, and having been published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 1st of January 1896, came into operation from that date. The Act applies to the whole of municipal Calcutta.

MR. Charles Edward Buckland, C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General, Revenue and Statistical Departments, has been re-appointed a member of the Bengal Legislative Council.

MR. F. F. Handley, Officiating Additional District and Sessions Judge, 24-Parganas and Hooghly, Kumar Gopendra Krishna Deb, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Nadia, and Mr. A. F. Steinberg, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Rungpur, have been confirmed in their respective appointments.

RAJA Jyoti Prasad Garga of Mysural has received the thanks of the

Lieutenant-Governor, for the offer of a donation of Rs. 4,000 for the establishment of a dispensary at Gewankhally and of an annual payment of Rs. 300 for its maintenance. The District Board will contribute Rs. 600 per annum towards the support of the institution.

PROFESSOR Richard is before the public again—not by his exhibition of marvellous cures, but for exhibition of temper and unruly treatment of patients. He has descended from the theatrical platform to the Police dock—to answer a charge of abusive language, assault and criminal intimidation. Mr. Cranenburgh, on behalf of E. Calder, has obtained a summons from the Chief Magistrate against the Electric Doctor. The *Statesman*, which has always been ahead of the Calcutta press in publishing the Professor's prominence, reports:—

“Mr. Cranenburgh stated that the name of the Professor was Richard Guismardo, *alias* Richard Morross *alias* Albert Richard, M. E., of 17, Chowringhee. His client had for several years been in the employ of Messrs. Dignam, Robinson and Spikes, who had to dispense with his services in consequence of his suffering from phthisis, but they from time to time made him compassionate allowances. On the 30th December last, Calder called on the Professor, with the object of consulting him as to his sickness. He explained to him that he would have come long ago to be treated, but he had been influenced by what he had been told and read in several papers, particularly *Electricity*, a respectable London weekly, in its issue of November 1st, 1895. Mr. Calder suggested that if there were any truth in the allegations made, it would add greatly to the Professor's reputation and to his income if he refuted them. Mr. Cranenburgh here read the paragraphs referred to, and, continuing, said that the Professor on being then asked what he would charge, and to make a concession in consequence of Mr. Calder's circumstances, replied that his charge was Rs. 1,000. Mr. Calder offered Rs. 100, whereupon the Professor flew into a great rage and struck Calder a blow on the chest, which, Mr. Cranenburgh submitted, was a brutal attack on a man suffering from a chest complaint. The Professor then kicked Calder, and shouting ‘kick him out,’ ‘kick him out,’ had him ejected, threatening at the same time to assault him with a horsewhip.”

A SUIT—Rajlakshmi Debi *vs.* the Secretary of State and others—is being heard by Mr. Justice Ameer Ali, in the Original Side of the High Court which shews how the Income-Tax Act is worked. One Purna Chunder Shaw deceased owning 8, Hara Chunder Mullick's Lane, but residing elsewhere, having neglected payment of Rs. 20, the income-tax, was fined by the Collector an equal amount. On application, the fine was remitted and Rs. 20, the amount of the tax, paid. Shaw, secure in his mind that there was no State demand on him, transferred, in December 1882, the said premises and other properties to his religious preceptor, the husband of the plaintiff, for religious and other purposes. Before a year had elapsed, the donor and the donee were surprised to find, that the house, valued by the plaintiff at Rs. 30,000, had been sold by the Collector of the 24-Parganas for Rs. 2,600 for certain costs payable to the Collector of Income Tax, Calcutta. The plaintiff seeks to set aside the sale on grounds of irregularity, under-value, &c.

The preliminary objection of the Advocate General that the suit cannot lie against the Secretary of State, in the absence of notice of suit, was over-ruled by the Judge.

Mr. Woodroffe, on behalf of the plaintiff, has raised several inconvenient questions for the Government to answer. Among others, he contends that no more than double the tax was claimable and that no sum by way of costs was recoverable under the Act.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THERE are symptoms of decided rapprochement between Turkey and Russia. The proposal of the British sympathisers with the Armenians that Russia should undertake to pacify Armenia is not favoured in St. Petersburg. The Sultan has despatched Arif Pasha to St. Petersburg with costly presents for the Czar. It is rumoured that he is entrusted with a special mission.

All the Powers are urging the Porte for lenient treatment to the Zeitun insurgents, who are taking refuge in the mountains. The Porte has instructed the Governor of Zeitun that the inhabitants who were not actually engaged in the insurrection are not to be molested.

Numerous arrests of Turks have been made at Constantinople, including three Government clerks, who are charged with organising a demonstration against the present régime.

THE year is heralded with British reverses in the Dark Continent. There are persistent rumours at Johannesburg of a secret arming of the Uitlanders. President Kruger has returned from the country. It is stated that he is fully alive to the gravity of the situation, and is taking the necessary steps to meet the storm. If it comes, General Joubert will be summoned to Pretoria. The foreigners at Johannesburg are much divided. The Germans and Americans side with the Government against the National Union of the Transvaal British Society. The situation is growing acute, and many ladies and children are leaving the Rand. It is expected that several of the leading mines will be shut down at once. The burghers have been warned that they must be ready for active service, and mercantile associations have organised a town bodyguard to preserve order, but will take no active part in any civil war or rebellion. The Germans have selected a committee to arrange a plan of action. The French and German Press are strongly anti-English on the Transvaal question. The German press encourage President Kruger to resist the demands of the Uitlanders, whom they call adventurers and goldgrubbers. In response to the appeal of the leading inhabitants of Johannesburg, Dr. Jameson, the British South Africa Company's administrator at Mashonaland, with seven hundred Chartered police, crossed the border and marched to Johannesburg. It is rumoured that General Joubert, with a force of Boers, marched to intercept him.

Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, cabled to Dr. Jameson to return, and also to President Kruger, demanding that he would do his utmost to prevent hostility, offering the assistance of England to effect a peaceful solution of the difficulty. The *Daily News* considers Dr. Jameson's action highly reprehensible. The *Times* suspends its judgment but states that if the fears expressed in the Uitlanders' appeal are justified, then the British people will approve of his conduct. Referring to President Kruger's reported appeal to the French and German Consuls, the *Times* declares that Great Britain will not endure any foreign intervention in the Transvaal, nor suffer anarchy there.

Dr. Jameson duly received his orders to return, but persisted in ignoring them.

Fighting began at four o'clock on Wednesday morning. Dr. Jameson was driven from several positions he had taken up and had to surrender.

The despatch he sent while fighting was proceeding says that the Boers had taken twenty-two wounded prisoners, including three officers, besides twenty unwounded prisoners.

Mr. Chamberlain has telegraphed to Pretoria, asking that generous treatment may be shown to the wounded and the prisoners.

Sir Hercules Robinson is going to Pretoria at once.

The German Emperor has telegraphed to the President Kruger, warmly congratulating him on his success in repelling armed invaders, and preserving the independence of the Transvaal.

The London papers, in discussing the Johannesburg disaster, deplore Dr. Jameson's action, but hope that President Kruger will nevertheless redress the reasonable grievances of the Uitlanders.

The French papers are exultant over the defeat of Jameson's force by the Boers, and declare that France, Germany and Russia united will protect the rights of the Transvaal.

THE American House of Representatives considered a Bond Bill empowering Secretary Carlisle to issue three per cent. bonds, and passed a short term Bill, by one hundred and sixty-nine against one hundred and thirty-six.

NEGOTIATIONS between Great Britain and France are proceeding regarding Hurrar and the Mekong, and it is understood that France is very desirous of an *entente* on all pending questions.

THE revenue returns of Great Britain show an increase for the past nine months of six million three hundred and ninety thousand pounds, of which stamps contribute four millions and-a-quarter. The Budget will show a surplus of nearly five millions.

A MEMORIAL for Government to favour the Kafirs of the Hindoo Koosh is being signed by a number of English and foreign scholars and learned and philanthropic societies.

THE French Chamber of Deputies has voted a Madagascar credit of seventeen million francs.

IN a speech from the throne, the Mikado stated that foreign relations of Japan are growing more intimate. And yet he stated that measures would be adopted for increasing the defences of the Empire.

THE results of the University elections for Fellowship are,

1. Dr. Suresh Prasad Sarbadhicary,
2. Babu Yatindra Nath Roy Chowdry,
3. Babu Lal Behary Mitter.

The first comes in as a matter of course, for there was one medical degree-holder to be recommended and Sarbadhicary had no competitor. The scion of the Taki House had been longest in the field and been well supported. The remaining successful candidate is the son of the Hon'ble Egan Chunder Mitter and knows how to fight an election.

THE *Tribune* of Lahore reports :—

"The Maharaj Rana of Jhallawar was invested with full authority last year in June, and has since been exercising the powers conferred on him. Lately, the Political Officer, Captain Gordon, has been trying to constitute himself into a court of appeal, and to interfere with the Chief's proceedings. In last October Captain Gordon wrote a letter to the Maharaj Rana questioning some of his decisions. The Maharaj Rana has sent a spirited reply, in the course of which he says :—'I am not aware whether you are competent to hear appeals against my decisions in any way, and to write for staying such orders as have been already issued by me. I do not see there is any such condition in the Jhallawar Treaty or in the Viceroy's *Kharita* dated June 1894. If you have been, however, authorised to that effect, I shall be obliged if you would kindly send a copy of such orders to me before the Christmas holidays.'

The Rana is tempting fate by his "spirited reply." Matters must have gone too far between him and the Political to elicit such a retort. The Rana not only openly resents the interference with his powers but also prescribes the time for production of the representative's authority to dictate. The Chief may be within his rights. Their exercise is, however, not always palatable to Residents, and sometimes brings disgrace with subsequent curtailment of even the show of authority.

AGAIN,

"A story is abroad that Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, while out riding in the morning the other day, saw a number of Christmas *dalis*, evidently intended for some officials, being carried through the streets. He stopped his horse and told the men that no *dalis* should be presented to any officer and they had better take the things back. As happens with such stories we are not told whether His Honor's advice was followed or not. The men were merely carriers and had their masters' orders. In another province a European officer once told us in the course of conversation that he was not at all desirous of accepting presents or *dalis*, but sometimes he had no choice. He mentioned a personal experience that he had had. He was in charge of a sub-division and was out in camp during the winter. One morning a man brought him a lamb, saying that it was a present from his master, a zemindar in the neighbourhood. The officer said that he did not mind buying the lamb at a fair price but would on no account accept it as a gift. 'Sahib,' replied the man, 'my master does not sell lambs, and I have no authority to sell this one. If I were to take it back to him, he would not let me off with a whole skin.' The man then quietly tied the lamb to a tent-peg, and bowing to the officer, said :—'Now you may do with it what you like.' And without waiting for the usual *bukshish*, or further parley, he made a clean bolt of it, and was out of sight in a few moments. 'What would you have me to do?' asked the officer. 'If I had let the lamb loose, it might have been stolen, or what would have been worse for the man who had brought it to me, it would have found its way back home. There was nothing left for it but to keep the lamb.'

So there is no help but to accept the *dali*, any rules to the contrary.

English criminal jurisprudence recognises no offence in the giving and receiving of *dalis*, and wines and presents in the case of the British in India when

THERE are no less than 13 candidates for the Vice-Chairmanship of the Calcutta Corporation. When a post is advertised, any body seems competent to reply. Broadly speaking, there are 5 Europeans, 7 Hindus, and 1 Mahomedan. Formerly the place was reserved for Europeans, but it has been given for several years to natives, and there seems no disposition to re-open it to European. The election will, therefore, be confined to the Hindus and the Mussulman. Of these 8, the most talked about, that is, who have canvassed most, are the 1 Mahomedan and 3 Bengalis,—Moulvi Budruddin Haider, Registrar, Bench of Honorary Presidency Magistrates; Babu Nigendra Nath Sircar, Head Assistant, Revenue Department, Bengal Secretariat; Baboo Nilamber Mookerjee, late Chief Judge and Finance Minister of the Kashmir State, and Baboo Charoo Chunder Mitter, son of the late Baboo Nilcomul Mitter of Bandipur and Allahabad. It is to be regretted that, from the beginning, a race question has been sought to be made of the election. Some well-meaning Europeans have taken up the Mahomedan by the hand, while others have declared themselves for the Secretariat man, otherwise styled the official candidate, who is supposed to have at his back some of the Secretaries of the Local Government with which rests the ultimate sanction of the appointment. Baboo Charoo Chunder is a host in himself—Pleader, Zemindar in the districts of Hooghly and the 24-Parganas, Municipal Commissioner of the Allahabad Board, Vice Chairman of the Allahabad municipality, Honourable member of the Legislative Council of the N.-W. P. and Oudh, Auditor for Banks and Joint-Stock Companies, and what not besides. According to one account, he has the appointment in his pocket, with Rs. 1,300 as special pay for special qualifications, such as his genius for assessments. The remaining candidate is the only one who has high university distinctions. He has besides seen the highest and most responsible service in one of the most important border Native States, where he himself introduced municipal administration. He retired on a pension equal to the pay of the post he seeks, which if he had been permitted to draw, would have placed him above the humiliating position he now finds himself in. A question has been asked why Baboo Nilamber left the Kashmir service? We will let the British Resident, Sir Oliver St. John, answer it. Babu Nilamber "quitted the Maharaja's service sooner than connive at peculation he was powerless to prevent." We will not believe the rumour that the Secretariat man has been pitted against the Kashmir ex-official in pursuance of the policy which keeps Baboo Nilamber out of his sanctioned annuity. If the Secretaries of the Bengal Government be indiscreet, the Commissioners have a duty to perform—to themselves and the ratepayers in general, by appointing the best of the baker's dozen, unmoved by other considerations than the good of the municipality.

The other candidates are Babu Kali Kumar Roy, M.A., B.L., Pleader; Mr. Alfred McCabe Dallas, L.M., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer to the Haffrey Valley Planters' Association; Captain Andrew Hearsay; Mr. W. L. Joakim; Mr. John Hague; Babu Amrita Lal Dey, B.A., B.L., Professor, Maharaja's College, Jeypore; Mr. W. J. Owers, Hyderabad, Deccan; Babu Jy Gobind Shome, M.A., B.L., Pleader, High Court; Brindaban Misra, Lucknow.

THE Blotting Pad and Diary for 1896 of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company is welcome indeed. It is neatly done up and contains 2 pages for memoranda, 12 pages for diary for all the days of the year and a sheet almanac. Of course you have also the principal facts concerning the Company—when it was founded, the amount of its capital, the number of shareholders, the amount of the invested Funds, the number of policies issued, the amount of the existing policies with the number of lives insured. You are at first introduced to the first Governor of the Company, Sir Walter Scott, Bart. whose portrait is given on the cover.

THE Mohun Mela, started last year as an opposition shop to the Fancy Fair from which a certain class is excluded, was repeated this year under altered management. The original projectors were not allowed any hand, though they could not be kept out altogether. The Flower Show at the Seven Tanks having been discontinued, the Industrial Associationists utilized the new Fair for their own purposes and resolved to purge it of all impurity. An attempt was made to have their Exhibition opened on the Mela grounds by the Viceroy. But it was not to be. His Excellency was advised that he could not be present. So the Show was opened by Dr. Watt, Government Reporter on Economic Products. A few Bengalis and

Europeans with a large number of Hindustanis were present. On the arrival of Dr. Watt, the band played "Welcome," and then a song, not patriotic as mentioned in the programme, was sung. After this, was read a short history of the Industrial Association, by the Secretary. Rai Parbati Sankar Chaudhuri followed, deploring the lost industries, and invited the wealthy of the community to join them for revival of their past glory. It was the day for the display of patriotism all round. A short poem in Bengali was then recited, but it failed to produce the desired effect.

The master of the ceremony, Dr. Watt, expatiated on the utility of such exhibitions of Indian products. The indigenous arts and manufactures should be kept up, he advised, but how so desirable an end could be achieved, was not explained. The failure in the production of cotton fabrics, he ascribed to the great extension of trade in jute and tea. Jute, at least, is highly remunerative to the grower, the capital needed being comparatively small. Bengal abounds in iron ore, yet little is done for extraction of that highly useful metal. He spoke of international exhibitions as mistakes, for they are often injurious. The products of one country may be supplanted by successful imitations in another. In the last London exhibition, a Hindu idol had been shown to him, manufactured in England as an imitation of the stone ones made in India. He recommended inter-provincial exhibitions to be held in Calcutta, Bombay, and other principal cities of India.

In moving the vote of thanks, Dr. Sircar pointed out that international exhibitions are, no doubt, injurious to weak nations, but it is difficult to oppose them. When taking place in Europe, Indian products cannot fail to be exhibited. The difficulty may be remedied by cultivation of science side by side with art. It is art backed by science that has made the European nations what they are. Indian arts, unbacked by science, will not be able to compete in any market. Knowing and doing are two things. Knowing is science and doing is art. They must be combined to achieve success. Doing cannot be successful unless you know well what to do and how to do.

Rai Bihadur Kumai Lal Dey seconded the vote of thanks. Dr. Watt, in replying, observed that he meant art with science, not art alone. His object was the preservation of indigenous high arts.

Three cheers were then given by the assembly to the Queen-Empress and the band played "God save the Queen."

Various entertainments were provided for the spectators, such as *Femle baul*, *Jatra*, magic, dramatic performances, concerts, gymnastics, marionettes, and fireworks.

Compared to the exhibitions held at DamDum during the Flower Show, the last Industrial Show cannot be pronounced a successful attempt. There were wanting horticultural and agricultural products. Among the indigenous manufactures, which were many, the following are worthy of mention: K. C. Bose's cornflower, barley and biscuits; Gonsalves & Co.'s photoengraves; Kisin Ariff Brother's silk cloths, North West Soap Co.'s soaps; cloth manufactures from the Elgin Mills; K. C. Das's padlocks, and matches from Indian and Bengal Match factories.

ONE of the recipients of the New Year's Honours, of 1895, Rai Bahadur Hari Krishna Mazumdar, of Islampur, in the Murshidabad District, has not survived his investiture. He died, at Berhampore, of apoplexy, on the 18th of December, at the age of 39. He was making himself a name, under the patronage of Mr. Kennedy, the District Magistrate, who attended the funeral. Mrs. Kennedy, who was a mother to the deceased, paid a visit of condolence to the ladies of his family. The rise of Mr. Mazumdar was remarkable. The school that he founded at Islampur and which continues to be a blessing to the locality, brought him to the notice of Government. He was made an Honorary Magistrate and given independent powers; he was a member of the District Board and Chairman of the Sadr Local Board. His literary activity was on a par with his ambition in other directions. In 1882, he published in Bengali the first volume of a History of India, treating of the Vedic period. It is dedicated to Dr. Rajendra-lala Mitra.

THE last (September) number of the *National Magazine* is not uninteresting. The first paper, "An Indian Pears," by Mr. F. H. Skrine, describes in detail the manufacture of soap by a branch of the North West Soap Company at Garden Reach. It seems that until 1880, India, although producing in abundance the principal substances used in the preparation, was content to depend on Europe for her supply of soap. In that year the North West Soap

Company founded a small factory at Meerut. It grew and prospered, and in 1883 it obtained the only gold medal awarded to the Indian soap at the Calcutta Exhibition. Ten years later, the Directors, finding the demand outstrip the supply, extended their operations to Calcutta, securing for a song several acres of land enclosed by a high wall with a large house within it. It was the residence of a Mussalman nobleman connected with the ex-King of Oudh's Court. Mr. Skrine's description of the several processes is not burdened with technical words and expressions. It cannot, therefore, fail to interest the general reader. The Company have begun well, but it will take long to perfect their article. They sell tablets in imitation of Pears' and their cheapness may hereafter drive out from the Indian market, his which, we understand, falls short of the demand. Soap like wine improves by keeping. Fresh from the manufactory, it lacks many of the properties for which it is valued. The Indian imitation, though much cheaper, cannot approach the original in colour, transparency, flavour and durability or resistance to water. The scented ones smell too strong and are disagreeable, and instead of cleansing the skin impart to it a sticky matter that has to be washed off with care. The second article in the magazine, "England and the Mediterranean," by R. C. B., is a valuable contribution to the discussion, carried on in England on the desirability of strengthening the British Navy. The possessions of England are separated from each other by great distances. One fleet or two, however large, cannot defend the whole Empire. The writer wishes to point out that if England is not to run the risk of being beaten in a conflict, she should do what her neighbours are doing, that is, add to the strength of her navy. The paper is a well-written one, and makes out a case for the increase of naval expenditure. "Kings and Beards" is a short essay by Sirat Chandra Mitra, M. A., B. L., containing curious information. "Ceremonial Love in Bengal" by D. N. Neogi, B. A., sustains the interest excited by the previous instalments under the same head. The paper on "Raja Sir Dinkar Rao, Knight" is extremely short. A detailed account of his life is wanted. The great statesman is still alive. Information, however, that is now available, will be lost a few years hence. A biographical volume, replete with interest and throwing a flood of light on the administration of the Mahratta States, may be produced with the aid of the Raja. "The Continental Ladies' Letter from Paris," though short, gives some interesting information regarding French manners, dress, and cookery. The Sonnet by C. L. Alexander passes muster. The notices of books are generally neat. We see that Babu Nabin Chandra Sen's latest poem, "Amitabha," is characterised as deficient in fire and pathos. The reviewer notices the blunders that we were the first to point out in the Sanskrit quotations with which the preface is garnished. The hope is expressed that the blemishes will be removed in a second edition. A bad poem, however, cannot be made good by mere revision.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, January 4, 1896.

THE OLD YEAR.

ANOTHER year has been numbered with the past. The events, as far as humanity is concerned, have been the same or nearly the same in character as those of its predecessors. There have been births and deaths, joy and sorrow, in every land. There has been progress in many directions as a falling back in some. The optimist has his budget of facts for congratulating himself upon the extension he believes in of human happiness. The pessimist has his tale of wrong and evil for laying on some sombre touches on the gloomy picture he is in the habit of frightening himself with. The philosopher, without yielding to joy and sorrow, may wait for taking stock and reflecting on the causes and consequences of errors

cannot but be temporary in their effects. Man's concerns for the most part are endued with such a principle of elasticity that their expansion and not repression is inevitable. Nor was there anything among the occurrences of 1895 which can be said to have seriously interfered with the operation of that inexorable law.

The year 1895 opened with the attention of the civilised world directed to events developing themselves in the far East. Japan, though inferior to China in territorial extension, had declared war against her continental neighbour. The resources of the latter were generally believed to be inexhaustible. The year 1894 closed with symptoms plainly indicating that the beginning of the end had come. By February, the war was nearly over. That which had scarcely been expected, came to pass. China was beaten at all points, and before April was at an end, a treaty of peace was concluded under which China had to pay a heavy sum as war-indemnity to the victor. The contest proved the measure of progress achieved by Japan and the retrogression of China in consequence, as is believed, of official corruption all round. That China was able to meet the enormous indemnity exacted from her, speaks well for her solvency and the elasticity of her resources. One feature of the war could not fail to be marked. Japan was not allowed to reap the full benefit of her success in arms. The European Powers intervened, some directly and some indirectly. Among others, Russia in particular was opposed to the extension of Japanese influence on the Asiatic continent. Perhaps, after all, the result has not been undesirable. China laid helplessly low at the feet of Japan, without anybody coming forward to mitigate the severity of Japan's demands, would certainly have been a piteous spectacle.

The election of a new President of the French Republic, with the administrative changes that followed it, formed another important event in the political world. In the affairs of France, the expedition against Madagascar must also receive prominence. It was a war of civilisation with all its deadly resources against semi-barbarism still depending on means, many of which are entirely primitive, for both attack and defence. The result, therefore, could not be otherwise. The success of France was assured. It was delayed by various circumstances, chief amongst which was disease. But the check sustained by the French arms proved temporary. The anticipations of the invaders were at last realised, and the influence of France is now supreme in that large island furnishing an excellent half-way station in the old highway of most of the European nations to India round the Cape.

In a chronicle of 1895 prominence must be given to the affairs of Turkey. Without precise knowledge of the causes that led to the atrocities committed against the Christian population of Armenia, the indignation of the whole civilised world was roused against "the unspeakable Turk." Pressure was brought to bear upon the Sultan to put his house in order. The Sultan, as usual, cowering under such action of the foreign Powers, adopted the policy of shuffling as the only means of avoiding the worry. Even when assumptions were given, it is not always easy and the United game of fright-ssion, but the casure of the

importance of ambassadorial notes, several or joint. At one time the situation became really alarming and a war with the Turk became almost imminent. Happily, the clouds in the political horizon melted away. So far as England is concerned with a Turkophil party in power, the chances of complications in this quarter no longer exist.

To us in India no event of the past year could be fraught with greater interest than the change of administration in England. At the general election that followed the dissolution of Parliament, the Liberal party lost seat after seat, while the Conservatives won success quite unexpected. Irish Home Rule and the reform of the Upper Chamber constituted the chief cry of the Liberals. The maintenance of both the Union and the Lords intact was the cry of the other side. The country pronounced unmistakably on both these questions. It is true the Conservative majority was swelled by that portion of the Liberals which has won the name of Unionists, but the latter, with their strong views on Irish Home Rule and the Upper Chamber, could not possibly stand apart or with Lord Rosebery's followers on such an occasion. The Liberals, while acknowledging their defeat so far as the results of the general election were concerned, did not allow that the country was against them. Their defeat was due, they maintained, to the defective system of representation in vogue. For all that, their power crumbled away and their opponents formed a sort of coalition ministry that is still working with a smoothness that could not be readily predicted. The Liberal defeat deprived Mr. Dadaboy Naroji of his seat, while another Indian gentleman, unknown before, Mr. Bhowmagri, entered the House of Commons. Of abilities greatly inferior to those of Mr. Naroji, the new Indian member's capacity for evil could not be great. But it should be admitted that since his entrance into the lower House, he has done nothing to justify the alarm felt by the friends of progress in India.

In India too the past year saw a war about whose utility opinion is still divided. Information was received of a small British garrison shut up within an insignificant fort far beyond the frontiers of India. What had led the men there few people knew before hearing of their perilous situation. British prestige required their rescue at any cost. Accordingly, the expedition to Chitral was ordered. The Indian army, it was seen, is in a state of high efficiency. The forces were moved with a promptitude that was certainly admirable. The difficulties that inanimate Nature presented were surmounted with an alacrity that spoke highly of both the men and officers employed in the campaign. There was fighting along nearly the whole line of the march, and in some places even severe fighting. But nothing could daunt the prowess of the soldiers engaged in the expedition. If one officer or corps acquired greater distinction than another, it was due to the accident of situation and time. Chitral was relieved, British prestige was maintained. The usual shower of honours took place. The Indian tax-payer had to bear the burthen. All the characteristics of frontier war were noticeable in the Chitral campaign. Apart, however, from the gallantry of the troops and the cost of the expedition, about which opinion cannot be divided, when people came to enquire about what led a British officer with a body of men to such an out-of-the-way little place as Chitral, the story was unfolded, for the first time, of a little political game in furtherance of

what has been called the forward policy as a means for repelling Russia from the Indian possessions of Britain. The war was undertaken by one party. The settlement of the question, however, depended upon the will of another which had come to power by the time the campaign was over. The Liberals had resolved to withdraw from Chitral, content with maintaining a show of supremacy over its affairs. The Conservatives, however, resolved to retain Chitral for its strategical importance in a war with Russia. It is a ticklish question, and whatever may be the views of the future historian of India, the retention of that mountain fort with the way to it from India kept clear by a chain of military posts, is regarded by the party in power as a great triumph of Imperial policy.

Next to war, the affairs of peace demand attention. Indian finances, chiefly through fall in exchange, had reached a stage when the re-imposition of the cotton-duties became an imperious necessity. With the cry of Free trade, Manchester resumed her organised agitation against those duties. A counter-vailing tax was imposed on the produce of the Indian Mills so that no pretence might be left for the cry that the Indian industry was protected at the expense of Manchester. It has been difficult, however, to appease the Moloch of Manchester. The Custom House figures have abundantly established the fact that the consumption of Manchester goods in India has suffered no decrease since the re-imposition of the duties. There has even been an increase, so that the fears entertained by Manchester have not been at all realised. The duties have really fallen on the Indian consumer. As an indirect tax whose collection is easy and which is not felt as a burthen by the people of India, it has every recommendation in its favour. Unhappily, Manchester is still harping on it as a standing grievance or a menace to her interests. From the weight which Manchester has in the lower House of Parliament, there can be little doubt that its success is certain in the long run. No Secretary of State will be able to resist long the demands of Cottonopolis. India, however, should be thankful to Lord George Hamilton for postponing the evil day.

In the department of legislation, the principal measures of general interest were the Bill relating to the amendment of the Cantonment Act, that to Pilgrim Ships and, lastly, that to the Police. The first of these excited the needless indignation of the medical officers of Government. They maintained that they were so upright and conscientious as to be incapable of breaking the law in a particular direction. The provision about the punishment of persons like them on the supposition of their infringing the line of duty, was taken as a flagrant insult. Bentham had long ago noticed and effectually disposed of the fallacy lurking behind such an argument. For all that, the pressure that was brought to bear upon the Government of India was too much. The Pilgrim Ships Bill, introduced at the instance of the Secretary of State for India, in accordance with certain views adopted at the Paris Conference, provoked opposition from the Mahomedan community. The Government of India had, from the beginning, felt the error of the position. The complaints of the Mussalmans were listened to with a good grace, and a rupture between them and the Government was avoided. The Police Bill had a very objectionable scope. It was opposed with learning and vigour in the Council

by the Hon'ble Perozeshah Mehta. Unable to reply to his arguments, his observations were taken by more than one official member as an attack on the Indian Civil Service. No case had been made out for the grant of larger powers to the Executive. On the other hand, solid reasons were urged against such grant. For all that, the official members, by their solid votes, carried the measure. The result is that the most grievous penalties in the form of fines may now be imposed by executive determination on any subject of the Crown whatever his connection with an area within which there has been a disturbance. The great principle of civilised criminal jurisprudence, that no man should be punished without his fault being proved according to known rules of evidence and before judges trained to apply those rules and competent to weigh probabilities and draw inferences, was openly violated. Abuse of power, it was urged, by members of the Civil Service, is not to be presumed. We have it on the authority of Sir Charles Elliott that they are all, all honourable men, conscientiously striving to do their duties, Mr. Levinge at Sylhet and Mr. Wheeler in the North West probably unexcepted. Civil liberty was put back by half a century. There may be condemnation and punishment without the grant of an opportunity for defence.

There were changes in the *personnel* of some of the local administrations. Early in the year, Lord Harris was succeeded in the Government of Bombay by Lord Sandhurst. In Madras also, Lord Wenlock, by his retirement, made room for Sir Arthur Havelock from Ceylon. In the North West Provinces, Sir Antony MacDonnell took the reins of Government from the hands of the Senior member of the local Council who had been acting after Sir Charles Crosthwaite. In Bengal, during the last month of the year, Sir Charles Elliott, after his full five years, made over charge to Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Sir Charles Elliott was, no doubt, an able ruler, but the sort of ability he had, operated as a positive disqualification for the rule of a law-governed Province like Bengal. His latest apologist observes that he had, throughout his term, "worthily upheld the national prestige." As a matter of fact, even this is his severest condemnation. He was a Civil ruler in one of the oldest Provinces of the British empire in the East, where, through spread of education, the people have become accustomed to the ways of constitutional Government. One can conceive of Sir Charles Elliott's upholding British prestige in a province like Assam by punishing the hill chiefs still steeped in barbarity and committing raids into British territory in utter ignorance of British might. We are unable to understand what shocks British prestige ever received in Bengal during Sir Charles' rule and how it became necessary to uphold outraged prestige. Were acquittals of accused persons, when the evidence against them was weak, shocks to British prestige? Probably, however, reference is made to Sir Charles Elliott's policy of screening official offenders from public exposure. But of this, hereafter.

The Viceroy's tour was another noted event of the old year. Lord Elgin saw the principal cities and towns of the empire. He was received everywhere with honours due to his high position and

that should be evoked on both sides on occasions such as these. But they were passing clouds in a welkin otherwise sunny and cheerful throughout.

The last days of the year witnessed the eleventh session of the Indian National Congress held at the historic capital of the Mahratta empire, with the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Bannerjee in the chair. His address covers 65 long columns of lead and travels over the entire ground of Congress politics.

There were many deaths among prominent men in India and other countries in 1895. France mourns for one of her greatest scholars, *viz.*, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire. India mourns the loss of Mr. Justice Mathuswamy Iyer. Bengal also has sustained some irreparable losses, chief amongst which are the deaths of Dinobandhu Nyayaratna and Kaviraj Gunga Prasad Sen.

WANTED: SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

MR. MANOMOHAN GHOSE TO AN ENGLISH INTERVIEWER.

"I have collected the opinions of several eminent Anglo-Indian authorities, ranging over a period of nearly forty years, condemning this system and advocating separation. Only recently, in a debate in the House of Lords, over the Maimansingh case, both Lord Kimberley, then Secretary of State, as well as Lord Cross, his predecessor, expressed the opinion that it was exceedingly desirable, in the interests of justice, to separate the two functions. But no step, I regret to say, has been seriously taken to effect this separation. Lord Kimberley remarked that financial considerations prevented the Government from introducing this much-needed reform. I am sorry that I do not appreciate the force of this objection. As my friend, Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, C.I.E., of the Bengal Civil Service, now Commissioner of the Orissa Division, has shown, the reform could be carried out without costing an additional rupee to the State. Although Lord Kimberley had been advised that Sir Richard Garth was wrong in stating that the principal ground of objection to this reform was an apprehension on the part of executive officers in India that their prestige would suffer by it, I cannot help saying that, on the contrary, I am convinced, from what I have seen, heard, and read, that Sir Richard Garth was perfectly right in his assertion, and that the financial objection is merely put forward in the present embarrassed state of Indian finances in order to shelve the question."

"Except in the Presidency towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, where there are Presidency Magistrates, somewhat analogous in position to your Police Magistrates in London, all petty criminal cases are tried by three classes of magistrates in India, known as the first, second, and third class magistrates. All these magistrates in a district are subordinate to the District Magistrate, who is the chief executive officer of the district, and who hears appeals from the decisions of second and third-class magistrates only. Appeals, where they are admissible, from decisions of first-class magistrates, including those of the District Magistrate himself, lie to the District Judge, who is subordinate only to the High Court. As regards the power of these magistrates, I ought to tell you that the first-class magistrate is competent to award a sentence of two years' rigorous imprisonment (what you call 'hard labour') and a fine of Rs. 1,000; a second-class magistrate is empowered to inflict six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200; and a third-class magistrate can inflict one month's imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50. It is the District Magistrate who determines, according to the schedule of

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1895-96.)

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., on Tuesday, the 7th Inst., at 6 to 8 P.M. *Subjects*: Histology—Kidney; Physiology—Alimentation.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Wednesday, the 8th Inst., at 6 P.M. *Subject*: Photometry.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Thursday, the 9th Inst. at 5 P.M. *Subject*: Electro-magnetism.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for

offences in the code of criminal procedure, to which class of magistrate any given case is to be made over. As regards the more heinous cases, which, by the Code of criminal procedure, cannot be tried by magistrates, they are committed to the Court of Sessions of the district, where the Sessions Judge tries the case with the aid of two assessors whose opinions he may or may not follow, or with the aid of a jury whose verdict prevails unless the Judge differs from it and thinks fit to refer the case, for the orders of the High Court. The assessors are, in each case, selected by the Judge himself from a list prepared by the Magistrate of the district and by the Judge. The jury are selected by lot out of those summoned to attend on a particular day. The Sessions Judge otherwise called the District Judge, in all trials has the power of sentencing the accused to transportation for life, or to death. But in the latter case the sentence has to be confirmed by the High Court. I ought to add that the High Court has power to call up and revise the record 'of all criminal' cases, whether the sentence passed is appealable or not, and this power of revision by the High Court is a most important and salutary one, and the very existence of it, even though seldom exercised, except on questions of law, has a wholesome effect upon the entire judiciary of the country."

"There has been for some time past in Bengal a tendency to force the Judiciary to decide criminal cases according to the preconceived ideas of Executive, and this tendency, I am sorry to find, has gone so far as to lead the Local Government to assert the right of criticising the judgments even of the Judges of the High Court, who are in no way subordinate to the Local Government. As regards the Judges and the Magistrates in the interior, attempts have been made in various ways in recent years to put pressure upon them to make their decisions accord with the views entertained by the Executive. The Executive are naturally anxious that no slur should be cast upon the police by Judges and Magistrates and, with that view, of late years, the Executive officers in Bengal have had recourse to various methods, all tending to interfere with the judicial independence of Judges and Magistrates."

I.—THE SUBORDINATE MAGISTRATES.

"In the olden days the Executive were in the habit of loyally accepting the decisions of judicial tribunals. But within the last twenty years there has been a manifest tendency to put pressure upon our judicial tribunals to decide cases in accordance with the wishes of the Executive. This pressure is frequently put in an indirect way. Judges and magistrates have to look up to the Executive for promotion and preferment, and if their decisions are subjected to criticism by the Executive, such as the magistrate of the district, the Commissioner of the division, or an under-secretary to the Government, it must impair the feeling of independence which every judicial officer ought to possess. This is not, however, the only way in which the judicial independence of our officers is threatened. A Deputy-Magistrate has to depend entirely upon the District Magistrate for his promotion. The District Magistrate combines in himself executive and judicial functions. In his Executive capacity—often on an *ex parte* hearing—he comes to the conclusion, for example, that a certain person is obstructive and ought to be criminally punished, should an opportunity for punishing him offer itself. Such an opportunity may, in Bengal, occur at any moment. When a case does occur in which that unfortunate man is involved, the District Magistrate will probably, for fear of an application to the High Court for a transfer from his file, or for the purpose of showing apparent impartiality, refrain from trying it himself, but will make it over to a subordinate Deputy-Magistrate with an expression of opinion—more frequently verbal than in writing—that the man ought to be convicted. The Deputy-Magistrate, who is naturally anxious to be in the good books of the District Magistrate, has not often the courage to acquit the man, even if he should judicially come to the conclusion that the man ought to be acquitted. I remember a case in which I moved for a transfer of a criminal case from a Deputy-Magistrate's file, on the ground that the District Magistrate had written a letter to his deputy suggesting that the *maximum* sentence should be given to the prisoner. I secured the transfer because my client was lucky enough to have obtained a copy of the letter. Such instances are, I believe, of almost daily occurrence, but many of them do not see the light of day; and if the suggestions or instructions are verbal, they cannot be proved."

"Many Deputy-Magistrates who are my personal friends have frequently complained that they are subject to this kind of interference, and that they have had quietly to submit to it. Whenever I have succeeded in exposing a District Magistrate who has acted in this way, it has been said on his behalf—sometimes even by High Court judges from the bench—that this was inevitable by reason of the combination of judicial and executive functions in the person of the magistrate. I know of many instances in which what are called demt-official 'chits' in India have been sent by the District Magistrate during the progress of a case to a subordinate magistrate engaged in trying it, telling him how to proceed in matters which are purely judicial."

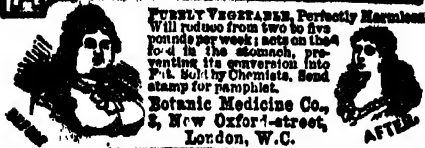
"I mean slips of paper sent officially by

privately, and these do not form part of the case, and are not accessible to the Appellate Court or known instances in which District Magistrates have the right to give any advice they think proper to subordinate magistrates engaged in trying cases. In one instance a covenanted English magistrate openly told me that he would consult the District Magistrate, who was the prosecutor in the case, as to a particular matter which he was called upon to decide judicially. This is a gross violation of simplicity, and apparently without even knowing that it is in any way objectionable to be advised by a superior in a case. This is how, ordinarily, the independence of subordinate magistrates is interfered with. The practice has existed, so far as the subordinate magistrates are concerned, for the last thirty years. The Commissioner of the Division is a purely executive officer above the District Magistrate, and exercises the right of censuring magistrates for judicial work."

"I remember a well-known case in which a Deputy-Magistrate showed me an autograph private letter, written by the Commissioner of the Division, in which the latter expressed his approbation of a particular judgement which had been delivered, and in which he further went on to say that in consequence of that judgement the Lieutenant-Magistrate's future promotion for a Deputy-Magistrate showed me the letter with a view to being added to my collection, and begged me not to make any use of it, adding that he was, I am, sure, that the Government treats me in this way. The Government has, on revision, been affirmed by the High Court. In the state of things must, I fear, continue so long as the Commissioner of the district continues to exercise revisional powers over subordinate magistrates. The Officer, who is in constant private and official communication with the Superintendent of Police, is often influenced by *ex parte* representations and reports of the subordinate magistrate who hears the evidence in the case, form an opinion the other way, and the officer who has, under these circumstances, to resist the temptation of surrendering his own judgement to his official superior whose approbation it is his duty to seek."

"I can give you from my own experience many instances which have come under my notice; but I will select one case, which occurred during the administration of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Charles Elliott. The extent to which even the Government of Bengal has gone in a few years ago I was called upon to defend a man who had been charged by the police with the execution of their duty. They had, on the charge, complained against the police for having grossly assaulted them without any cause. The case brought before me was heard by a magistrate in whose court I was able to show that the charge preferred by the police was supported by fabricated evidence. Before the magistrate delivered his judgment, the policeman who was the complainant came to me and confessed to me that he had put up to prefer a false charge by his superior, and said that he was extremely sorry for what he had done, and begged me to withdraw the counter-charge which he had brought against him. I told him that I could not do what to do in such a matter, but that he should seek the advice of his official superiors. He and his official superior came to me, and expressed their readiness to accept the responsibility for what the police had done. Acting under my advice, I withdrew the charge against the policeman on record by the policeman concerned. But before this, the magistrate acquitted my clients and declared that the case was proved false. Shortly afterwards, the head of the police, knowing nothing of the confession and the apology of the offending policeman, made a report against the case to the Government, and prayed that the case against the policeman should be re-opened, as the magistrate had improperly acquitted the policeman. The Government of Bengal found it impossible to do so in any way, although it had the power under the law to do so, and the acquittal to the High Court. But instead of doing so, the only way the law allowed, a Secretary to the Government of Bengal came and expressed to him the grave dissatisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor for the judgment he had given. The magistrate declared that he had acted to the best of his ability according to the evidence, the Secretary, I believe, said, 'You ought to have thrown the responsibility of the case on the Appellate Court!' My authority for this is the magistrate himself. Recently, a circular has been issued to some magistrates—I believe, with the full signature of Sir Charles Elliott—in which subordinate magistrates are requested to comment adversely in their judgments upon the police concerned, in any case, but to report the case mentally. I need hardly add that this amounts to a direct interference with the independence of subordinate magistrates."

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AN INDIAN JOURNALIST:

Life, Letters and Correspondence

OF

Dr. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,

late Editor of "Reis and Rayyet,"

BY

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HIS LIFE STORY.

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to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J. C.
to, from Atkinson, the late Mr. E. F. T., C.S.,
to, from Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.
to, from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.
to, from Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.
from Bell, the late Major Evans.
from Bhaddanr, Chief of.
to, from Binaya Krishna, Raja.
to, from Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.
to, from Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.
from Clarke, Mr. S. E. J.
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H. P.
to, from Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.
to, from Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.
to, from Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.
to, from Graham, Mr. W.
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.
from Gula, Babu Sarada Kant.
to, from Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.
from Hunter, Sir W. W.
to, from Jenkins, Mr. Edward.
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to, from Knight, Mr. Paul.
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.
to, from Law, Kumar Kristodas.
to, from Lyon, Mr. Percy C.
to, from Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.
to, from Mallik, Mr. H. C.
to, from Marston, Miss Ann.
from Metha, Mr. R. D.
to, from Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.
to, from Mookerjee, late Raja Dakhinaraufan.
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.

from Nayaratna, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.
to, from Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.
to, from Rao, the late Sir T. Madhava.
to, from Rattigan, Sir William H.
from Rosebery, Earl of.
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.
from Russell, Sir W. H.
to, from Row, Mr. G. Symana.
to, from Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.
to, from Sinha, Babu Brahmananda.
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.
to, from Underwood, Captain T. O.
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.
to, from Vencataramaniam, Mr. G.
to, from Vizianagram, Maharaja of.
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.
to, from Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from

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Banerjee, Babu Manjuthanath.
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After paying the expenses of the publication the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal of the family of the deceased man of letters.

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OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October, 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal. 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its primeval days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Monday) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahmin of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that was nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same oriented sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengali had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives in the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatically in English is to say what is short, clean and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one unkind conclusion, either offending the youth or remarking his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth having and reading. —*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skime of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skime in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unimpaired by ostentation and egotism unspoiled by harshness. —*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skime deals with his interesting subject with the deft and judicious instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skime's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clean and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his confidence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed. —*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the social elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished scholar in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest tender-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the finest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter up on his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skime's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skime belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was an optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Munny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it to no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, and some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into living reality. —*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

• VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 707.

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

THE BLADE OF FRIHOF.

A LEGEND OF NORWAY.

TOSTIG was Lord of Norway,
In ages long gone by,
And Frihof was his armourer,
And well his craft could ply ;
He forged his swords so trenchant,
They cut through plate and mail,
Nor 'gainst their edge did steel-clad head
Or tempered shield avail.
Olaf, the King of Denmark,
Sailed on the stormy sea ;
He saw the land of Norway
Wide-spreading on his lee.
He steered his galley thither ;
And as he leapt on land,
He met the King of Norway,
With all his warrior band.
"A boon ! a boon ! brave Tostig,"
Olaf the King did say,
"Let there be peace between us,
For ever from this day.
Why should the Bear of Norway
For ever strive in fight
With Denmark's 'Royal Raven ?'
Our troth then let us plight,
And let us swear alliance ;
Your ships shall sail with mine :
There's booty in the stormy sea,—
Half of our gain be thine."
"So be it," quoth bold Tostig,
"And now, Sir King, I pray,
Come to our royal palace,
And rest thee there, the day.
What ho, there, vassals, clear the road,
King Olaf comes in state ;
Our friendship shall be lasting,
Tho' its coming has been late.
Ho ! butlers, bring our wine ;
Ho ! pantlers, spread our royal board ;
In peace a Danish King has come,
The first of all his line."
They sat, and passed the goblet round,
And talked and laughed in glee,
And thrice they drank the warrior king,
Who'd crossed the stormy sea.
They talked of war, and weapons ;
"Hold there," quoth Norway's Lord ;
"Hast seen our Frihof's workmanship ?
Here, vassals, bring our sword ;

'Twill cut through steel and iron,
Nor helm nor plated mail
Against its point and trenchant edge
Will prove of aught avail."
Loud laughed the King of Denmark ;
His laugh was loud and long :
"Thy sword, perhaps, is sharp and keen,
But Denmark's mail is strong.
Ho Sixurt, hither, speak, I pray,
If thou canst harness make,
On which King Tostig's battle blade
Shall vainly strike and break ?"
Sixurt, the Danish armourer,
Spoke with a bitter sneer :
"For Danish mail from Norway blade
We've little cause to fear.
The war between our nations
Has been both fierce and long,
But Norway blade has ever found
That Danish mail was strong."
"A wager," cried King Tostig ;
"I'll back my Frihof's blade
Against the stoutest harness
Your smith has ever made."
"Agreed, agreed," cried Olaf
"I'll lay my golden chain,
That Frihof's blade shall smite the links
Of Sixurt's mail in vain."
"Come forth before the Castle ;
What need for further talk :
And if I lose," quoth Norway's Lord,
"Take thou my choicest hawk.
Ho Frihof, bring our sword along ;
Ho Sixurt, bring thy mail ;
We'll see if Denmark's iron links,
Or Norway's blade, prevail."
They went into the meadows,
Before the castle wall,
And lo! the King of Norway
On Frihof's name did call :
"Come forth, come forth, my Frihof,
And with thy trenchant blade
Cleave, hack, and hew the strongest mail
That Danish skill has made.
Ho Sixurt, bring thy mail and helm ;
Suspend them from yon tree ;
And whether's best, the Norway blade,
Or Danish helm, we'll see."
But Sixurt turned him to his Lord :
"A boon ! a boon !" he cried ;
"I fain would show King Tostig how
The wager to decide.
I'll don my helm and coat of mail,
And bide stout Frihof's stroke :

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

No Norway blade, however keen,
My harness ever broke."
"So be it," quoth King Olaf,
"Come, don the helm and mail,
And see if Danish workmanship
'Fore Norway steel will fail."
Quickly he donned the harness;
Sat on a fallen tree;
A ring was marked about him,
That all around might see.
Then Frihof raised the glittering blade:
It whistled through the air—
And a cold shiver chilled the blood
Of all the warriors there.
Swift fell the glittering weapon,
Yet none its course could trace,
But Sixurt seemed to sit unharmed,
A sneer upon his face.
"Now strike again," quoth Sixurt,
"It is not worth the pain,"
Quoth Frihof calmly, "Shake thyself;"
He shook—and fell in twain.

—Indian Society.

G. E. C.

WEEKLYANA.

WHEN the news of the betrothal of Princess Maud and the reception of Khama at Windsor reached the Cape, a local paper, unconscious of the incongruous juxtaposition, published the two items with the following headline—ROYAL BETROTHAL—KHAMA AND THE QUEEN.

THE House of Lords has decided that a firm having their office in London and working for gain in America are liable to the English income-tax. The San Paulo (Brazilian) Railway Company having been assessed for the tax objected to pay the whole demand, in that the portion of the profits which was brought over to England could alone be taxed and that the portion left at Brazil was not chargeable. The argument on the other side is that the profits are earned by men working from England and consequently all the profits are taxable. The Lord Chancellor, who moved the rejection of the appeal, said the persons who worked the railway by their brain and skill from England were the real traders, and it did not matter how far distant the place where the work carried out was situated. Lord Watson observed that the persons carrying out the work in Brazil were in no sense traders but merely servants. Lords Shand and Davey concurring, the appeal was dismissed with costs. The Indian Act is more lenient. At any rate, it has been interpreted less harshly. If the decision of the Lords were known in this country earlier, probably the Hon'ble P. Mehta would not have been allowed to escape for his earnings in Junagad.

MRS. Jones, daughter of a former vicar of Llanrug, a small village in Carnarvonshire, Wales, has brought herself into prominence by her will. She first married one Welborne, a wealthy merchant in the West Indies. On his death, she returned to Llanrug, sold her estate and retired to her own farm in Penrath, Anglesey, where she worked as an ordinary farm servant—grooming the horses, cleaning the stables and feeding the cows. She also took another mate in a farm labourer, Edward Jones. Mrs. Jones died recently after making a will by which she wished to be buried in her hunting suit, her shoes and carriages to be burnt on the day of the funeral, all her six horses, varying in value from 60*l.* to 80*l.* a head, to be shot on the day following. We may very well believe the injunctions were strictly carried out, for on these conditions she left the remainder of her property—personal and real—valued at 90,000*l.* to her "dear husband."

BLONDIN, the famous tight-rope walker, a widower, aged 72, has led to the altar Miss James, a barmaid, no more than 25 years of age. The marriage is the result of the devoted nursing of the maid of the Station Hotel at Blackpool, where Blondin was carried after he had sprained his back at a performance. The pain was very great and the barmaid left her ordinary duties to attend to him and nursed

him very cleverly and skilfully. After recovery, Blondin invited his nurse to his house at Little Ealing and then, a few months after, to his Niagara House, when they were married unknown to his two sons and three daughters. The honeymoon was put back, for Blondin immediately left for Glasgow to carry out an engagement at the exhibition.

CYRIL Hewlett Dutta, a Guy's Hospital student in London, who had been in custody for some weeks on a charge of murdering Rose English in Soho, has been released. Mr. George Brown had found the body of the woman shot through the heart, and Dutta lying by her side with two bullet wounds in his chest. Mr. Pepper, the post mortem examiner, and his assistant Mr. Bond were in favour of the murder theory, while Mr. Brown was of opinion that it was a case of suicide. He was supported by Dr. J. Dawson.

ON New Year's day, at Rangoon, Sir Frederick Fryer unveiled the statue of Her Majesty. It cost Rs. 20,000 and is the gift of Messrs. Balthazar, the auctioneers.

WE take the following account of the Lushai expedition from the *Englishman*. Writing from Fort Aijal on the 4th January, its own correspondent reports:—

"The concentration of the Aijal, Langleh, and Falam columns on Kairuma's village was successfully effected, in exact accord with previous arrangements, on Christmas Day. No opposition was offered by the Lushais, but the village was found to be deserted and all live stock and property of every description had been removed from the village. The Chiefs met the Political Officer at Fort Aijal on arrival, and they were ordered to surrender eighty guns by the evening of the 29th December, and were further informed that if these demands were not complied with the village would be burnt, and parties sent out to bring in or destroy grain and live stock, of which Kairuma was said to have a large quantity. As only 53 guns had been brought in by the time fixed, Kairuma's village, with the exception of the part occupied by the troops, was burned on Monday morning, December 30th, by the Aijal column, and a large quantity of gram, melons, and pigs brought in from the village jhooms and surrounding jungle. A camp of the Lushais was surprised by one foraging party, but they fled without firing a shot. Similar action was taken by the Superintendent, South Lushai Hills, with regard to Jaduna's village. No opposition was met with. Pending further attempts to get in the balance of the guns, operations against Kairuma's have been suspended for three days. By a successful night march on New Year's eve the Superintendent, South Lushai Hills, effected the capture of Jacola, the Jacopa, the Lushai Chief, who made the attack upon Mr. Murray's party five years ago. The disposition of the troops at present is 300 rifles and one mountain gun under Captain Loch in Kairuma's village; in Jaduna, 220 rifles with two mountain guns, composed of the Falam and Langleh columns. The Falam column was able to bring mules besides coolie transport. The other two columns had coolies only. The weather has been mild and cold. The health of the force is very good except for a few cases of mumps and pneumonia, a sepoy and a coolie having died of the latter. Kairuma's village is situated on a ridge at an altitude of 4,200 feet. The surrounding jungle is composed mostly of oak trees, with bamboos lower down the hills. There is little or no game in the jungle, and the river at this time of year seems to contain no fish, the weather being too cold in the hills."

Jacopa was surprised and captured in an outlying hamlet. He tried to give the slip but failed. Chief Kaplehya was able to make his escape. It is civilized warfare to disarm an enemy and fight or burn his country. It was more patriotic in the Russian Emperor to burn his own city to stay the success of Napoleon.

MRS. Le Mesurier, wife of the Englishman turned Mahomedan in Ceylon, writes to the *Ceylon Independent*:

"There has been much said about Mr. Le Mesurier in the press lately, and you have also made much mention of what you call 'his new wife.' I have hitherto not paid much attention to this public farce, but I think it is time, in justice to myself and three children, to ask you to refrain from styling Miss Carnac as 'Mrs. Le Mesurier,' as I am, unfortunately, the only legal Mrs. Le Mesurier in Ceylon, and Miss Carnac can never be so styled. Even should the question about the legality of her present position be satisfactorily settled, she even then could only be Mrs. Abdul Hamid, under which name Mr. Le Mesurier took her to him, so that I must ask you in future to style her by the name of Mrs. Abdul Hamid, as later on complications might arise which might involve great annoyance, such as correspondence being wrongly delivered."

IN December last, 46,989 persons visited the Indian Museum or at an average of 2,039 for the 23 public days.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address. THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS 9, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

MR. H. L. Bell, Barrister-at-Law, has been Gazetted substantively *pro tempore* Registrar and Chief Ministerial Officer of the Calcutta Court of Small Causes with powers of a Judge to try suits not exceeding in value Rs 20. They are all, all Barristers-at-law in that Court, which, we trust, will prove a Court of justice as well.

GYNLA VON BENKE, a bailiff of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, has, for the third time, filed his schedule, with liabilities amounting to Rs. 19,000. At the Insolvent Court, on Saturday last, he applied for *ad interim* protection. The Official Assignee remarked that "he had understood that bailiffs of Small Cause Courts made large fortunes, but here he was afraid the insolvency was due to rain-gambling." The illegal gratification in either case hinted at by the Official Assignee cannot be a disqualification. Bailiffs are free, with the knowledge of the judges, to make their fortunes, and gamblers, with the acquiescence of Government, to make or mar their fortunes. Thus legalized, the offences can hardly be punished by the Insolvent Commissioner, however justly disposed.

At the same Court, dividends were declared *in re* Charles Stuart, Ransamul Puunalal and Ram Kissen, and supplementary ones *in re* Haji Noor Mahomed Jackeriah and Chotalall Sewpersad, and leave was given to pay the clerks and servants *in re* Ambrose Summers. Dr. J. Bowles Daly has been allowed to amend his schedule.

•••
ON the complaint of the Official Assignee that insolvents rarely filed their books of account in his office without pressure from the Court, Mr. Justice Ameer Ali as Insolvent Commissioner declared that he would refuse all petitions for insolvency unaccompanied by books of accounts. The books must be put into the Official Assignee's hands simultaneously with the filing of the petition.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE fighting between Dr. Jameson's force and the Boers took place at Krugersdorp, and lasted eight hours. Dr. Jameson thrice attacked the strong position held by the Boers, who were fifteen hundred strong. The Boers lost four killed and a few wounded. Dr. Jameson was out-numbered by the enemy and his men were starved, some of them having been without food for three days. Their horses were also in a state of exhaustion. Dr. Jameson was not wounded. Another telegram says that Dr. Jameson's force fought for thirty-six hours against the Boers, who outnumbered them six times over, and were provided with artillery. Dr. Jameson reached within six miles of Johannesburg, and only yielded because his men were starving, and had no help from the Uitlanders.

Reuter's special correspondent has interviewed Dr. Jameson in Pretoria Jail. The Doctor states that he failed in his object because the Johannesburgers never sent him the help which they had promised, and on which he relied, and that they even allowed fresh supplies of ammunition to be sent out to the Boers while his own was exhausted. The Boers admit that their position, when Jameson attacked them, was impregnable. The Boers were entirely sheltered, while Jameson's force ascended an exposed slope under a galling fire. The Uitlanders in Johannesburg ascribe their inaction to the royal proclamation issued by Sir H. Robinson ordering them to remain quiet.

The English papers regard the telegram from the Emperor William to President Kruger as most unfriendly towards Great Britain and as greatly increasing the gravity of the situation, besides signifying that Germany recognises the independence of the Transvaal. They also take it as an additional proof of the complete isolation of Great Britain. The German press are jubilant over the defeat of Dr. Jameson's force, and in unmeasured terms vituperate the colonial policy of Great Britain. A subscription for the wounded Boers has been opened in Germany, and one hundred thousand marks have already been subscribed in Hamburg. The leading French papers are decidedly veering round in favour of England. It is believed that Germany has for some time past been maturing schemes to arrest the progress of British ascendancy in South Africa.

Sir Hercules Robinson transmitted the telegram received from the British Agent at Pretoria, who visited President Kruger, conveying the assurance of the Reform Committee at Johannesburg that they would maintain order. President Kruger in reply said that the Boers would not molest the population provided they were peaceful.

Mr. Chamberlain, on Jan. 4, received a South African deputation headed by Sir Donald Currie, asking that Sir Hercules Robinson be instructed to secure protection for British residents at Johannesburg, and that the Government should maintain British and Colonial interests in that quarter. Mr. Chamberlain, in reply, said that the Government sympathised with the grievances of the Uitlanders, and hope that their friendly advice to the Transvaal Government will be heard. The British Government, he said, adhered completely to the convention of 1884. The day before Mr. Chamberlain had telegraphed to President Kruger that he relied on his clemency to spare the prisoners, and adding that Mr. Cecil Rhodes denied a current rumour that a force was assembling at Buluwayo. President Kruger replied that the prisoners who had not been shot would be judged according to the traditions of the Republic, and added that his confidence in Mr. Rhodes was so shaken that his denial respecting the assembling of a force at Buluwayo was received with extreme caution. He further added that he hoped that Great Britain and Sir Hercules Robinson would prevent any further incursions into Boer territory. Mr. Chamberlain in reply to this said he had sent an Imperial officer to Buluwayo to prevent the assembling of any force, and declaring that Great Britain would uphold the Convention of 1884.

A despatch from Johannesburg, dated the 31st ultimo, states that Mr. Leonard, Chairman of the Committee of the National Union, had formed a provisional Government to preserve order and protect the town against the Boers, pending a settlement with President Kruger. Numbers of men have enlisted, and been armed. Nine hundred men from the Simmer and Jack mines guard the approaches to the town.

President Kruger, replying to a deputation at Pretoria, announced the abolition of the duties on food stuffs, and promised to support the franchise, to grant equal subsidies to all schools, and the solution of the labour difficulty if law and order were respected.

The Johannesburg Reform Committee have laid down their arms, and are confiding their interests to Sir Hercules Robinson, who is at Pretoria.

Sir Hercules Robinson telegraphs to Mr. Chamberlain that the Uitlanders at Johannesburg yielded unconditionally in the afternoon of the 7th Jan. and also gave up their arms. A later telegram says that the Boers are discontent and slow to deliver up their arms. President Kruger has demanded the complete delivery of all their arms before the evening of the 10th inst, failing which all defaulters will render themselves amenable to the law.

President Kruger has intimated his intention of delivering Dr. Jameson and the other prisoners to Sir H. Robinson on the Natal Border. The magnanimity of President Kruger in dealing with his prisoners is generally recognized throughout Great Britain. Mr. Chamberlain has telegraphed to Sir Hercules Robinson to give the following message to President Kruger: "I have received the Queen's command to acquaint you that Her Majesty has heard with satisfaction that you have decided to hand over prisoners to her Government. This act will redound to your credit, and conduce to the peace of South Africa, and to that harmonious co-operation between the British and Dutch races, which is necessary to its future development and prosperity." It is stated at Pretoria that President Kruger has evidence that the whole affair of Dr. Jameson's raid was a plot to annex the Transvaal Republic. This report is inconsistent with the previous one about the delivery of the Doctor and the other prisoners.

Sir Hercules Robinson adds that he is satisfied that the crisis is over and that no danger of further hostilities need be apprehended.

The latest news from Pretoria states that the Transvaal Government demands the expulsion of Mr. Cecil Rhodes and Dr. Jameson from Africa, and also an enormous indemnity from the British South Africa Company.

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

THE Sultan has agreed to the Consuls at Aleppo mediating at Zeitun and arranging for the surrender of insurgents.

MR. Cecil Rhodes has resigned the Cape Premiership, and Sir James Gordon Sprigg succeeds him.

LAEST advises regarding the Ashanti Expedition state that Sir F. Scott has arrived at Essiaman, and that a spy had arrived in camp reporting that a Chief had left Kumasi with peace proposals from King Prempeh.

THE United States Government has issued a new loan of a hundred million dollars.

THE British Government have ordered the immediate commission of an additional flying squadron of six warships to a Naval force going to Delagoa Bay. It is also stated that the British troops in South Africa are to be reinforced.

AN earthquake in the Persian province of Azerbaigan has killed eleven hundred inhabitants and destroyed one thousand houses.

THE Viceroy is not yet convalescent, though recovering slowly. There is a rumour that owing to the illness Lord Elgin will resign and return home. The *Englishman* contradicts the rumour as without foundation.

A DELEGATE to the Poona Congress corrects us from Poona City, saying "your criticism on the surmise of the Editor of *India* was quite unwarranted, because one Humid Ali and Mr. Sayami of Bombay were first requested and they declined." We must confess we were misled by the President of the Congress. He mentioned the name of only one Bengali gentleman who had refused the honour on account of his ill health. If the Honourable Chairman omitted to name the Mahomedans, the wrath of our correspondent should fall on him and not on us.

THE Hooghly Magistrate having pronounced against the action of the Nadia Magistrate in the matter of the Ranaghat Petroleum depôt, the Chairman of the Ranaghat municipality has issued licenses to both Messrs. Graham for their newly constructed petroleum oil tank at the railway station and Mr. Anghoy Kumar Ghose for his petroleum depôt opposite the station. Who is responsible for the damages caused to Mr. Ghose from suspension of business due to non-issue of license?

AT a meeting of the English Church Union, held on Dec. 17, in Kennington, the Duke of Newcastle presiding, on the motion of Canon Knox Little, they unanimously resolved to petition the bishops "to take immediate and effectual steps to put a stop to the scandal resulting from the blessing of the Church being given by individual clergymen to the marriages of divorced persons, contrary to the law of the Church of England, to the contempt of all ecclesiastical discipline, and to the grievous injury of Christian morality." So long as courts decree divorce and adultery is no penal offence, it is vain to attempt a reform of the kind. If the divorced are free to marry, how can you prevent a second marriage? Does the resolution include remarriage of the same persons?

WE read in the *Tribune*:

"Only a few months ago the Honorary Magistrates of Lahore were before the public in connection with their readiness to convict on charges of obstruction of the public road brought by the police against shopkeepers. On appeal one conviction, representative of a whole class of convictions, was held to be illegal and was quashed. In Municipal prosecutions some of the Honorary Magistrates are equally wise. Before the same bench of Honorary Magistrates (M. Mohd. Amir Khan and Sirdar Mian Singh), who had fined a shopkeeper illegally on a frivolous charge of obstructing the road two other men were convicted and fined under Section 169 of Act XX of 1890. On appeal to the District Judge, Lahore, he found that the conviction was 'had against a ruling of the Chief Court, and of course reversed it.' We have repeatedly suggested that the files in the District Court should be examined with a view of finding out the very large number of illegal convictions by Honorary Magistrates and that these obsolete courts should be replaced by a Town Magistrate. As a rule the work of Honorary Magistrates is a shame and a scandal to the administration of justice."

Are the Lahore Honorary Magistrates so bad as they are represent-

ed? Or are they only typical of the class in other cities? Is our contemporary sure that stipendiary Magistrates are not sometimes worse? An examination of their files will discover systematic illegal convictions. In petty offences, when the accused are poor, there is generally such danger. Lahore is not exceptionally cursed.

WE have received a copy of the judgment in Jogender Chunder Mukerjee vs. Priya Nath Mallick and another delivered by the 1st Subordinate Judge of the 24-Pergs., on the 6th January last. The suit is against one of the prominent members of the Calcutta Corporation or rather its added area and seeks for refund of a sum of Rs. 200 and cancellation of a note of hand for Rs. 800 and of a letter assigning a share in a lighting contract of the Corporation in favour of the second defendant—all these being extorted by threat by the defendants. The suit is dismissed with costs. The Sub Judge finds that there is no cause of action against Baboo Priya Nath. He remarks "it appears to me that the object of making the defendant No. 1 a party to the suit is more to throw dirt on him than to avoid the alleged contract as against him; and I am afraid party spirit was at the bottom which influenced this line of action." Again, "So far as this case goes, I am bound to observe that the accusations damaging enough to the reputation of the defendant No. 1 in his public capacity as a Municipal Commissioner, are wholly groundless and are, I am afraid, the outcome of malice." We have no space for the entire judgment which completely vindicates, in the present transaction, the public character of Baboo Priyanath, who seems more sinned against than sinning.

RAJENDRA NATH, sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment for putting in a forged document to have an appeal admitted beyond time, was called upon to show cause why he should not be struck off the rolls. Sir John Edge, the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, for himself and brother Justices Knox, Blair, Banerji, Burkitt and Aikman, delivered judgment thus:

"It is always an unpleasant duty for Judges, some of whom have been at the Bar themselves, to have to deal with a member of the Bar who has been guilty of practices which are inconsistent with honourable conduct in the profession. On the other hand, it is absolutely necessary for the protection of the public, for the protection of the members of the Bar themselves, and for the protection of Courts of Justice, that advocates or vakils who stoop, for corrupt or other motives, to make use of a forged document in order to deceive a Court of Justice, should be severely dealt with. Gentlemen of the Bar should so conduct themselves that their word may be accepted by the Bench and by their brother legal practitioners. Life on the Bench and life on the Bar would be irksome in the extreme if a Judge or a brother legal practitioner had to probe and ascertain the correctness of every statement made from the Bar. What Babu Rajendra Nath did was this: he attempted to deceive this Court by representing that the appeal was in time, though he knew that it was timebarred. If he had succeeded, and if the forgery had not been detected, it is possible that he might have deprived the proposed respondents to the appeal of the benefit of the decree in the Court below—a decree which, by reason of the time allowed for appeal having expired, had become final and conclusive in their favour. This offence which Babu Rajendra Nath committed was not an offence committed by an ignorant man or by a new practitioner unaccustomed to the examination of documents. Nor was it committed in the hurry of the moment, and without due consideration. It was a deliberate offence and not simply an oversight. What was done was done with knowledge and not in ignorance, and we cannot regard the offence as anything but a grave one. A man who has committed such an offence as this is not in our opinion fit to be allowed to continue in the practice of an honourable profession. Not only are the Judges and the legal profession interested in seeing that dishonourable men are not entitled to practise, but it is absolutely necessary for the protection of litigants that men who can stoop to the commission of such an offence as this should not be entitled to appear as advocates or vakils in Courts of Justice. We have come to the conclusion that Babu Rajendra Nath has proved himself unfit to continue in the ranks of an honourable profession. We remove his name from the Roll of Vakils, and we cancel his certificate."

Honourable words these. But what is the effect of the order? Rajendra Nath is doubly punished for his sin. He not only suffers imprisonment for what he has done, but is also debarred from further taking to the profession in the practice of which he committed the offence. He must learn a new trade to live by. The full Court is no doubt swayed by excellent motives in the interest of an honourable profession. At the same time, it seems to us, it would have been more in order if the matter were taken up when, released from jail, Rajendranath came to practise again as a Vakil. At the last hearing he himself could not be present. The appeal of his counsel to have the present matter examined on its own merits, independent of the conviction, was not allowed. There was

unwillingness in the court to re-open the question of fraud for which he had been called upon to answer a second time. The call, therefore, to shew cause may seem unmeaning. The Chief Justice was for every justice to the condemned. He suggested from the bench a possible line of defence.

"The Chief Justice: we think our ruling gave you a very considerable loophole. There is fraud and fraud. If it were that this thing was done in a hurry, although the man had fraudulent intent—that he had fraudulent intent we cannot doubt—we might alter our notions of the case. I can't explain to you more. It is not my business to instruct advocates.

Mr. Potter did not reply.

The Chief Justice: Supposing the facts were that this thing was put suddenly before your client, and that your client, knowing it was a false document, in the hurry of the moment made use of it; that would be a rather different position from the position of a vakil who had leisurely and deliberately made up his mind to use a forged document, who had planned the whole campaign, who had calmly determined to run the document through, and if he failed, to fall back upon an affidavit.

Mr. Potter pointed out that the only materials available for defence were those contained in the accused's own statement in the Lower Court and in the evidence of the accused clerk. These were already before their Lordships.

The Chief Justice: Supposing I were thrown into this case to argue it, I should plead probably, that this gentleman was very much pressed with business; that this was a thing which had to be done in a great hurry; and that although he knew that the document was a false one, without carefully considering his position of the nature of the offence he made use of it. That is how I should argue the case, if there was any foundation for such an argument. But there does not appear to be any foundation for it in this case, because you don't make use of this argument.

Mr. Potter. There is considerable foundation for it, my Lord.

The Chief Justice: I do not wish to suggest to you a line of defence. I only show you what *might* be set up under our ruling. Take a case of murder. You would never think of saying that necessarily the accused must be hanged. You would try to show under what circumstances he had acted, most favourably to him, so as to get perhaps a sentence of transportation for life instead of sentence of death.

Mr. Potter repeated that the real defence of Rajendra Nath was that he had never intended to do otherwise than enter the appeal on the strength of an affidavit.

The Chief Justice referred to facts in the case which unquestionably belied this defence.

Mr. Potter: Then it is impossible, my lords, to put the case higher than this: that my client recognised the possibility of this alteration being fraudulently made, but put it in, nevertheless, because the hurry of the moment was pressing; and that he intended all along to file an affidavit. He had no distinct belief that the alteration was a forgery; he took up a position of what I might call agnosticism towards it and declined to act upon it. "I will file my affidavit tomorrow," he thought, and in the meantime—

The Chief Justice (interposing):—and in the meantime I will prepare an affidavit in which I do not state the cause of the delay as my client stated it to me."

The order of expulsion followed as a matter of course. Sir John Edge thinks that life on the bench would be irksome if it were necessary to examine every statement made from the bar. If the state wished for could exist, bench life would be very easy and litigation and administration of justice much less expensive, one counsel would do for both sides and the Judge's work be much lightened. The ingenuity of a counsel consists in the narration of facts, in making the truth assume a different shape, and fiction appear as fact. If the liberty were taken away, advocacy would cease as an art. Judges, surely, should not be misled. It is also as much the duty of the Judge to see that he is not led astray. An advocate misleading a Judge certainly commits wrong. But is the Judge who depends entirely on counsel not to be blamed?

IN another case, in which a Pleader practising in the District Court at Aligarh was cited under section 14 of Act XVIII, 1879 for misconduct, Sir John Edge delivered himself thus:—

"This pleader undoubtedly put a wrong construction upon the arrangement between him and his client, and he ought to have forwarded the money recovered without pressure and without putting Messrs. Badham, Pile and Co. to any trouble. But we fail to see that he has been guilty of unprofessional conduct. He no doubt left himself open to a suit by Messrs. Badham, Pile and Co. to recover the money he had received on their behalf, but there is no suggestion of embezzlement, and we decline to interfere, believing that there is no reason for so doing. We think it right to say that complaints against advocates or vakils, or pleaders, or mukhtears ought not to be made by private correspondence to District Judges, High Court Judges, or any other judicial officers. For our part we pay no attention to such communications. Any person who considers himself aggrieved by the action of a legal practitioner has got the Courts open to him, and to the Courts he should go, in a regular manner, and not open correspondence with a judicial officer who may have to decide the case. He should proceed by motion in Court. We hope that in future District Judges will pay no attention to letters of this kind, except to send them

back if they think right to do so, and to inform the correspondent to proceed in due course by motion in Court. We discharge this rule."

A Pleader may not be guilty of an offence in retaining the money of his client. But if the Pleader cannot be made to make over the money except by a suit, it adds considerably to the proverbial law's delay and makes the lawyer's profession less honourable.

The two orders suggest the inference that legal practitioners are not to be easily proceeded against, but when found guilty, they must be done for ever.

THE following will explain itself. To complete the information, we will only say that the appeal (without date) is prefaced by a portrait of the woman missionary, and a recommendation dated Kingston, Ohio, April 8, 1892, from Bishop Thoburn. The appeal concludes with an artistic representation, on the outer cover, of what the exhibitress calls "one of my Bengali women," whom she makes to cry "Oh! God, if there is a God, who will deliver us? Who will come to our rescue?" Then her rescuer asks "Friend, will you help-me answer this woman's prayer?"

THE RECOMMENDATION.

"I have much pleasure in commending Mrs. D. H. Lee to the kind notice of our people, and of the Christian public generally. Mrs. Lee was well known to me in India as a faithful and successful missionary. She returned to America on account of the illness of her husband, and since coming to this country, has done much to support the W. F. M. Society, and also the General Society. She is loyal to the Church and to both the Missionary Societies, and is every way worthy of public confidence.

J. M. THOBURN."

THE APPEAL.

"Vienna, Trumbull Co., Ohio.

Dear Friend:

It is indeed with a thankful heart that I again send unto you greetings. A good man of God has given us 15,000 dollars for the Bengali Mission fund we have been asking God for, until now we have almost 19,000 dollars of our 20,000 dollars. Praise the Lord!

We are now getting ready to go to this work and will leave as early next year as possible. Now we need a good substantial Mission building, and we are asking God for the money to build it.

May I ask you to help us in this? We need a three-storied house containing twenty rooms, costing about 300 dollars each. There will be living rooms for Zenana workers and teachers; a chapel and school rooms, dining and sitting rooms and our own family rooms—a study, where I trust many seeking ones shall have shown unto them the way to Heaven.

To any one giving or soliciting five dollars for any one of these rooms, I will send a photograph of a high caste Bengali woman—a splendid representation of the women among whom I work. Any church, young people's society or individual sending 300 dollars to build one of these rooms, shall have their name over the doorway, and the privilege of furnishing the room at its completion. Will you still continue to work and pray with me until we have all we need to thoroughly equip this new mission station among the people who know not God? If so, let me hear from you and join with me in thanksgiving to God for so wonderfully answering our prayers. Kindly hand the enclosed leaflets to friends, asking them to read them and help us, and receive their offerings and forward to me.

Please notice the change in our address. We expect to remain here until we leave for India, after which I hope to send you blessed tidings direct from the field. May God bless you for your part in this work.

Yours in His love,

(Mrs.) ADA LEE,

Vienna, Trumbull Co., O."

Who is the fair that is set to catch the prayerful?

ONLY last week we spoke of Sir Dinkar Rao. This week it is our melancholy duty to record the death of that celebrated Mahratta Brahman. He was one of the few Indian statesmen who were given the opportunity to shew their mettle and whose names will long survive them. Sir Dinkar Rao, K. C. S. I., Raja Mushir-i-Khas Bahadur, was born in 1819 and was therefore 77 years of age when he breathed his last. Neither Rango Charlu, nor Sir Salar Jung, nor Maharaja Jung Bahadur, nor Sir T. Madhav Rao attained Sir Dinkar's longevity. The first three died while in harness. Sir Tanjore lived some years after retirement, Mr. A. Sashiah Sastri still lives but he is not yet 70. Sir Tanjore was not idle in retirement. He published his thoughts, on the subjects of the day, in newspapers, from week to week. Mr. Sashiah Sastri is engaged in his autobiography. Sir Dinkar's was complete rest. Only on one occasion he came out of the obscurity of private life when he was appointed one of the Commissioners for the trial of the Gaikwar Mulharao.

Raja Dinkar Rao was appointed Minister of the Gwalior State, where he made his mark, in 1851, when the late Maharaja Jijaji Rao Scindia was still a minor, and he steered the vessel of State clear through the troubled waters of the Sepoy Mutiny. After having

been substantially rewarded by the British Government with an estate in the Benares District, he transferred his services to Dholepur, where he became Superintendent of that State. In 1861, when Lord Canning enlarged his Legislative Council, Sir Dinkar was invited to it. The late Maharaja Mahendra Singh of Patiala was also one of the Councillors of the Empire, and he refused to sit with the servant of a brother Chief. The Maharaja was therefore given a higher or raised seat to distinguish it from the Raja's. The Raja's term in the Council expiring on the 16th of January, 1864, the Government of India handsomely acknowledged his valuable services as an Additional Member. At the Delhi Imperial Assemblage he received his Indian title which, in 1884, was made hereditary in his family. Previously, in 1866, he had been exalted to the Knighthood of the Star of India.

THE Special Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners, on Thursday, for the appointment of their Vice-Chairman, was one of the largest, only six Commissioners, one of them a candidate himself, being absent, chiefly through illness or absence from Calcutta, though more than one left their sick bed to vote at the election. The outside public also attended in large numbers, shewing their interest in the matter and in the selection of a proper man. Unlike similar meetings, it was very orderly and there was no heartless dissection of the applicants. That was, in a great measure, due to the temper of the Chairman who asked the Commissioners not to leave their seats and who has no relish for personalities in discussion. The advertisements of that morning, on behalf of one of the candidates, offering a reward of Rs. 500 for detection of the delinquent circulating ugly reports about him, and threatening prosecution of such as may defame him, had presumably a salutary effect on the Commissioners. As was anticipated only 4 out of the 13 applicants were accepted. Babus Kalinath Mitter and Norendra Nath Sen first declared themselves in favour of Babu Nogendra Nath Sircar. The Mitter proposer, as a good neighbour, pointed to the Sircar candidate's respectability as the son of his father, and for his ability referred to his services under Government which have been many times acknowledged. Forgetting for the moment that Mr. Sircar was the official candidate, the Sen seconder who has cried himself hoarse against official interference in matters of this kind, was charmed by the fascination of his nominee's young years—for he was the youngest of all the candidates who had stated their ages. Dr. Sanders proposed and the Hon'ble Prince Sir Jehan Kadr seconded the name of Moulvi Budruddin Haider. The Doctor preferred him because he was a Mahomedan, for there are few Mahomedan employees in the Corporation and there ought to be no taxation without representation. It is difficult to understand the man of science unless it be that he had in his mind the common name by which the municipal office is known—the tax office. Even then the meaning is farfetched. The princely seconder was more commonsensible. He was not for race but thought the Moulvi the best of the lot. The next in order was Babu Nilambar Mukerji who had the support of Babu Joygobind Law, the ex-Sheriff, and Mr. J. G. Apar, the Clerk of the Crown. Mr. Law recommended Mr. Mukerji for his academic distinction, his past valuable services to the Kashmir State and the high certificates of character granted him by the British Residents, while Mr. Apar found a glowing testimony to the worth and popularity of the ex-Kashmir official as he had found them during his visits to that State. He admitted that he was a friend but his opinion of the man was not his own but of others who have known him. The last to come and the first to drop was Babu Charoo Chunder Mitter. He was fortunate in a European proposer Mr. Longley who, however, had very little to say in his favour, while the seconder Mr. N. C. Bural was significantly silent.

At the first ballot, Mr. Mitter won 13, Mr. Sircar 15, Mr. Mukerji 20 and Mr. Hudar 21 votes. Mr. Mitter being thus eliminated, there was a second voting, when Mr. Sircar gained 4 more and Mr. Mukerji 9, Mr. Haider remaining fixed at 21. The third contest lay between Moulvi Budruddin Haider and Babu Nilambar Mukerji. The second result showed how the wind blew. At the third and last ballot, of the 19 Commissioners set free by the second elimination, 10 went over to Mr. Mukerji and 9 to Mr. Haider. Babu Nilambar Mukerji, M.A., B.L., having thus obtained an absolute majority of votes, was, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded

by the Vice-Chairman, elected. He was undoubtedly the most eligible of all the candidates, and his election has given general satisfaction. Next morning, his deserved success was the talk of the town. Letters and visits of congratulations from friends, acquaintances and strangers were many. Never before was Calcutta so stirred by the election of a Vice-Chairman or expressed greater satisfaction at the result. Nor is the feeling confined to Calcutta. Messages of joy have been received from Kashmir, Lahore, Bombay and the Bengal mofussil stations. The first distant telegram came from the Maharaja of Kashmir. He may well feel proud at his old servant being accepted as Deputy Lord Mayor of Calcutta. By his education, long experience of business of kinds, his knowledge of finance, of law, of municipal administration and of men, with no rough exterior, with no bad temper and with commanding presence, Babu Nilambar seems well fitted to maintain the dignity of the place for which he has been chosen. We do not know whether any Mahomedan voted for him. Led by Dr. Sanders if all the Mussulmans made a common cause for their own co-religionist, they have no reason to be dissatisfied with the result of the election. Babu Nilambar, though a Hindu, has seen service in responsible positions in a Hindu State with a preponderance of Mahomedan population. He is familiar with their manners and ways and is not unmindful of their aspirations. His name is still an object of admiration in Kashmir, for he gave the Maharaja's rayyets much relief. If the Mussulmans of that State could love the Bengali Brahman, what reason is there to suppose that he will not be liked by the Mussulmans of Calcutta? Babu Nilambar is the most Mahomedan of the Hindu candidates proposed.

Baboo Gopal Lal Mitter makes over charge in a week or ten days, by which time the sanction of the Local Government to Baboo Nilambar Mukerji's appointment is expected by the Chairman. At his request, the Vice-Chairman elect was present at to-day's meeting of the General Committee, and will regularly attend the office from Monday to learn its ways.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, January 11, 1896.

PUNISHMENT AND PRESTIGE.

PUNISHMENT may be viewed either as a retribution that overtakes the transgressor, or as a wholesome check on him and as an example to others. Regarded as a retribution, punishment may be looked upon as another form of human vengeance. Your hands are burnt when thrust into a blazing fire. The consequence here is direct and inevitable. The forces of Nature are blind in their operation. The laws regulating them never forget or forgive. The most pious man, when any part of his body is brought into contact with fire, never escapes the pains caused by burning. Even ignorance is never excused by Nature. The child is burnt as cruelly by a live charcoal as the man fully conversant with the properties of heat. Imprisonment, however, or fine, for a transgression of the laws of man stands on a different footing. The transgression may or may not be followed by the infliction. It is so followed only when it becomes known to those in society who are armed with power. The exercise of power for inflicting pain on one that has caused pain to another, however necessary for the existence of society, is at best a vengeance that society exacts for the injury it has sustained. It is true that vengeance is exacted under known forms, and its measure is regulated not by the individual injured but by others capable of acting without prejudice and passion. Still its character remains unchanged. As such, punishment must be looked upon as founded upon passion—the passion of wrath, or, say, of self-preservation. On either view, punishment can scarcely be said to proceed from a motive that may be called high or noble. Fortunately, besides being an exaction of vengeance, it helps to correct the wrong-

doer and make him a better individual. It is true that, as a means of correction, poverty induced by fines, or the loss of freedom imposed by a residence in the jail, or stripes inflicted with the cat, are very ungentle compared with the instructions of a loving teacher. But such instructions to depraved natures, may not be attended with success. Nor can society stake its best interests upon chance. Hence the necessity of the policeman and the jail-warder instead of the schoolmaster and the clergyman.

After all, when to the corrective element of punishment is added its deterrent effects all round, the justification becomes complete for the infliction of pain by man on man. Finding its usefulness, the part it plays in the preservation of society, the poet-legists of ancient India personified punishment as *Danda*, especially created by the Grandsire of the universe for restraining all creatures within their limits. Armed with a bright sword, a heavy bludgeon, lances and javelins, darts of sorts, and with diverse other offensive weapons, *Danda* was created by a fiat of the Grandsire's will and, on his asking for a residence, was assigned the hand of the king or his representatives. Invested with immortal existence, that great Being, the helper of kings in their rule and the terror of all who feel a disposition to outstep the bounds of righteousness and duty, stalks on earth, righting wrongs and inspiring dread.

Such is the rationale of punishment, and such one of the earliest myths relating to it. As human nature is constituted, the necessity can never be obviated of punishments for restraining it within the limits of duty. So universal is the disposition to transgress those limits that it is not the robber or the forger only that needs correction. Those in authority over others, those charged with punishing the robber and the forger,—they themselves require the chastening rod when they fail in their duty. The more powerful the transgressor, the greater the necessity of correction with promptitude and severity. A Magistrate or Judge that misconducts himself in his high position, deserves to be stripped of his authority or otherwise corrected. An immunity from punishment would be the death of all government. The escape of a forger after the fabrication of a cheque that has been the means of despoiling a bank of thousands of rupees, or that of a burglar after he has cleared a house of all its plate and valuables, is not, after all, so grave a calamity to society as the escape from chastisement of a Judge who has, for a bribe, favoured such escape. As a servant of the State, the Magistrate or the Judge exists for bringing offenders to justice. His prime function is to protect the innocent by preventing wrongdoing. He does this as much by the punishment of the wrong-doer as by the example of his own rectitude. The Magistrate that inflicts heavy fines for misbehaviour in the streets under the influence of drink, wastes his energy, if he similarly misbe-

haves himself. The Judge who reads a grave lecture in a prosecution for adultery and orders the highest sentence provided by the law, fails to inspire people with a just abhorrence of the crime, if he himself lives openly with another man's wife. The gravest censures hurled by a Divisional Commissioner or Provincial Governor against official impecuniosity and borrowing are so much empty breath, if the censurer himself applies for loans and accepts them from his subordinates. Those, therefore, that are set in watch over others, themselves need watching. Their transgressions should be promptly noticed and punished. Nothing is more effective for an efficient administration than the unerring certainty and swiftness with which offenders in authority are brought to book.

There can be no question, again, that punishment derives force from publicity. Whatever the depravity of an offender, the wholesome influence of opinion is never lost upon him. Man cannot live apart like the lower animals. By his very nature he gravitates towards fellowmen. Their sway over him is almost complete. The highway robber bows to the opinion of his comrades and desists from acts held in abhorrence by them. Punishment, when backed by public opinion, is efficacious. Unbacked by it, it loses its force. A Christian missionary going to jail for preaching Christ, glories in the punishment he undergoes. Supported by his own conscience, he feels besides that, instead of being condemned, he will be applauded or admired by all Christians. Ridley and Latimer, condemned to the stake, did not once feel that they were dying a shameful death. On the other hand, many a man, after a crime, has laid violent hands on himself, not to escape the terrors of the jail but the obloquy of society. To divorce punishment, therefore, from the force of opinion cannot be an act of wisdom. The infliction of the gravest punishment in secret would deprive it of its essential character, especially if unattended with physical pain or pecuniary mulct. Condemn a man to pass every night for a whole year in a cell, under prison discipline, unknown to all except a few turnkeys and the Jail Superintendent and half-a-dozen people in the Home Secretary's Office, he will take the punishment as a slight inconvenience, especially if you permit him at day time to discharge the duties of some honourable office with sufficient emoluments. Make the condemnation public, and the man will run away from society and be viewless.

These observations apply with peculiar force to public officers in a country like India. We do not say that Indian Judges and Magistrates commit every offence known to the law, although there have been men among them who have been proved guilty of peculation, corruption and other offences, and been cashiered. There are many honourable men in the Civil Service actuated by a strong desire to distinguish themselves by uprightness of conduct and conscientious discharge of duty. For all that, they are not above errors of judgment. Moral turpitude may not be attributable to anyone, but faults of the head may not be rare. Vigour beyond the law may be exhibited by many with the most honourable intentions. A Krikwood for forcibly subjecting a modest girl to a medical examination, a Phillips humiliating the head of local society by obliging him to stand in the criminal dock for no offence, and a Radice acting in defiance of all law in consequence of

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., on Tuesday, the 14th Inst., at 6 to 8 P.M. Subjects: Histology—Lungs; Physiology—Alimentation.

Lecture by Bihari Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Wednesday, the 15th Inst., at 4-15 P.M., Subject: Blowpipe Exercise.

Lecture by Bani Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Wednesday, the 15th Inst., at 6 P.M. Subject: Photometry (concluded). Reflection of Light—its laws and application.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Thursday, the 16th Inst., at 5 P.M. Subject: Electro-magnetism concluded.

Lecture by Bani Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Friday, the 17th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Lead and Silver Salts.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

January 11, 1896.

his inability to control himself, are not exactly few and far between. These are faults and even grave faults in administrative officers. The necessity, therefore, is never obviated of administering censures and rebukes and sometimes of ordering stoppage of promotion and imposition of fines in the form of suspension of pay and allowances. Privately administered, a censure loses its force. Even pecuniary mulcts fall lightly if imposed with the knowledge of only the Accountant-General. A whispered censure is, after all, no censure. Deprived of publicity, it is shorn of its punitive element. From the circumstances of his position, a civil servant is far removed from the influence of wholesome or healthy opinion. He resides among people with whom he does not mix. He is a stranger in the place where he lives. He is a solitary being in the midst of a teeming population. Emancipated from the criticism of equals, of friends and acquaintances of his own colour and creed, he is not subjected to the criticism of men that surround him. Under the circumstances, he owns no check save that of his official superiors. That check, when it takes the form of unpleasant counsels whispered to him through the post in an official despatch, has no terrors for him. Publicity, therefore, is more desirable in his case than in that of others. The argument derived from loss of prestige is absolutely worthless. Individual prestige may be hurt, but the prestige of British rule is enhanced. Being the oldest, Bengal is, again, the most advanced Province of British India. It has an Argus-eyed press so far as official peccancy is concerned. The apparent impunity of official offenders is truly destructive of that prestige which forms one of the most solid foundations of British empire in India. Compared to the prestige of British rule itself,—a prestige built up by justice and humanity—that of an individual administrator is a thing of little value. One of the wisest aphorisms uttered by Brougham is that it is not enough that administrations should be pure and uncorrupt; they should have also the reputation of purity and incorruptibility. The late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was entirely unmindful of this. Careful of the prestige of individual members of his Service, he was supremely negligent of the prestige of British rule. In whispering his displeasure to individual offenders, he forgot that he sacrificed the reputation for thorough rectitude of conduct of British rule. A brilliant member of the Indian Civil Service, he was a tyro in statesmanship.

EXPERIENCES OF A HADJI.

BY MOULVI ABDUL JUBBAR, KHAN BAHADUR.

As my experience in the holy Hedjaz differs materially from the description of the Hadj by non-Mahomedan travellers who have been there in disguise, I desire to say something about it. I believe that the sum of human happiness is greater in the Hedjaz than in countries which boast of modern civilization. I was nearly four months in Mecca, Medina and Jedda, and my impression is that the people in those places enjoy more inward peace than outward ease. They are no doubt comparatively poor, but poverty has not there its concomitant vices to such an extent as we see among the moneyless classes elsewhere. With the exception of the murder of the British Vice-Consul at Jedda I did not during my stay in that country see or hear of any atrocious crimes which in civilized localities the newspapers daily report. The late Vice-Consul was very unpopular with the Arab Bedouins, though I must say in justice to him that he was a great friend of the Indian pilgrims, and did much for their convenience and comfort. Rightly or wrongly the Arabs did not regard him as a Mussulman in the strict sense of the term. Of course the Bedouins are not innocent, but

I can say that they are not so bad as they are represented to be. There are among them, as among other nations, good and bad men. Though poor they are hospitable towards needy travellers.

At Rabuk, a little town between Jedda and Medina, I met a Punjabi Hafiz (one who has the Koran by heart). As he had no money to pay the hire of a camel to Medina, he made an attempt to go on foot in order to visit the tomb of the Prophet. When he reached Rabuk he found that he had over-estimated his physical power to accomplish a most tedious journey. A Bedouin took pity on him, sheltered and fed him at his house and offered to carry him to his destination on his own camel free of charge if he would only remain with him a few days and allow him to make the necessary arrangements for the journey. However, the Hafiz having seen my party halt at Rabuk asked me to take him to Medina. I gave him a seat on one of my camels to and back from that city. The above is only an instance of the hospitality of the Bedouin. The camel drivers are all Bedouins and are during the journey fed by their employers, but they invariably share with others whatever food is given to them. At one of the stages where sheep were procurable the leader of my caravan, a respectable young Bedouin, wished to be entertained with meat. I gave him the price of a couple of sheep. He brought and killed them, but when the meal was ready he not only invited the neighbouring Bedouins but asked some of our party to dinner.

Much of what we hear of the misdoing of the Bedouins is due to the conduct of travellers themselves. If the Bedouins are treated kindly and liberally they are as obedient as slaves. It is true that the road is sometimes unsafe owing to the broils among the different tribes of the Bedouins, or to any disagreement between them and the Sheriff of Mecca, but they try to leave the pilgrims alone. A careless traveller is sometimes robbed if he strolls to a distance from his party, but thieves there are in every country. In Arabia, however, theft in a house seldom occurs. During the days of the Hadj people lock the doors of their houses and go to the Arafat, about 18 miles from Mecca, and on their return after four days' absence find the locks intact and their property safe, notwithstanding the absence of regular watchmen in the streets of the city.

The Arabs, especially the inhabitants of Medina, are most polite and obliging. A citizen of Medina has a good word and brotherly feeling for everyone. The reverence of the Medinites for the Prophet is so profound that they scarcely talk aloud within the walls of the sacred city. One evening I forgot to take my prayer book to the Musjudun Nabi or the Prophet's Mosque and called out to my servant after the Indian fashion and told him to bring me the book. Immediately an Arab came up and whispered to me that I should remember that I was within the hearing of the Prophet, and should make no noise.

The Sultan's rule is much appreciated in the Hedjaz. Every evening at candle-light and every Friday prayers are offered in front of the sacred house for the health of His Imperial Majesty and for the success of his army, and the very enthusiastic manner in which the word Amen! is uttered by all present at the conclusion of the prayer shows that the people are ready to sacrifice their all to the service of the Sultan. I cannot therefore believe for a moment the recent telegram that 45,000 Arabs have risen against the Sultan. His Majesty Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan, the protector of the Muslim faith, and the guardian of the holy shrines, is known to have the good of his subjects at heart, and is always anxious about the welfare of the Mahomedans who visit his dominions on religious duties. The quarantine at Kamran has not the approval of the Sultan. The late Maulana Rahmatullah, a learned Indian Mahomedan, waited upon his Majesty and begged him for the abolition of the quarantine. In reply his Majesty told the Maulana to pray that His Majesty could abolish it. The Maulana's family still enjoys a State pension at Mecca. The Sultan's charity in the Hedjaz is almost unlimited. Not only do thousands of people get subsistence allowance at Mecca and Medina, but every morning cooked food is doled out to the poor.

As regards the Turkish officers and soldiers I must say that I do not believe that they are capable of the cruelties of which the Armenians accuse them. They are no doubt brave, but they cannot truly be charged with vandalism. On the contrary they are most amiable and polite. I visited His Excellency Halim Pasha, the highest official in the Hedjaz, and he showed great courtesy to me and expressed his wish to return my visit, but as I was a stranger and had no sort of furniture with me to give a proper reception to the Wali of Hedjaz, I begged him not to take the trouble of seeing me at my house. One evening he saw me in the sacred mosque at Mecca and kindly asked me to sit on his carpet and say my prayers with him. His Excellency Ahmad Rati Pasha, who succeeded Halim Pasha, and took over charge after I had left Mecca, furnished me with letters of introduction to the officers at Yambo and Medina, when he heard from a friend of mine that I was on my way to the latter city.

I saw the Turkish soldiers at Mecca, Medina, Jedda and Rabuk, and am in a position to say that their behaviour was excellent.

They were never seen to molest or ill-treat anybody. As a proof of their kind-heartedness I wish to mention the following incident:—Two poor Indian women travelled on foot from Mecca to Jedda. At Hidda one of them came and informed me that her companion had been, owing to the fatigues of the journey, obliged to lie down on the sand under the burning sun. I was very anxious to save her life and despatched an Arab on a mule to fetch her to our place. The Arab returned and reported that a soldier saw her in her critical position, picked her up and removed her to his quarters. After sunset she was brought to us and she was very grateful to the soldiers for the kindness shown to her.

I believe the Hedjaz is the only country in the world where grog shops and women of ill-fame have no existence. There all women, rich and poor, move about with veils on, and the greatest respect is shown to them by the male passengers on the roads.—*The Englishman*.

“THE SOVEREIGN PRINCES OF INDIA AND THEIR RELATION TO THE EMPIRE.”

—RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT.—

By a Territorial Maharaja.

(From the forthcoming number of “*The Asiatic Quarterly Review*.”)

Delicate though it may sound that an Indian Prince should take the liberty of pronouncing his opinions on a matter that deeply concerns the royal sons of India, like the one under consideration, yet it may not be out of place, that one should unfold, at your instance, one's loyal opinions concerning this question of vital importance, on the authority of the past history of this country, maintained by the present circumstances that go to favour and strengthen our view.

In the halcyon days of Hindu Sovereignty, this land of Bharata enjoyed the blessings of a peaceful reign, the Court of Ayodhya, on the one hand, and the Court of Hastinapura, on the other hand, having acted as centres of political supremacy, binding the vassal sovereigns by the common tie of patriotism towards their mother land, and loyalty towards their sovereign, recognized as such, by divine right. From the glimpses of political history we can gather on the authority of our ancient Epics,—the Ramayana and the Mahabharata—we learn that every political act of great moment was before its execution proposed by the sovereign head and carried by the unanimous voice of the vassals (Samantha Rajas) and ministers, invited to advise and edify on such matters. The installation of Rama was proposed by the Emperor Dasaratha, when he desired to lead a retired life during his old age, relieving himself from the cares of sovereignty, and the assembled vassals and ministers carried the proposition unanimously. The War of the Mahabharata was another momentous Act of Politics that was brought about by the united voice of the subject sovereigns and vassals who were scattered about the length and breadth of this vast and glorious Empire constituting 56 Aryan Principalities. Still later when we come to the siege of Somnath, we find the Hindu Sovereigns assembled under a common banner, in the cause of their religion and country, to oppose Mahomed of Ghazni. These are then a few among the many leading points of evidence that go to establish that there must have existed in the Hindu Sovereignty, the germs of an Imperial Constitution, which might have developed well organized councils for political guidance, at one time or other, during the prehistoric sway of Hindu sovereigns over this vast Empire.

As a standing proof of this we have the system of feudal sovereignty that prevails up to date in Rajputana, which is nothing but the survival of the vassal system, in vogue in this ancient land in times prehistoric. Wherever the vassal system is in force, there we cannot but see a relation which necessitates mutual help and advice, in matters *politic*, a relation which in a form, rude or refined, indicates the germs of a political Constitution, similar, if not exactly corresponding, to the modern Imperial Constitution, the existence of which in this country is disputed by Mr. Lee Warner and Mr. Tupper, whose knowledge of the political traditions of this historic land does not go beyond the chaotic mass of “Treaties, Engagements, and Sanads.”

Centuries must have rolled on without tainting this holy relation between the Imperial Majesty of India and her Vassal Sovereigns, even before she was destined to fall a victim in the hands of murderous Tartars and other barbarous tribes that were long waiting to pounce on their coveted prey. The sovereign princes trembled at the sight of these desperate and dissolute marauders, the country being doomed to a condition of chaos and anarchy—a condition of things from which Rome, the Mistress of the World, herself had not escaped. These were no doubt dark days for India. But Providence never intended that she should be left in darkness through all eternity. When brighter days had dawned, when the Muhammadan invader ceased to be a mere plunderer of a foreign soil, but established himself permanently in the country, laying the foundation of the Muhammadan Empire, she saw the shadow of her former glory returning by

slow degrees, when Baber founded the Moghal Empire on the Indian soil and secured her safety by securing the friendship of the Rajput princes, a policy, which he and his successors found necessary for the prosperous growth of their Empire.

Akbar the Great, the most popular of the Moghal Emperors made the people and the Sovereign Princes of India realize her former glory, by expounding a healthy system of Laws and introducing a good many reforms which tended to secure the welfare of the people of his Empire. Akbar best recognized the importance of the policy pursued by his grandfather Baber and succeeded in bringing the sovereign princes of the land together on terms of friendship, in the interests of the vast Empire, which he knew he could not govern without the internal union and confidence that ought to subsist between the Emperor and his vassal princes. He, as Emperor, found out that Rajputana had the vassal system, a relic of ancient Hindu Imperial Constitution, in force; and proposed to the Rajput princes that he would become their Suzerain—i.e.—their highest chieftain. When many of the princes assented to the proposal, a strong tie of attachment was created between them and the Sovereign-head.

At this point we may do well to examine into the actual relation that subsisted between the Emperor at Delhi and his vassal or feudatory Princes. This relation mainly rested on the right of the Emperor to demand from the vassal the payment, every year, of a certain sum of money, often nominal, as a tribute in token of his recognition of the authority of the Paramount Power of the land; and the vassal was, as a matter of fact, bound to place his person and his army at the disposal of the Emperor, whenever the safety of the Empire was endangered. In other respects the vassals enjoyed the entire confidence of the Sovereign-head and exercised independent powers over their kingdoms without being meddled with, in every matter that concerned the local administration, whether revenue, civil, or criminal. The greater the confidence placed in these princes, the greater was their attachment to the paramount power, and the more secure was the Empire. This relation between the princes of India and the Emperor, during the Middle-ages of India was not far different from the relation that subsisted between the Norman Kings of England and their vassal-lords, on the Conquest of England by William of Normandy, who introduced into England the Feudal system of the Continent, in a slightly modified form. The motto of the vassal princes of India has all along been to protect the Empire from foreign aggression and save it from ruin and downfall. The loyalty of the vassal-princes of this land is a thing unprecedented in the history of the world; and the same cannot be said of the relation between the Vassal Prince and the paramount authority of other countries, where the King may have reason to fear the power and influence of his vassal in the land.

The relation that at present subsists between the feudatory chiefs of this land and the Empire may not compare favourably with the one that subsisted between these bodies either during the Moghal regime or during the prehistoric sway of Hindu Sovereigns. The Sovereign Princes of our Empire are now bound to govern their states with the help of Residents stationed in their territories. In the majority of cases, the native princes are at the mercy of the Residents stationed in their capital and are moved as mere “puppets” in their hands, in spite of the fact that these Indian Princes are highly cultured and are capable of proving themselves eminent statesmen, if allowed to exercise their talents in the direction of administering their territories with much less restriction, without being watched every inch by the Resident stationed at the capital. The loyal Sovereign princes of India do ever hope to be enlisted into the confidence of the Imperial Majesty of the Indian Empire, and ever pray for the safety of the Empire, prepared, ever at the beck and call of the paramount power, to place their persons, armies and resources at the disposal of the Superior Power for the safety of Her Majesty and the Empire. It will then be a source of much gratification to the Sovereign Princes of the land, and will be a certain testimony of the confidence the State places in these Princes, if Her Majesty is graciously pleased to allow such enlightened Sovereign Princes as H. H. The Gaikwar of Baroda to rule over their kingdoms with less restrictions from the Residents stationed at their capitals, and it is hoped that such a step will in the long run induce other Sovereign Princes to become more enlightened and better fitted to rule over their kingdoms and to serve in the Common Cause of the Empire whose prosperity is their watchword.

How far different from this was then the relation that subsisted between Akbar the Great and his subject Sovereigns? He pursued the healthy policy of conciliation towards the princes of this vast Empire and exalted the lesser nobility to high offices in the State. He succeeded in bringing into existence an effective political Constitution by which the whole Empire was placed in constant touch with every part of it. He brought about a political organization in which the Hindu tributary princes were placed on a par with the Moghal nobility as feudal Lords. With the aid of these princes Akbar succeeded in subjugating the Patan Kingdoms of Northern India. The Emperors of Delhi adopted in succession this noble

policy, invented by the founder of the Moghal Empire and developed by his grandson, the greatest of the Moghal Emperors. So long as this policy was pursued by the Moghal Emperors of Delhi, so long did the Empire stand free from danger and downfall. But Aurangzeb pursued a policy far different from that pursued by his ancestors towards the princes of his Empire. Actuated by religious fanaticism he kindled the inimical feelings of the Rajputs and other Hindu princes, by imposing on every infidel, an insulting tax called Jazia. This inhuman tax drove the subject races out of the Empire, and the Hindu Princes who had been the means of lending vitality to the Empire during the reigns of Akbar and his predecessors, became in turn the very instruments of ruin to Aurangzeb and his followers. The inevitable result of their receding from the sound policy of Akbar, induced by religious bigotry and actuated by sensuality, was certainly the breaking loose of the strong bond of union that kept the Empire firm and steady, finally ending in their degradation and the downfall of their Empire.

Just at this juncture, it has pleased Providence to entrust this land with its millions of inhabitants, to the care of a benevolent and God-fearing race of rulers—the English. The loyal and patriotic Princes of India have always welcomed the British Raj as a Godsend, have uniformly acted with a spirit of unswerving loyalty to the State, and have shown themselves conspicuous in standing firm under the benign banner of the Imperial Majesty of India. The History of the Mutiny of 1857 and the records of the E. I. Company previous to that event, are permeated with marked instances of their loyalty. What greater evidence of their present loyalty can be given than the one portrayed in the words of the well-known letter of the Nizam on the occasion of the Panjdeh Russian scare! The loyalty of the Princes and people of India to the Imperial Majesty is a household word!

What does this world-known loyalty indicate? What does this desire to make common cause of everything that may affect in the least their paramount sovereign, declare? Surely nothing but a filial right and a loyal claim to be restored to their lost prestige and glory; nothing but a longing to be redeemed from the thralldom of a bygone rule; nay, a confidence on the part of the many millions of India that England shall in the long run mete out to them their political salvation.

This hope, this longing and this confidence was not to go in vain. During the winter session of 1875-76, this country was honoured by the visit of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, when this crowning gem of Britain's possessions paid her tribute of unflinching loyalty never before surpassed in the annals of British India. During this season of joy and festivity throughout the land, the princes of this vast empire felt that the day was not far off when they would have the good fortune of being incorporated into the Imperial Constitution of a glorious dynasty. Accordingly, the year 1877 has marked out a glorious epoch in the annals of the British Empire in the East. In that year, the relation that has subsisted between the sovereign princes of India and Her Imperial Majesty received a formal recognition, whereby some of the Sovereign Princes of India have accepted the title of "Councillor of the Empress." Herein was realized the hope of the far-sighted statesman, Lord Beaconsfield, during the Viceregal administration of an equally far-sighted statesman, Lord Lytton.

The Imperial Declaration at Delhi was, in the opinion of great statesmen, the dawn of a prosperous future for India. Lord Lytton has thereby originated the Imperial Council, and has entrusted it even in its infancy to the charge of the successive Secretaries of State for India and Viceroy, to be nurtured with due care. But, no sooner had Lord Lytton left the shores of India, than the lines of his imperial policy were relinquished; and the infant Council found itself at the mercy of uninterested nurses in whose hands it had to pass the critical age of childhood, though now and then presenting dangerous symptoms, under the weight of which it might decline and be lost. But India has no cause to despair of its prosperity under any circumstances, seeing that this infant Council has all along been under the care and guidance of a higher Power—Providence. Though the Imperial Council was helpless in the hands of its guardians, yet thanks be to the Secretaries of State for India and the Viceroy who had this vast Empire entrusted to their charge, for their good wishes towards the Sovereign Princes of India who are interested in the growth of this infant Council, for the liberal policy they have been all along pursuing towards them, under the auspices of Her Gracious Majesty, the Empress of India. The lapse of nearly two decades ever since Lord Lytton constituted this infant Council has not been entirely fruitless. For during this period the Sovereign Princes of India, such as H.H. The Gaikwar of Baroda, H.H. The late Maharajah of Mysore, H.H. The Maharajah of Travancore and many others have distinguished themselves, as portrayed in the words of a disinterested observer, the Earl of Meath,—“by their high culture and intellect, speaking English without the slightest accent, keenly alive to all that is passing in the world, and sincerely desirous of governing their territories both wisely and justly. Several of them have widened their minds by

travel, have visited Great Britain, been presented to their Empress, and have made themselves acquainted with other portions of the vast Empire, over which her rule extends.” This interval has been of immense good to the Princes of the land in preparing them for the noble and responsible call to serve Her Majesty, as Councillors, in the administration of this vast Empire, wherein is cast the lot of several millions of people, bound by the common tie of loyalty to the same Paramount Power, though differing from one another in respect of creed, custom and language.

It is therefore our individual opinion, as is the opinion of many impartial observers on Indian politics, that the time has already arrived for allowing the enlightened Native Princes of India to play an active part in the Imperial Council of Her Majesty, into which a few of them had the honour of being initiated as Her Majesty's Councillors, on the occasion of the Imperial Declaration at Delhi. It may so happen that some of the Native Princes may not all at once like to take part in the imperial Union, on the ground that their prestige as Sovereign Princes will become a thing of commonplace. But steps might be taken to have their prestige and power kept sacred and respected, if not enhanced and exalted. It is further our opinion that such a step will in the long run bring the Princes and people of India into a closer touch with the British Sovereign Power, and will certainly result in multiplying the welfare and contentment of the people of India, by bringing into united action the dormant powers of the Sovereign Princes of the soil, now confined within the narrow limits of their territories, to bear upon the Empire for their common weal.

THE WORLD RUNS AWAY FROM US.

THE other day we had a talk with a man who knew us little of the world around him as a baby. Yet he was a man of naturally fine intelligence. He had just been relieved from prison. Ten years ago he was incarcerated under a life sentence. Recently, however, circumstances had arisen which proved his innocence, and he obtained his freedom. But nothing seemed as before. He had been stationary while the world moved on. Many of his old friends were dead, and all were changed. A big slice of his career was lost, and worse than lost. Could he ever make it up? No, never. Besides, although he had committed no offence, the mere fact that he had been convicted of one, would always place him at a disadvantage.

Different as it is in all outward conditions long illness produces results which resembles those of enforced solitude. When confined to our homes by disease we are virtually out of the world. Friends may and do, pity us; but they do not lie down by our side and suffer with us. Ah! no. They go their own ways and leave us alone. In the midst of company we are still alone. Enjoyment, food, sleep, fresh air movement, work, &c.—those are for *them*, not for us. Alas! for the poor prisoner whose jailor is some relentless disease. Who shall open the iron doors and set *him* free?

“I never had any rest or pleasure.” So writes a man whose letter we have just finished reading.

“In the early part of 1888,” he says, “a strange feeling came over me. I felt heavy, drowsy, languid, and tired. Something appeared to be wrong with me, and I couldn't account for it. I had a foul taste in the mouth, my appetite failed, and what I did eat lay on me like a stone. Soon I became afraid to eat, as the act was always followed by pain and distress. Sometimes I had a sensation of choking in the throat as if I could not swallow. I was swollen, too, around the body, and got about with difficulty owing to increasing weakness.

“At the pit of my stomach was a hungry, craving sensation, as though I needed support from food; yet the little I took did not abate this feeling. My sleep was broken, and I awoke in the morning unrefreshed. For *four years* I continued in this wretched state before I found relief.”

This letter is signed by Mr. Charles H. Smith, of 19, New City Road, Glasgow, and dated February 15th, 1893.

Before we hear how he was at last delivered from the slavery of illness, let us listen to the words of a lady on the same theme: Mrs. Mary Ann Rusling, of Station Road, Misterton, near Gainsborough. In a brief note dated January 3rd, 1893, Mrs. Rusling says she suffered in a similar way for *over fifteen years*. Her hands and feet were cold and clammy, and she was pale and bloodless. She had pain in the left side and palpitation, and her breathing was short and hurried. No medicines availed to help her until two years ago. “At that time,” she says, “our minister, the late Rev. Mr. Watson, told me of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and urged me to make a trial of it. I did so, and presently felt great relief. It was not long before the bad symptoms all left me, and I gradually got strong. I keep in good health, and have pleasure in making known to others the remedy which did so much for me.”

Mr. Smith was completely cured by the same remedy, and says had he known of it sooner he would have been saved years of misery.

The real ailment in both these cases was indigestion and dyspepsia, with its natural consequences. Throughout the civilised world its course is marked by a hundred forms of pain and suffering. Men and women are torn to pieces by it as vessels are by the rocks on which they are driven by tempests. So comprehensive and all-embracing is it that we may almost say that there is no other disease. It signifies life transformed into death, bread turned into poison. Watch for its earliest signs—especially the feeling of weariness, languor, and fatigue, which announce its approach. Prevention is better than cure.

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to Atkinson, the late Mr. E.F.T., C.S.,
to Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.
from Bell, the late Major Evans.
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.
to Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.
to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.
to Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.
to Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.
to Graham, Mr. W.
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.
from Guha, Babu Saroda Kant.
to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.
from Hunter, Sir W. W.
to Jenkins, Mr. Edward.
to Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.
to Knight, Mr. Paul.
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.
to Law, Kumar Kristodas.
to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.
to Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.
to Mallik, Mr. H. C.
to Marston, Miss Ann.
from Metha, Mr. R. D.
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakshinaranjan.
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.
from M. Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.
from Nayaratra, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.
to Rao, the late Sir T. Madhava.
to Rutigan, Sir William H.
from Rosebery, Earl of.
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.
from Russell, Sir W. H.
to Row, Mr. G. Syamala.
to Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.
to Sinha, Babu Brahmananda.
from Sincar, Dr. Mahendralal.
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.
to Underwood, Captain T. O.
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.
to Vencataramaniah, Mr. G.
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS(& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from
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Ameri Hossein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.
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Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Shib Chunder.
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OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October, 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmy days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness. —*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed. —*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality. —*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

WEEKLY (ENGLISH) NEWSPAPER

AND

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DROIT ET AVANT

Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 208.

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

"THE SURPRISE" AT WILDBAD.

From the German of Uhland, "BY BAR."

In fairest days of summer, when gently blows the breeze,
When blooming are the gardens, and verdant are the trees,
There rode from Gates of Stuttgart a hero proud and old,
Count Eberhard the Scornor, hight Rustle-beard the bold.*

Few of his gentle squires attend him on his way ;
He bears nor helm nor hauberk, nor seeks the bloody fray ;
He fain would ride to Wildbad, where warmly flows the spring
That health to ev'ry sick man, and youth to age doth bring.

He halts by Hirsau's Abbey, and enters at the shrine,
And while the organ pealeth, he quaffs the monk's cool wine ;
Then rides through verdant valleys, beneath the pine-trees' shade,
Where Enz a rushing pathway amid the rocks hath made.

At Wildbad, by the market, a stately house doth stand,
And for a sign it beareth a brightly gleaming brand ;
And there the Count alighting, right gladly turns to rest ;
And daily to the fountain resorts the knightly guest.

There all his garments doffing, he paused a while, and stood,
A pious prayer repeating, then plung'd him in the flood ;
Amid the rocky channel, he ever sought the spot
Where from its riven outlet the spring gush'd full and hot.

It was a stricken wild-boar that first the source betray'd :
The hunters found him bathing his wounds in forest glade,
And to the aged hero it seems a pastime good,
To lave his scar-seam'd body, and stretch him in the flood.

One day his youngest squire rush'd down in eager haste—
"Sir Count, a troop of horsemen the upper vale have passed ;
They carry heavy maces, their leader's scutcheon shows
A wild-boar from the forest and a red golden rose."

"My son, those are the 'Strikers,' whose blows fall heavily ;
'Tis Eberstein who leads them ;—my doublet give to me.
Full well I know that wild-boar and all his angry scorn,
Full well I know that red rose that bears so sharp a thorn."

Then came a simple herdsman, he came with breathless speed—
"Sir Count, the lower valley is thronged with knight and steed ;
Their Captain bears three axes ; his armour gleams so bright,
That, like the lightning flashing, it dazzles all the sight."

"It is Sir Wunnensteiner, the Gleaming Wolf by name—
Page, give me now my mantle,—I know his suit of flame ;
Right well his axes shatter, he bodes me little good ;
Now, bind my sword beside me—the Wolf he craves my blood.

* Count Eberhard of Wurtemberg, surnamed "the Scornor," and also "Rustle-beard" (1392.)

"A timid maid to startle, as in her bath she lay,
Might pass for merry banter, and harmless jocund play ;
But when his foes encompass an aged warrior bold,
They seek, if not his life-blood, a ransom rich in gold."

Then spoke that simple herdsman—"I know a secret road,
A rugged mountain pathway by man or steed untrod ;
There, where the wild goats clamber, beyond the foeman's wrath,
If you will swiftly follow, I'll lead you safely forth."

They clamber up the mountain through thickets dense and drear,
And often with his good sword the Count a path must clear ;
He ne'er before had tasted the bitterness of flight,*
And by the good bath strengthen'd, far rather would he fight.

But in the sultry noontide his strength was well nigh spent,
And toiling up and down hill, upon his sword he leant.
The herdsman saw with pity the aged hero's plight,
And gladly on his shoulders he raised the noble knight.

Then thought the aged "Scornor,"—It seemeth me right good,
To be thus gently carried by one of loyal blood ;
In trouble and in danger the people's truth shows bright,
So should we never trample on their good, ancient right.

And when in peace and safety to Stuttgart's halls he came,
He struck a goodly medal, to give his rescue fame ;
Full many shining pieces he gave the herdsman true,
And to the noble "Strikers," he scoffing sent a few.

And many stalwart masons he sent to Wildbad's spring,
And bade them round its waters a sturdy rampart fling
That so in future summers all sick and aged men,
By foemen unmolested, might bathe them young again.

—Indian Society.

WEEKLYANA.

LAST Saturday, the High Court Bar signified their satisfaction at the elevation to the Bench of one of themselves. There was a dinner to Mr. Justice Sile at the Dalhousie Institute, when covers were laid for eighty. The Advocate General proposed the health of the guest. The Great Eastern Hotel supplied the dinner and Mr. Lobo the music.

ON the 8th January, at the Albert Hall, the Keshubites, under the presidency of Babu Protap Chunder Mozumdar, commemorated the ascension of their god incarnate. The shade of Keshub was present, as observed by the Chairman, to "raise its hand upon you all to bless and inspire this hall which was erected by his labour." Mr. Mozumdar informed his audience that Keshub Chunder Sen very resolutely refused to be called a prophet. Yet to his followers he is no less.

* This and the three following lines are sculptured above the source at Wildbad, under the relieve which represents Count Eberhard's flight.

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For he communed with his God Who confirmed all his acts. In cases of doubt and difficulty, he appealed to Him direct. The greater the glory for the repudiation! "His whole nature," again, "was concentrated in one great impulse of love, flowing always towards God, flowing on all sides towards mankind." As an example of the latter, we believe, Mr. Mazumdar related:—

"After his death when the whole neighbourhood in which he lived was in mourning, and the great men of this town drove into his house one after the other to bear testimony to his many virtues, there came a Mahomedan gentleman who was very severely criticised. He squatted on the carpet spread for visitors, and bent down his head and said 'Keshub loved me,' 'Keshub loved me.' When he was told that it was no new thing with Keshub Chunder Sen, he said:—'You do not know I am a Mahomedan and many in this town amongst Hindus and educated are against me, but I was always assured when I looked upon his gracious countenance. I was always filled with joy when I heard the melody of his speech which was the soul of my soul. He loved this poor Mahomedan.'—*Indian Mirror*, January 14.

Mr. Mazumdar was free to admit that Keshub did not eat locust and wild honey like John the Baptist, he was a modern man and lived so in modern world, he worked for himself and his family. "True to his family, true to his country, true to the world, and true to his God. How many of you can say that? How many of all the religious leaders of the age can say that? Hence you see the singular uniqueness of his career. Those who looked at his externals, often found it difficult to realize that internally there was not the same passage 'I the Prophet'; he never took that name. And those who looked at the internals, thought, how a man, with all his fate, with all his renunciation, with all the undoubted asceticism and austerity could go through all the laborious exercises of the duties of a citizen, a householder and a man of the world." Wonder, indeed! The ragged Sanyasi spurns the world being in it. He is respected for his renunciation, for the hard life he leads. The new example of renunciation and love is more admired because of his worldliness joined to saintliness. The world has not grown so advanced as to allow the alloy. A saint may walk the earth but he is always above its affairs. A worldly saint is not the admired of all observers. Keshub was an uncommon phenomenon. The world is familiar with the spectacle of a sinner under the garb of a saint. Worldliness was his mask for saintliness.

**

THE life of Sir William Rattigan is very instructive and it has been very briefly told by Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, as Chancellor, presided, on the 6th January at the fifteenth Convocation of the Punjab University. In conferring the Doctor of Laws degree on Sir W. H. Rattigan, the Chancellor said:—

"He and Sir W. Rattigan were Assistant Commissioners at Delhi in 1863, and even then Sir W. Rattigan was engaged studying law and languages. In 1866 he cut his connection with the Government and joined the Lahore Chief Court, then newly formed, and as a pleader; his practice grew remunerative, but Sir W. Rattigan aspired to be a barrister. It was a grand instance of courage, determination and self-reliance that although he had the responsibilities of a family he relinquished everything, went to England and was called to the bar. He returned to Lahore and found he was remembered by his clients and his practice grew larger than ever. In 1876 and 1877 he was the acknowledged leader of the Lahore bar, and the great feature which inspired public confidence was that he always had every fact and detail at his fingers' ends. A common idea is that anything like broad and systematic study of law is only necessary for those free from the trammels of practice. He remembered a distinguished English lawyer describe a jurist as a confounded fellow without briefs, and as a matter of fact practising advocates generally confined themselves to obtaining from text-books and reports such fragments of law as was necessary for the conduct of cases. But Sir W. Rattigan was never contented with that. He studied law in a broad, systematic way, and he had written books that were justly esteemed. He had devoted most attention to Indian Customary law and Roman or Civil law, as studied in Germany. When at home he accomplished a rare and wonderful feat for an Englishman. He went to a German University, presented himself for examination as a Doctor of Laws and although the examination was conducted in the German language not only passed but passed with high honours. The Government was naturally anxious to secure the services of a man of Sir W. Rattigan's stamp, but the responsibilities of a family prevented him from foregoing his large income from the bar. Thus Government lost his services as Judge but took the first opportunity to avail themselves of his services on the Governor-General's Council as representing the Punjab, on which he did excellent work. In 1887 Sir W. Rattigan was appointed as Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Punjab. There was a great deal that needed doing in the University, and Sir W. Rattigan applied himself to the discharge of the duties of his office with the energy which he brought to bear on everything he ever had undertaken. How he found time to discharge the duties of Vice-Chancellor he was quite unable to understand, but that he did so in a most able and efficient manner, was so well-known to all present that it was unnecessary to dwell upon it. Sir W. Rattigan had the advantage to have associated on the governing body several able and

distinguished men, but his colleagues all admitted that to him, far more than to any other individual among them, was due the credit of having brought the University to the pitch of efficiency it has attained and the high position it occupies. Sir W. Rattigan in fact became so indispensable to the University that he was no less than three times re-appointed. After alluding to the services rendered by Sir W. Rattigan to education among the Sikhs, the Lieutenant-Governor said it was not to be wondered at that the Queen should knight him or that the Punjab University should confer the degree of the highest rank on him."

The honor has not been too hastily conferred. It rather comes late. Sir William had long deserved it. But for Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, it might be later in coming. Neither was he allowed to be as useful to the Legislative Council of India as he could wish. Sir William is thorough in what he does. That greatly accounts for his success in life.

We read in an upcountry paper:—

"The foundation-stone of a poor house established by Rani Sugat Kuer of Kherigarh, District Kheri, was laid recently by the Hon. Mr. G. Adams, Member of the Board of Revenue. The Rani presented an address to Mr. Adams in which she referred to the circumstances in which the estate was released from the management of the Court of Wards and transferred to her, since which she had effected an increase of Rs. 11,000 in the gross income. In her endeavour to improve the condition of her tenants she had started in 1894 a bank to enable them to borrow at a reasonable rate of interest, and the scheme was prospering. She was now carrying out another idea that she had cherished, which was to provide a poor house for the sick and poor on the estate. Mr. Adams in reply spoke favourably of the Agricultural Bank established by the Rani. There had been, he said, only one such bank in Oudh, that started by Seith Raghunath Dyal, Talukdar of Moizuddinpur in Sitapur, and it was much to the credit of the Rani that she, a purdahnashin lady, had recognised the fact that such an institution must benefit the landlord as much as the tenants. He hoped that this example might be followed by other proprietors. Referring to the circumstances under which this estate was released by the Court of Wards, which was done while he was Commissioner of the Division, he said he then held the view that she probably would be able to manage it, and he was very gratified to find that she had more than justified his opinion; it was now one of the best managed estates in Oudh."

**

IN Bengal, various forms of oath had been recommended, discussed and tried till it was reduced as now to simple affirmation for Hindus and Mahomedans. The Christians swear by the bible, the Parsis by the Zendavesta and the Chinese by the breaking of a saucer. In Ceylon they are laying down the forms for the various nationalities. The oath for the Buddhists runs as follows:—"I declare as in the presence of Buddha, that I am unprejudiced; and if what I shall speak shall prove false, or if by colouring truth others shall be led astray, then may the three holy existences, Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha, in whose sight I now stand, together with the devotees of the twenty-two Firmaments, punish me and also my migrating soul. To a Chinese witness, a saucer is to be handed who kneeling down breaks it into fragments repeating—"I tell the truth and the whole truth—if not, as that saucer is broken, may my soul be broken like it." In the case of Parsee witnesses, a copy of the Zendavesta is to be handed to the witness, who has to place his hands on it and repeat the words of the oath after the officer administering it—"I swear that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth, by God, God Omnipresent, and God Omnipotent, the God Almighty."

These precautions may be good to keep a witness in the straight path. But the manner in which oaths are generally administered takes away half its sacredness. To the truthful, the administration is an annoyance, and, as a possible slur on his character, a grievance. To the untruthful, it is not always a corrector. The ignorant blindly follow the administrator without understanding the words or their import. Practically, therefore, the oath satisfies only the judge and he feels himself free to proceed against whom he considers a perjuring witness. Several oaths of office have been done away with, and there is a tendency to abolish more. As an aid to truth, the value of an oath is problematical.

**

MR. Charles Edward Smyth having resigned his seat, Mr. William Buckley Gladstone has been appointed a member of the Bengal Legislative Council.

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THE Hon'ble Sir H. T. Prinsep, Kt., a Judge of the Bengal High Court, has been granted leave for six months on urgent private affairs, from the 8th instant.

MR. T. W. Richardson has been confirmed as Registrar of the High Court, Appellate Side.

THE Paris correspondent of an English journal reports that a bishop, but only a bishop *in partibus*, without duties, was sentenced on the 26th of December to 13 months' imprisonment for connection with a swindling matrimonial agency. The agency was carried on by a man styling himself Trubert *de la chappelle*, and his mistress, a woman named Authier, assumed the title of Comtesse de Var. The Bishop, at the hearing, spoke for three hours, delivering what was half a sermon and half a trade, part of which was directed against the Bishop of Périgueux. He was then very much excited, but on being sentenced was quite unmoved. Trubert was condemned to two years' imprisonment, and the woman Authier was ordered to pay 4,000*fr.* damages to the persons defrauded, the two other delinquents being also held responsible for such payment.

Do the damages validate the marriages? The conviction invalidates them as being performed without authority. Possibly, the sums ordered are meant to repay what the victims had suffered in their pocket.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

TWENTY-TWO of the leaders of the rising in Johannesburg, including Colonel Rhodes, brother of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, Mr. Lionel Phillips, and Sir Drummond Dunbar, have been arrested on a charge of high treason. Four Rand reformers have been arrested at Cape Town on a charge of treason. The Uitlanders arrested include the managers of the principal firms connected with the Rand and five prominent Americans.

The London newspapers deprecate the arrests, and hope that the Boers will not carry matters too far. Sir Hercules Robinson has dismissed Dr. Jameson from the offices he held in Mashonaland and Bechuanaland. It is reported that the conference held between Sir Hercules Robinson and President Kruger was strained and difficult owing to the latter demanding the annexation of Tongaland by the Boer Republic, and the annulling of the convention of 1884. President Kruger has issued a conciliatory proclamation urging the Boers and the Uitlanders to forget and forgive their recent differences. Commandeering has been stopped in the Transvaal.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes, in a speech at Kimberley thanking the inhabitants for their cordial reception, said that his political career was not ended but was only now beginning. The *New York World* has despatched a telegram to Mr. Rhodes stating that it is impossible to refuse civil rights to the Uitlanders of the Transvaal, and that Great Britain is bound to resist German interference in South Africa. It urges an *entente* between Great Britain and America to secure the peace of the world.

At the request of the American Government Mr. Chamberlain has instructed Sir Hercules Robinson to protect the Americans arrested by the Boers in the same manner as British subjects. This is regarded as evidence of better relations between the British and American Governments.

The German Press is calmer in discussing the Transvaal question, and the tension is abating.

The Transvaal Volksraad has passed a resolution granting a large increase in the artillery of the Republic. A vote of thanks also has been passed to Sir Hercules Robinson and Sir Jacobus De Wet for their powerful and prompt support in averting bloodshed.

Mr. Chamberlain has telegraphed to Sir Hercules Robinson that he fears the arrests of the leading business men connected with the principal firms in the Rand will disorganize the industries of the country, and enquiring of what they are accused, and what are the penalties. The reply is that the prisoners at Pretoria, between fifty and sixty in number, are mostly Rand reformers. They are charged with treason. It is alleged that President Kruger has evidence of a

plot to seize the Transvaal. British Counsel will watch the trial of the prisoners in the High Court.

Sir Hercules Robinson and President Kruger have finally arranged that Dr. Jameson and his officers are to be conveyed as prisoners to England for trial, and that the men are to be handed over to the British Government to be dealt with as it deems fit.

Sir H. Robinson is now returning to the Cape from Pretoria.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes has started for England.

AN important discovery of diamonds is reported from Mullagine in North-West Australia.

THE *Westminster Gazette* states that Lord Salisbury informed the Cabinet, which met on Saturday, that more cordial relations have been established with France by the prompt settlement of some old disputes. This, the *Gazette* states, may be regarded as the first step towards a British rapprochement with Russia and France. The Anglo French agreement in Siam was signed on Wednesday. By it the Mekong becomes the French boundary to the Chinese frontier. Great Britain and France undertake to refrain from any armed advance in the valley of the Menam, but the Siamese territory east and west thereof is excluded from this clause. Under it, the details of which have so far come from Paris, France obtains Mongsin and Battambang. The Buffer State has apparently been abandoned. The French Press declare that until the Egyptian question is settled, the relations between France and England cannot be materially altered, notwithstanding the Mekong agreement.

THE Governments of the Australian Colonies have jointly telegraphed to Lord Salisbury, congratulating him on the fearless measures he has taken in defence of the integrity of the Empire, and assuring him that Australia will loyally support England in her resolve to resent any foreign interference in matters of British and Colonial concern. Lord Salisbury has replied saying that nothing gives Government greater confidence to uphold the rights of the country than the approval and good-will of the great Colonies.

THE Foreign Consuls at Aleppo have started for Zaitun to negotiate or the surrender of insurgents. The Queen has sent an autograph letter to the Sultan.

A DINNER was given, on Jan. 15, at the Imperial Institute to Sir Joseph West Ridgway, the Governor elect of Ceylon. Lord Stanmore presided, and Lord Wolseley, Sir Arthur Birch, General Massey and many merchants and planters from Ceylon were present. Lord Wolseley in a speech, said that the army was never better prepared than at present to do whatever was required of it. Sir Joseph Ridgway made a long speech, in which he dwelt upon the importance of the strategic position of Ceylon, especially Colombo. He said that he would do his utmost to extend roads and railways in the island and to develop its industries. He would give special attention to irrigation and the promotion of commerce. As regards the defences of the Island, Sir Joseph said that it would be his endeavour to improve the Volunteer force, for he was of opinion that preparing for war was a guarantee of peace, and he hoped Ceylon would take her part.

MR. Balfour, speaking at Manchester, said that Great Britain maintained her control over the external relations of the Transvaal, and would admit of no foreign interference. He did not believe that the American peoples would permit war with Great Britain, but in the event of war Great Britain was never better prepared than at present. Regarding the Indian cotton duties, he said that their total abolition was impossible for financial reasons, but that Government had resolved that the duty should be so arranged that no protection whatever would be given to the Indian manager at the cost of his Lancashire brother. Free trade, he said, was aimed at.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

THE Vicerny is much better, but he has not been able to shake off the fever which is persistent.

THE European Maharani Florence of Patiala died at Patiala last Saturday. At Lahore, during Christmas, she had caught cold, which, being neglected, on her return to Patiala, took a dangerous turn and ended fatally. All Patiala wore a melancholy look, business was suspended, and shops closed. Headed by the Chief, men, women and children followed the dead body to the royal *Samadhi* not far from the city gate, where it was cremated. The Maharaja was all tears. His loyal brother bore him up.

SIR Alexander Mackenzie has consented to be the President of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science. The last President founded a scholarship for scientific research by the natives of India but would not directly do anything in his official capacity for the benefit of the institution. We hope for better days for the Association in the next five years.

THE Local Government has no objection to the appointment of Baboo Nilambar Mukerji, M.A., B.L., as Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation. We may, therefore, expect the sanction in the next *Gazette*, if it has not already been communicated to the Municipal office. It was doubted whether it was imperative under the law to *Gazette* the appointment, or would it not be sufficient to inform the Commissioners by letter of the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor. Following the old practice, the sanction will be *Gazetted*. We should think the practice a good one. When every rural sub-registrar or registrar under the Act for the voluntary registration of Mahomedan marriages and divorces, and Municipal Commissioners under the Calcutta and the Bengal Acts have the honour of the *Gazette*, it would be strange indeed if the Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation were left out.

AS a preliminary to the final absorption of the office of the Inspector-General of Registration in Bengal by that of the Land Records, the Head Assistant has been abolished and sent the way of the blue gem not of palest ray serene.

THE Ripon College stands first in the last B. L. Examination of the Calcutta University. The only student in the first Division is from that institution. It also heads the list in order of merit in the second Division, and altogether has passed the largest number, 63 out of the 145 successful candidates, in the two Divisions. The number from the City College is 33, while that from the Metropolitan Institution is still less, namely, 17. The other institutions with the numbers of passed candidates are: the Dacca College 9; the Behar National College, 5; the Morris College, Nagpur; the Hughli College; the Patna College; the Rajshahi College, each 3; and the Victoria College, Cooch Behar; the T. N. Jubilee College, Bhagalpur; the Rij Chandra College, Barrisal; the Berhampur College; the Ravenshaw College; and the Muir Central College, each, 1.

THE *Madura Mail* says:—

"An attempt at 'living death' similar to that of the Rangit Singh Yogi was made lately by a man of the Valaya caste who was previously known as Vellimalai and now under the pompous title of Malayandi Mavuna Samar. The news spread throughout the District a week before this date and a large concourse of people assembled in front of the Thirvappadiyar temple where he was to be buried alive. The man was sitting on a plank thrown over a pit dug for the purpose, surrounded on all sides by a large posse of police constables, and by eager spectators. The appointed hour came. The man appeared to be shivering from head to foot with fear or with enthusiasm and was breathing hard. He removed the plank and got down into the pit telling the spectators that his life would go out, rather he would go into *Samadi* unconsciously if he should sit in meditation at the bottom of the pit itself for half an hour. Then the police constables told him to get up. Immediately he got up saying that the time of his *Samadi* was miscalculated by him and that the site selected by him was not fortunate for it. Whether he was labouring under hallucination or not, the affair ended in a fiasco. The Police racked their brains to find out some Section in the Indian Penal Code under which he could be brought up, but, fortunately for the man, unsuccessfully."

The Hindu fakir alluded to allowed himself to be buried in a chest under ground at Lahore and brought again to life when disinterred at the end of forty days.

ALEXANDER DUFF is a great name. The Doctor was a power in India. He could make and unmake men and institutions. Great as a preacher and educationist, in political influence he was no less. Even after retirement, he retained the liveliest impressions of this country. His interest in it was unabated. His love of India and how he valued the friendship of Indians will appear from the following letter published for the first time. It is addressed to the late Baboo Khetter Mohun Chatterjee, who from a simple *Kerani* rose to be Assistant Civil Auditor, and acted as Auditor-General, now Comptroller-General. In 1861, he was sent in that capacity to the Punjab. There was opposition from the Local Government, for the Baboo was placed above the heads of Civilian. The protest elicited from the Government of India the reply that it knew better. The Local Government too came to know of the value of the Bengali, for it afterwards regretted his short stay. Lord Napier of Magdala had a high opinion of him. Recommending his grandson, Baboo Gopal Chunder Mookerjee, now a Deputy Collector in the Calcutta Collectorate, to Sir Richard Temple, then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Commander-in-Chief said that there was not one civil or military officer to whom Khetter Mohun had not rendered a service. The least that he had done was to assist them in drawing their pay and allowances—no small service, as we should think, when the present Code had not been framed.

"Potterdale by Pennt, 29th June, 1871.

My dear old Friend,—I am greatly in your debt as regards correspondence. But I entreat you not to measure my affection for you or my interest in your welfare and doings by the infrequency or scantiness of my communications. My feelings of affectionate regard for you, instead of diminishing, continue to increase with the lapse of time. You are now the oldest of my surviving native friends. And towards you I constantly look, in the chamber of my imagination and memory, with peculiar feelings, redolent of old and tender and endearing associations.

But my situation is really a difficult one. I have so often been the subject of ill-health in one form or other, that it has not been easy to drag through the discharge of necessary duties. And the amount of work that is constantly thrown upon me as a referee on Indian and other matters, and the amount of correspondence which this involves,—apart from my own more immediate duties—tend to consume my whole time and drain out my whole available strength.

I have no alternative, therefore, but to cast myself simply and unconditionally on the kind indulgence and forbearance of yourself and other friends, similarly circumstanced.

Do you, therefore, my dear friend, not give up writing to me as often as you possibly can; since I highly appreciate and value any communication from you.

Your last to me about your share in originating the Durand memorial was particularly gratifying to me, on many accounts.

It was so, inasmuch as you have long been the sole survivor of the *first five*, brought to me, about this time, 41 years ago, through the friendly influence of the never-to-be-forgotten and ever-to-be-lamented Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

It was so, additionally and very specially, as an evidence of the kindly and grateful feeling which a native of India is capable of cherishing towards a British gentleman—though a stranger and foreigner—who, in his dealings, has been kind, considerate and just, and as shewing to all British rulers wherein their real strength lies, and the secret of the power that may wed India to Britain. If every British man, or a majority of British men, acted towards the natives of India with the consideration and kindness, the impartiality and justice of a Durand, India would be bound to Britain, by ties, having in them a force verily more potent than if an army of half of British soldiers could be transported thither, to-morrow.

So, with some remarks of this kind, I sent your letter to Lady Durand, for her perusal; and in returning it, she expressed herself very highly gratified.

I lately noticed what pleased me very much—that our old friend Dukhina Runjun Mookerjee had been made a Raja Bahadur. Well, my own impression has long been, that few men have more richly deserved that title at the hands of British Rulers. From an early period he became persuaded that—whatever may be the issue to be ultimately desired—India's best, if not only, chance of enlightenment and elevation lay in strengthening and prolonging equitable British Rule. And

no man has laboured more strenuously and successfully in bringing rulers and the ruled into a condition of mutual understanding, harmony and good will. And now he has had one portion of his reward.

When you write again, do tell me about the state and doings of old friends and acquaintances; about the tendencies and movements of native society, the changes already in progress with their probable issues.

No information about these and other kindred subjects can come amiss to me. I like to be able to follow the career of old friends and to trace the changes and ongoings in native society.

What, for instance, is to be the issue of the educational cess scheme? What the prospect of vernacular education for the masses? How are all the graduates of the Calcutta University to be employed, if they took only to Government employ, or situations in mercantile or other offices? Are the educated native doctors spreading themselves over the country, and supporting themselves by their profession? Will not the law courts be soon overstocked with educated pleaders?

Anything connected with these and other themes will always be interesting to me.

And now, my dear friend, last of all, how fares it with the immortal soul? I know you too well, to suppose for a moment, that you will either misapprehend or misjudge my motives, in asking so solemn a question.

I am now several years beyond three score, and you cannot be very many years short of it.

Oh, the blessedness of having an assured hope for a never-ending eternity! I thank God, that, in spite of endless unworthiness and shortcomings, I can humbly cherish such hope; and you know how, and through whom, I am enabled to do so. Now, how is it with yourself? You will not think the more of me when I tell you that for years past you have been almost daily in my heart, in prayer at the throne of Grace.—Ever your affectionate friend, Alexander Duff.

The Duffs have always been distinguished for intellectual eminence and a profound sympathy with the people of India. Readers of this journal know the abilities for business shown by Mr. Pirie Duff, son of Dr. Alexander Duff, and his disposition towards the children of the soil while he was the head of Messrs. Mackenzie Lyall's Exchange in Calcutta. He has left India, and his son, who bears the name of his grandfather, is now working in our midst in the firm of Messrs. MacNeill and Co. He has all the amiable virtues of his father and grandfather.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, January 18, 1896.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AND THE SUB-MAGISTRACY.

A BAD imitation of Sir George Campbell, Sir Charles Elliott was not half as good as he. The activity of both was marvellous. Both wanted to crowd their reforms into the brief space of their terms. Whatever the value of their reforms, Sir George shewed genius and courage, while Sir Charles failed in both. With all his dislike for law, Sir George had a respect for it. Sir Charles was above all law. Both were furious against the Press, which they themselves drove into opposition. The one suggested their punishment, the other administered the cat himself. If Sir George wished to make the Magistrates all powerful, Sir Charles reduced the Deputies to dummies and recording machines. Hear now the Sorrows of the Deputies under the rule of Sir Charles Elliott.

I have read with much interest your two recent articles reviewing the general administration of the late Lieutenant-Governor and sharply criticising his general line of policy and some of his particular measures. Much of what you have said about that administration is correct and your analysis of his character as a ruler is not wrong. It is very difficult to defend his policy. The one aspect of

his rule which every honest and reasonable man must deplore, was that it entirely demoralized the sub-executive Service. The Deputy Magistrates never suffered so much, and their prestige and status were never lowered so much, as during the last 5 years. I believe that during Sir Charles Elliott's rule the number of officers of this class who were censured, whose promotion was stopped, and who were otherwise punished, was much larger than the number punished in the same way during the time of any previous Lieutenant-Governor. From the time of his taking over charge, he took it into his head that the Deputy Magistrates of this Province were a set of worthless, lazy, and incompetent officers who could not properly administer the criminal law, who unnecessarily delayed the trial of cases, and whose percentage of convictions was unsatisfactory. To show his earnestness he closely examined their records of cases, their registers, and returns. He spent much time in finding fault with the poor Deputies and proving that his estimate of their qualifications and capacity for judicial work was correct. I do not know of a single instance in which he examined the records of a Civilian or European Magistrate or found fault with him. This feeling of the late Lieutenant-Governor was echoed by all inexperienced Civilians and Police officers who look upon native Magistrates with disfavour. In a short time these two classes commenced to snub and insult the native Magistrates and openly interfere, to an alarming extent, with their judicial independence. Those who were honest and independent, heavily suffered in keeping up their independence as their opponents were backed by the Lieutenant-Governor. Others gave in, and suffered themselves to be made machines for convicting people at the bid of young District Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police. It is a fact that Deputy Magistrates were obliged to humour Inspectors of Police and even Court Inspectors. If an experienced Deputy carried out the instructions of the District Judge in any judicial matter, —instructions disliked by a boy Magistrate of 4 years' standing,—he was sent for and reprimanded. If he defended himself by saying that the Judge was his superior in judicial matters and that he could not but obey him, the reply was, "You need not be afraid of him. He cannot do you any harm. He cannot stop your promotion." To this wholesome counsel the unfortunate Deputy sometimes replied, saying,—“Sir, but there are Judges and Judges. I have seen some who brought District Magistrates of even 20 years' standing to trouble for disregard of orders.” A derisive smile at such timidity and foolishness of the Deputy settled the matter for the time. To descend to further particulars: an inexperi-

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.
(Session 1895-96.)

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on Wednesday, the 22nd Inst., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Salts of Silver and Mercury.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., on Thursday, the 23rd Inst., at 6 to 8 P.M. Subjects: Histology—Large and small Intestines; Physiology—Alimentation.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Thursday, the 23rd Inst., at 6 P.M. Subject: Volta-electric and Magneto-electric Induction.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on Friday, the 24th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Copper and Cadmium.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

January 18, 1896.

Honorary Secretary.

enced Magistrate recommended the prosecution of a man for a serious offence. The case had no leg to stand upon, but a young Magistrate is a youth of *zid*. The case was made over to an experienced Deputy who, after thorough enquiry, acquitted the accused, basing his decision on some important High Court rulings. After some days, the old Deputy met the Magistrate.

M.—What have you done with the case committed by Mr.—?

D.—I have acquitted the accused as the charge was not proved against him.

M.—How could you have acquitted him? It was a clear case and the accused ought to have been punished.

D.—If you read my judgment you will see my reasons for acquittal. I have quoted some High Court decisions.

M.—I never read those silly things and you should not have acted upon them.

D.—You may call them silly, but I think I am bound by them.

M.—You ought to try cases according to your common sense and not according to those rulings.

D.—Sir, I might not possess other qualifications, but my stock of that useful article never ran short, and all my superiors as well as the general public have given me credit for possessing it in abundance, but it cannot override the High Court precedents.

M.—I will look into the record.

D.—You are welcome to read it and pass such orders as you think proper.

Circulars were issued by certain divisional Commissioners, giving instructions contrary to the High Court rulings and fixing the limit of punishments in certain offences. At the time of inspection these points were carefully looked into. On the motion of Police officers of all grades, from District Superintendents down to Court Inspectors, cases were transferred from the files of Deputy Magistrates without assigning any cause.

For the above reasons, some of the most distinguished and experienced officers had to retire, although they were quite fit to serve Government longer and would have even obtained extension if they had asked for it. A reign of terror existed for the Deputies, and they did not know how to satisfy their conscience, as well as their superior officers.

In this great calamity which visited the Deputies, the only mitigating feature was the courtesy and consideration shown by the Chief Secretary to the members of the Provincial Service. They cannot forget it soon. He was always accessible to all classes and grades of officers. He never refused a personal appeal by any Deputy Magistrate. It did not matter if he was not able to redress their grievances in every case or grant the request. Mr. Cotton will be long remembered with feelings of gratitude by all Deputy Magistrates for this concession and indulgence. This is a fact which even his opponents cannot deny. The outside public cannot have a correct idea of the wheel within wheel in the machine of administration. It cannot know all that passes between the Chief Secretary and the Lieutenant-Governor. Had not, however, his Secretary pulled him back on several occasions with all his strength, who knows into how many more serious blunders Sir Charles Elliott would have fallen headlong, and what amount of more mischief he would have done to every branch of the administration? I believe Mr. Cotton has

not had independent charge of large districts or divisions, but I think it would be premature to speak of his administrative capacity. We should wait until he gets an opportunity.

I endorse every word of what Mr. M. M. Ghose has said in England and India regarding the separation of judicial and executive functions of officers. He has certainly made out a very strong case, and no one is so eminently fitted for the task as he. All Indians ought to be grateful to him for the service he has done by exposing the defects of the present system. Those defects undoubtedly reached their climax during the 5 years of Sir Charles Elliott's rule.

In his speech quoted by you, Sir Charles Elliott referred to the "high standard of evidence" which the native Deputies require for convicting accused persons. He did not explain what he meant by his high standard. Native Magistrates never require anything more than what the law of evidence prescribes. They certainly insist upon sufficient legal evidence and cannot decide cases according to the whims, or *zid*, or preconceived ideas of young Civilians and District Superintendents of Police. His idea seems to be that legal evidence is not of much use, and that Deputies and other Magistrates should decide cases according to their own "common sense" or the instructions of young District Magistrates, than whom, in Sir Charles' opinion, no men are better able to administer justice. Had the Deputy to obey only the Executive, his task would have become simpler and easier; but his misfortune is that he has to serve two masters. If he disregards the High Court precedents and the law of evidence, the District Judge and the High Court will surely come down upon him and report him to Government for incompetence and unfitness for judicial duties. Government will then be bound to punish him. If he disregards the informal and formal instructions of the Executive, he is put to immediate and serious trouble. I do not think any class of officers anywhere else occupy such an extremely anomalous position. They do not know how to get out of this difficulty, how to protect their independence and conscience. For these reasons, the Deputy Magistrates had little or no peace of mind during Sir Charles Elliott's rule. They did their work under the most discouraging circumstances and in a very bad frame of mind. Only those officers were less troubled who were under immediate superiors of sober judgment and averse to interference with subordinates. Under Sir Charles Elliott not a single Deputy Magistrate's merit was appreciated or his services rewarded with promotion as suggested by the Public Service Commission. In order to please the Mahomedan community, he gave a Mahomedan Deputy Magistrate (who is on extension) the post of Inspector-General of Registration. Again, Abdul Jubbar Khan Bahadur was allowed to officiate for some time as Presidency Magistrate. Except these sops to the Mahomedan community, no Deputy Magistrate was promoted to any of the high posts in the Provincial Service. A glance at the civil list of the N.-W. P. for the same period will show that nearly half a dozen men got appointments held by Civilians exclusively. They were taken from both branches of the Service, judicial and executive. The question arises,—Were the native members of the Provincial Service in the N.-W. P. a better qualified class of officers than their Bengal brethren? The Lieutenant-Governor of the North West Provinces would thus seem

to have entertained a better opinion of his officers of this class than Sir Charles Elliott did of his. It is hoped that under Sir A. Mackenzie, who has correct ideas about the reverence due to law and justice as administered in British courts, the Deputy Magistrates would be able to recover their character as judicial officers and breathe more freely.

Sir A. Mackenzie's resolution of doing some work, "raising as little dust as possible in the doing of it," marks him out for a ruler of stuff. British rule in India depends as much on the reputation it enjoys for the purity of its Courts, civil and criminal, as on the hundred thousand bayonets it can muster at a moment's notice.

SAILANA AND THE INSTALLATION AT SAILANA.

SAILANA is a Rajput State under the Malwa division of the Central India Agency. Its capital is 12 miles north west of Rutlam, and the Rutlam Godna and Rajputana Malwa Railway lines pass through its territory.

The Chiefs of Sailana are Rathones of the Jodhpore family. Ratan Singh, grandson of Maharaja Udai Singh of Marwar, who was, for his conspicuous bravery, rewarded by Emperor Shah Jehan with the assignment of 12 districts in Malwa, founded Rutlam after his name. He had hardly been settled in his new possession when he was summoned to march with Jeswant Singh of Marwar against the combined forces of Aurangzeb and Morad. A battle was fought at Fatchabad near Ujjain, where Ratan Singh, who was about 30 years old, fell with many thousands of his brother Rathones. His eldest son Ram Singh succeeded him. Ram Singh's son Kesheodas incurred the displeasure of Aurangzeb for having put to death one of the Mahomedan nobles, who was on his way to Mecca, and Rutlam was made *Khalas*. After a time, however, one of the surviving sons of Ratan Singh named Chhatersal won the Emperor's favours by taking an active part in the wars with Bejapore and Golkanda and by displaying great courage in them. Rutlam was in consequence restored to him. This took place in the beginning of the 18th century. Subsequently Chhatersal's son Hatt Singh was killed in the battle of Parnala in the Deccan. This event so overpowered him with grief that he turned an ascetic and lived at Ujjain, leaving his dominion to be managed by his son Kesri Singh. After his death, his sons Kesri Singh and Pratab Singh, and grandson Bairisal divided the Raj among themselves, Kesri Singh taking Rutlam, Pratab Singh, Raote (now Sailana) and Bairisal Dhamnode. Pratab Singh having no male issue, adopted Kesri Singh's son Jey Singh. Bairisal after a time went away to Jeypore leaving Dhamnode to be possessed by his uncle Kesri Singh. Pratab Singh demanded half of Dhamnode. Not getting it, he seized Kesri Singh and making away with him assumed the reigns of government of Rutlam in addition to his own possession of Raote. His adopted son Jey Singh fled away and after collecting some forces with the assistance of Lalgah marched upon Rutlam and at Sagode killed Pratab Singh. His elder brother Man Singh who was at the Imperial Court of Delhi was invited to Rutlam. Jey Singh advanced to meet him at Mandore and bringing him to Rutlam seated him on the *gadi*, he himself occupying his adoptive father Pratab Singh's *gadi* at Raote.

The seat of the Raj was subsequently changed from Raote to Sailana which still continues to be the capital town. It was in 1819 that an engagement between the Chief of Sailana and the Scindhia was mediated by Sir John Malcolm when Gwalior agreed never to interfere, in any way, in the internal administration of the State or its succession. Since then four Rajas have ruled the State, the last being Doole Singh who died in October last after a rule of nearly 45 years.

The small town of Sailana was all joy on the occasion of the installation in his father's place of the new Chief Raja Jeswant Singhji, by Colonel Barr, the Governor-General's Agent in Central India. At 11 A.M., a deputation consisting of two principal Sardars of the State waited on the Agent and accompanied him to the Durbar. Colonel Barr was received by the Minister and another Sardar while alighting from the carriage, and by the Chief at the steps leading to the Durbar room, when a salute of 13 guns was fired and a guard of honour presented arms. As the Agent entered the Hall the large gathering of Sardars, Jagirdars, and high officials of the State rose and remained standing until he took his seat on a richly covered State chair. After a time he announced in fluent Urdu that His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India had been pleased to sanction the recognition of Kuar Jeswant Singh as Chief of Sailana and called upon his subjects to obey his orders faithfully. He then conducted the Chief to the *masnad* under a salute of 11 guns. The presentation of *Khillat* and

pesb-kesb being over, Colonel Barr rose and spoke thus :---

"Raja Sahab,---In accordance with the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy, I have to-day in this Durbar installed you as Raja of Sailana as the acknowledged successor of His Highness the late Doole Singh and I have called upon the Sirdars, officials, and all the subjects of the Sailana State to acknowledge you as their Chief and to obey your orders faithfully.

I trust that you will be faithful to the trust now imposed upon you and that you will rule your State with loyalty to the British Government and with justice to your subjects, remembering always the responsibility of the important duties which you will exercise.

Your first efforts should be directed towards restoring the financial condition of the State and the payment of the debt with which it is unfortunately burdened. To do this you will have to use discretion and economy and it must be your endeavour to reduce expenses and to devise means for increasing the revenue.

I am glad to know that you have in my friend Khan Bahadur Khory a Minister who is able to give you good advice and to assist you in carrying out the reforms which are so much needed. I advise you to give him your full support and authority and to act on his advice.

In all matters you should consult the Political Agent and be guided by his counsel, and I am confident that Captain Pinhey will at all times be ready and willing to give you the advantage of his experience and knowledge and I can assure you that I shall always take the greatest interest in the affairs of Sailana and shall look forward with confidence to the best results.

I now offer you my hearty congratulation on your installation as the Raja of Sailana and wish you long life and all prosperity."

The Raja replied in the following words :---

"Colonel Barr and gentlemen,---

I rise to express my profound sense of gratitude to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India for formally recognising me as the Chief of Sailana and to you Colonel Barr for taking all the trouble of coming over here to install me on behalf of the Paramount Power, on my father's *gadi*. Nothing gives me more pleasure and gratification than to notice two happy incidents of my life---the one being my admission into the Daly Rajcoomar College at Indore for English education about 16 years ago when Colonel Barr was there, and the other being the auspicious ceremony of to-day when Colonel Barr as the distinguished representative of the British Government in Central India, has so ably performed. In fact, it was Colonel Barr who offered his greetings when I began to learn the English alphabet and it is Colonel Barr who has to-day offered me his congratulations on my entering a new phase of responsibility. My best thanks are therefore due to you Colonel Barr for your cordial support and kind treatment. I must also gratefully acknowledge the moral support and friendly advice invariably given to me by the Political Authorities. I regret Colonel Gerard's inability to be present here to-day. But I am glad to find his absence compensated by the presence of our Political Agent (Captain Pinhey), who, though new in this Agency, is well-known in this part of the country.

I am extremely sorry for the death of my late lamented father. But the only consolation that I see is that we are all mortals and shall have to meet one day the same fate.

Although I am no novice in the administration of my State, yet, by assuming the reins of Government to-day I am not insensible of the grave responsibility I am accepting towards God and man. If the Chiefs have privileges and rights, we have to remember that they have also duties and obligations to discharge; if they can't understand the spirit of the age, then, we must not forget that the spirit of the age will not tolerate them. It is a general belief amongst us that a Raja is happier than his subjects, but my experience coincides with the opinion expressed by the Poet in this line 'Uneasy lies the head that wears a Crown.' However, I hope and pray that by the grace of God and by your kind assistance I shall rise equal to the occasion and do every thing in my power to make my people happy and contented. I know that before me lies a formidable task. The financial condition is hopelessly unsatisfactory and other departments of the State will claim my serious attention. But I will spare no pains to improve this condition and to introduce Revenue, Judicial, Currency and other reforms suitable to the requirements of the State. My country being much behind time, my efforts will be directed to gradually bring it to a level of progress and advancement with a view to keep pace with the time.

I am sorry God has not spared my kind Principal Mr. Mackay to see this occasion, and I feel very much the absence of Mr. Mathew here, under whom I have got my education. But one satisfaction for me to-day is that I see Khan Bahadur Khory, my former tutor, present here as my Dewan.

The Chiefs of Sailana are the Rathore branch of the Jodhpore family. They are traditionally famous for their loyalty to the Throne and, like my ancestors, I shall be ever ready to shed my blood and sacrifice my country in serving the Suzerain Power.

Before I sit down, allow me to thank you all for your kindly

gracing this occasion and doing me a pleasure which I shall never forget."

At 4 P.M., the Chief paid a formal visit to the Agent, Governor-General, when the usual formalities were observed. At the banquet, the Chief proposed the Queen's toast saying :—

"Colonel Barr, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me very great pleasure to ask you to drink to the health of our most gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India. There is not a nook or corner in this vast and mighty Empire where prayers are not heard for Her Majesty's long life and prosperity. It reflects no small credit to England under the Queen that the 19th century closes with the survival of so many native States in India. No nation, ancient or modern, has undertaken the noble and glorious task of preserving to its allies their sovereign powers and of leading them to use their authority for the good of their principalities and for the common welfare of the Empire into which they have been admitted and in the defence of which they are ever ready to sacrifice their lives and their country. These Principalities have long ceased to be the blast furnaces into which the strong elements of Indian society were drawn before the advent of the British, and in place of a condition of society given up to anarchy and to the liability in every form of violence and oppression, we have now absolute peace and we enjoy the numerous benefits conferred by *Pax Britannica*. Mr. J. S. Mill was quite right when he declared his belief that the British Government of India was not only one of the purest intentions but one of the most beneficent in act ever known among mankind.

The downfall of the Portuguese in India was principally due to bigoted religious policy and to the rottenness of the whole fabric of their Government. The introduction of the Roman Law into the protected States of the Republic was the precursor of annexation. The love of the Britons to let different native States enjoy their own laws and systems has greatly contributed to the consolidation of this Empire. History affords few examples where a change in the political condition of a country has been attended with such an aggregate of increased happiness to its inhabitants, as we find under the just and benevolent rule of the Queen of England and Empress of India.

Let us, therefore, drink to her health and wish her a long, happy and prosperous life."

The toast having been drunk with due honours, Colonel Barr, in a few well chosen words, took the Chief's health. Colonel Barr's health was then proposed by the Raja, who said :—

"Colonel Barr, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am much obliged to you Colonel Barr for the kind manner in which you have proposed my health and to you Ladies and Gentlemen for having responded to it with equal kindness.

I have now another pleasant duty to perform this night and it is to ask you to join with me in drinking to the health of our distinguished and most popular Agent to the Governor General, I mean Colonel Barr. Colonel Barr has been so intimately connected with Central India that to know him is to know the history of Central India for the last 20 years. His knowledge of and acquaintance with the Chiefs and the people of Central India are quite unique. By the geniality of his disposition, by his tact, and never-failing courtesy, by his keen desire to maintain and uphold the integrity of Native States, by his kind and sympathetic support and advice to them all, and by his other sterling qualities which enable a man in this world to rise to the pinnacle of eminence, he has endeared himself to those that have come in contact with him in official as well as private capacity and has won the affection, esteem and admiration of all classes of people in Central India. All Central India resounded with the cries of joy when his appointment to hold the exalted office of Agent to the Governor General was announced, an office which will afford him wider sphere of usefulness and more opportunities to display his talents and to prove the warmth of his heart in safeguarding the interests of all concerned. He is one of those sons of England who, like Sir John Malcolm and Sir Henry Daly, have largely contributed to the consolidation of this mighty Empire.

The Political Authorities in Central India have a very onerous task before them, and it must be said to their credit that, although they on occasions get sufficient provocation for interference, yet, they, as a rule, exhibit tact and temper with such sagacity and forbearance as to cause as little friction as possible and which entitles them to the everlasting gratitude of the well-wishers of Native India. It is difficult for an outsider to realize and appreciate fully the value of their presence and good advice in a Native State, and it is no exaggeration to say that the cordial and friendly relations which subsist between the Chiefs and the Paramount Power, are largely due to the good work unostentatiously done by them.

I rejoice to see Mrs. Barr here and to take this opportunity of congratulating her on her complete recovery from her late illness. The news of her restoration to health has gladdened every one in Central India.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope you will join with me in drinking to Colonel and Mrs. Barr's health. May God give them health and happiness!"

The new Chief of Sailana is no novice in the post to which he has been called by the death of his father. He had been managing the State with the assistance of his tutor, the present Dewan, who sacrificed his immediate prospects to be of service to his appreciative pupil in his difficulty. In the three speeches which he made, the Raja shews that he is made of more than the ordinary stuff of our Princes. If he can go on as he has commenced, he will no doubt accomplish what he has promised. It was no empty praise either that he bestowed on Colonel Barr. He deserves all that has been said of him. Our Politicals, though friends, are usually a dread to our Princes. Colonel Barr is among the few of his class who are truly loved by their charge.

Letter to the Editor.

"A MUNICIPAL GRIEVANCE."

ITS REMOVAL MADE A GRIEVANCE OF.

Balasore, the 10th January, 1896.

SIR,—A telegram appeared in your esteemed paper of the 14th Dec. last, contradicting my letter published in yours of the 7th idem, under the head "A municipal grievance." The sender of the message "Public" "is sorry to find people that dare mislead Editors like yourself." Will "Public" kindly let us know if the following facts were true, and then say, if it was he himself or I who misled you?

In the middle of the year 1885 necessity being felt for a slaughter house, one Munshi Mohamud Abdus Samad was requested to make the necessary enquiries and to come to terms with the butchers as to the site. When he submitted his report, it was decided, by a majority of the Commissioners, that the slaughter house should be erected near the river side. But, all on a sudden and against the resolution of the Commissioners, a slaughter house was commenced in the vicinity of a Hindu village, in the centre of a populated part of the town, and by the side of a public road. When and how did "Public's" Subcommittee come into existence? What authority overruled the decision of the Commissioners? It is said, the then Sanitary Commissioner approved the site of the old slaughter house. Was he shown all the parts of the town, and given opportunity to choose between them?

However, the people living in the neighbourhood of the old slaughter house, appealed to the Municipal Board, who would not consent to give up the site, unless the petitioners guaranteed to build a slaughter house, within convenient distance of the butchers' quarter; the guarantee to be given with proper security and penalty within 2 weeks from the date of the order (30th January 1886) and the building to be completed by the 1st of the following April to the satisfaction of the Chairman. The result was as was expected. None of the ratepayers could give the guarantee within so short a time, taking upon himself the risk of the penalty, for the conditions were heavy.

So the slaughter house was smoothly built and established within hundred cubits of the dwelling houses of fifty respectable Bengali and Urya gentlemen. As if this was not enough, hide godowns were built close by. Complaints continued, when Baboo Raj Narayan Das, at the request of the neighbours and others, expressed, through a local newspaper, his willingness to bear the costs of a new slaughter house, if the old one were removed. The municipal Chairman, Raja Baikantonath De, clutched at the offer and expressed his thankfulness to the Baboo saying:—"I am very glad to see that you have made a generous promise to bear all the expenses of erecting a slaughter house in an 'out of the way place, where religious or sanitary considerations will not in any way be affected. I shall be more glad to have a letter addressed to me intimating your intention to that effect, so that, I may move the Commissioners at their next meeting to select a site, and carry out your generous purpose, as soon as practicable. It is superfluous to say this move of yours will be thankfully recognised not only by the Municipality, but by your Hindu neighbours, who had so long been complaining of the present site of the slaughter house."

Another Chairman of the Municipality, Dr. Williams, a Civil Surgeon, writes:—"I trust therefore that you will agree to give a slaughter house as desired which will be a lasting benefit to the community, and enable those who use it to be ever thankful to the donor, and also afford a deep sense of gratitude on the part of your co-religionists in having the present building removed from its obnoxious site."

"Public" says "• • • the Commissioners (the old body) agreed • • • to remove it and they also acquired land for the purpose."

The Notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* for acquisition of the land appeared long after the old body had ceased to be. Even if the offer originated in personal convenience, the public convenience it no less, and Babus Raj Narayan Das and Radha Charan Das are not to be condemned for what they have done, if not publicly shamed.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

THE KHALIFA QUESTION AND THE SULTAN OF TURKEY.

BY DR. G. W. LEITNER.

No one who has lived long in Turkey doubts that the old state of religious and local autonomies, when the milder precepts of the Koran or of the Bible could be appealed to to govern the actions of men, was better than the present centralisation imitated from European patterns in all their objectionable characteristics. It is the new wine that has been poured into old bottles that is answerable for the confusion leading to the Armenian explosion and to Muhammadan retaliation. For this, as also for trifling with the Khalifa question since the accession of the present Sultan, England, or rather English education, is mainly responsible in Turkey, as it is in India a solvent of beliefs, associations and existing restraints. In a list of terms of abuse, which I publish further on, attaching to various nations in Turkey, that of England is known as "Dinsiz" or "without religion," but the excellent American missionaries also, though both practical and scholarly, have much to answer for; they converted the Armenian, the traditional *factotum* and almost *alter ego* of the Turk, into a discontented subject, who has now brought on his head the cruel anger of his astonished patron. Under normal conditions, Turks or Kurds and Armenians are the best of men, whilst among Armenians the absence of crime and vice was traditionally proverbial. What has so changed the former, besides the effect of a subversive education on the latter? I maintain that it is the hysterical and contradictory conduct of England with regard to the Sultan as Khalifa and to our own Frankenstein, the Mahdi. Years ago I suggested to our Asiatic Society to consider the latter's pretensions from an academical standpoint, but a knowledge of Arabic, without which it is absurd to touch any Muhammadan question, is as rare in that Society as it is among our Statesmen or among the combatants for or against the Turks in the Press. I have studied in Muhammadan, Greek and Armenian Schools and I have subscribed for their respective houses of worship, but my very warmest sympathies are, perhaps, like those of a most observant writer in the *Times* from Constantinople, rather with the Muhammadans of the old School, among whom, in spite of their fanaticism when roused, can be found those God-fearing, honest, able and energetic men who alone could lead their country in reforms, real, because not dictated from without, and compatible alike with the spirit of progress and that of their faith. This the present Sultan saw only too well when, after a stormy youth, he threw himself into the arms of the U'lemá and if he has given more power than he should have done to the Palace clique, it is because the "liberal" Ministers of the now crippled Porte who had raised him to the Throne had driven his uncle Abdul Aziz to suicide, and had deposed, shortly after installing, his brother Murad V. Then only a palace creature was found faithful to outraged Majesty and in the last of many terrible scenes three Ministers were shot and the heroic Hussein Avni Pasha cut into pieces by his avenging hand. No wonder that Abdul Hamid, who is now 53 years old, trusts rather to himself, to his spies and to the development of the Khalifa idea, even if need be beyond its traditional limits, till it becomes a danger to himself and to England, than to State-functionaries or to Ambassadors, excepting that of Russia, which, whatever her ulterior objects, was ever-ready with her fleet in similar times of need to come to the Sultan's personal protection.

The portraits of the last and present Sultan, (to which I add that of the heir-presumptive, Muhammad Rishád, his younger brother by 2 years,) are taken from my series of pictures of the 35 Ottoman Sultans that have reigned, including the Conqueror "Ghazi" Osman I. who founded the present Dynasty at Brussa, where he is buried. He was born in the year of the Hegira 656 [1258 A.D.] or just about 656 lunar years ago! It was his 10th successor Salim II, who first claimed the title of Khalifa 261 years later, under circumstances the validity of which I hope to discuss in an early issue with reference to current events and to the growing agitation in the Muhammadan World. Suffice it at present to lay down the principles necessary for such a discussion and, with this view, to quote from a letter which appeared in the *Times* of 2nd January 1884:

"There was a time when the co-operation of the Sultan of Turkey and of his spiritual adviser, the Sheikh-ul-Islam, would have been welcomed by England in a religious war against Russia in Central Asia; there was another time when attempts were made to lower the prestige of the Sultan among the faithful in India and elsewhere by contesting his claim to the Khalifat (or to more correctly Khalifat), on the ground that he was not a descendant of the 'Prophet Mahomed,' and did not even belong to his tribe of the Koreish. Both advocates and opponents, whether European or Muhammadan scholars, did their cause an infinity of harm by unsettling the historical basis of the question, and by encouraging, in consequence, the growth of all sorts of heterodox notions in the Muhammadan world, which was before so susceptible to the influence of England.

"Dull, therefore, as any treatment of the subject away from current politics may be, I must beg for the indulgent consideration of the following aspect of a question which has been much obscured by both European and Muhammadan writers:

"In the domain of practical politics connected with 'the Eastern question' it does not matter whether the head or heads of Islam (for there have been, and can be, several at a time) can prove Koreish descent or investiture by a real Khalifa in past history, in order to claim the obedience of the Sunnis, who form the great majority of Muhammadans, so long as he carries out, in their opinion, the Divine law. The doctrine is distinctly laid down, though I have never seen it quoted by any of the writers on the subject, that a Khalifa may be a 'perfect Khalifa' or an 'imperfect Khalifa,' a difference which applies to other conditions men or monarchs, and which is certainly established in Muhammadan history. 'A perfect Khalifa' is merely the ideal of a viceregent of the prophet. He must be, in spite of his titular feminine termination, a man, of age, free from bodily and mental Dynas, learned, pious, just, a free man (not a slave, as in the case of some infirmities), and, of course, of Koreish descent; in fact, an admirable Crichton and a 'Defender of the Faith,' and yet he would not be a Khalifa at all unless he possessed the supreme qualification, that of having the power to enforce his commands, just as a man might be a good Christian without being a monarch, or might even be a Christian monarch without being a good Christian.

"Traditions are conflicting on the point of Koreish descent being essential to the Khilafat. As long as the Khalifas happened to be Koreishis, it was convenient to point out that the prophet had made them the ruling tribe 'even if only two persons remained in it.' Others alleged that he had predicted that there would be no perfect Khalifa thirty years after his death, and yet Koreishis ruled long after that period. He, at all events, nominated no successor of viceregent, and left his election to 'the assembly of the Faithful,' with the inevitable result that one party wanted both the prophet's mantle and the secular power to remain in the family, and the other party wished to get the power, at least, into the hands of 'the best man' to be appointed by themselves.

"The confusion between the infallible Imam or spiritual *antistes* of the Faithful and the fallible Khalifa or viceregent of the Moslems began with the earliest times of Islam, and led to the main division of Muhammadanism into the sects of Sunnis and Shi'ahs. The former are so-called because they are guided by 'rules and the consensus of the Faithful (ahl-Sunnat wa Jama'at).' It follows from this that Sunnism is essentially a democratic theocracy, while Shi'ah belief 'follows' the hereditary descent of its spiritual chief from Muhammad, by Fatima and Ali, as the very reason of its existence. In most Muhammadan authorities, where the Khilafat is spoken of, the word 'Imám' is used, and in others it is implied. The confusion was welcome to the writers, because it saved their conscience and occasionally their necks, and because it slurred over a difficulty which, in my humble opinion, with every difference to the venerable commentators, the Koran and the practical attitude of Muhammadan States and nations, both now and in the past, towards the question of the Khilafat amply explain.

"All Sunnis are equal. They possess a continually living Muhammadan Church in 'the consensus of the assembly of the Faithful.' The Khalifa, if there be any, for which there is no absolute need, is the first among peers, so far as he possesses most power to carry out the Muhammadan law. Had the Sultans of Turkey not committed the mistake of subordinating the priesthood or judiciary (to which any Sunni may aspire) to the secular power, the presumed free opinion of his spiritual advisers would, indeed, have carried weight throughout the Sunni Muhammadan world, and would have made the Sultan an uncontested Khalifa. Even then, however, had he tried, beyond complimentary *quasi*-investitures of rulers of Yarrkand, Bokhara, Afghanistan, and other Muhammadan countries, to interfere in the slightest degree with their internal affairs, he would, with all respect to him as Khalifa, have been rightly contorted by the lawful opposition of the Sunni subjects of those 'Umrâ-ul-mu'menîn,' or 'Rulers of the Faithful,' unless, indeed, he had the power of enforcing his decree. If he has not that power coupled with the consensus of the Faithful, he is not the perfect Khalifa, at all events where it is so contested.

"The Grand Sharif of Mecca, with whom most regrettable, and once unnecessary, negotiations are, and have been, carried on, not only by the Sultan, is not a Khalifa, although this sacred personage is of the purest Koreish descent and has all the qualifications of a 'perfect Khalifa,' except the essential one of having an army under his command. 'An imperfect Khalifa,' however, is he who stands at the head of the Sunni world as a Muhammadan ruler, however deficient he may be in all the desirable qualifications, except the all-important one to which I have referred. Indeed, he may be a very wicked man, as may be gathered from the following passage in the Koran, when the angels expostulate

with God for creating man as his Khalifa---' Wilt thou create one as thy Khalifa who will do iniquity on earth and unjustly shed blood?'

"The Abbasside, Ummyade, and other Khalifas were of the bluest blood, and yet were scarcely perfect Khalifas. In short, by admitting the claim of the Sultan's Khilâfat, we do neither more nor less than is warranted by the consensus of the faithful of his persuasion, and we gain, as long as he has any power, the advantage of being in sympathy with the bulk of the 'orthodox' Muhammadan world, whereas by discussing pretensions with which we have no concern, and by confusing the 'Imâmat' (the spiritual headship of Islâm) with the *de facto* Khilâfat, we raise a storm of which a cloud is already on the horizon. The common sense of Sunnism is a safe and sufficient guide in this matter, if left to itself, as also the supposed kindred question of the 'Jihâd' or the holy war against infidels, on which more than one volume would have been unwritten had it been generally understood to mean merely 'an effort' which is only lawful, if almost certain of success; otherwise, as elsewhere, patriotism becomes flat rebellion.

"Far different is the case with Shiah. To them the Khalifa is a dead letter and the 'Imâm' a living being. The special sense of Imâm is that of spiritual head. Thus, in the Koran, God appoints Abraham, after testing his complete obedience, as an 'Imâm for Mankind' though he refuses to make the dignity hereditary since the offspring might not be free from sin, which Abraham, as an Imâm, by implication, was. It will be remembered that a similar guarantee was not required when man was created God's Khalifa, but, be that as it may, the hereditary descent of the Imâm is the special property of the Shiah persuasion. When the popular assembly at which the just claim of the chivalrous relative, and another 'light' of Mahomed, His Highness Ali, was rejected in favour of Muawiya, the consolation still remained to the lovers of justice, Adilias, as the Shiah are more properly called, that whoever had usurped the *de facto* secular dominion of the Mussulmans, the spiritual head, the Imâm, was still theirs, and would remain with them in his lineal descendants. They alone are the 'guides' (the root from which 'Mahdi' is formed) of nations in both secular and spiritual matters.

"Deprived of the former, the spiritual rule was handed down from father to son, until the twelfth and last Imâm, Muhammad Mahdi, who disappeared from earth (in 265 A.H. or in 878-79 A.D.) in order to return with the day of judgment. At all assemblies, however, of believing Shiah, the Imâm, the ruler of worlds, is invisibly present. The Magian basis of belief has never been entirely destroyed in Shiah Persia, and it is still the feeder of a vivid and artistic imagination in contrast to the monotony and practical sense of orthodox Sunnism, but for political purposes the fanaticism that can be evoked by the spread of the doctrine that the leadership of Islâm belongs to the Imâm, which is the inevitable result of denying the Khilâfat of the Sultan on the ground of his not being a Koreishi by descent, is far more dangerous than the voluntary subordination of Sunnis to the *fact accompli* of the Sultan as the Khalifa for the time being.

"Unfortunately, surrounded as the Sultans have been by flatterers or servile instruments of their will, and owing to an impulse from without which I can only vaguely indicate, the suicidal notion has gained a firm footing at the Sublime Porte that the Sultan is a sort of Muhammadan Pope, and more or less doubtful documents have been disinterred to show that the last Khalifa had in 1519, if I remember rightly, made over the Khilâfat to the Ottoman Sultan Salim, while on a visit to Constantinople. Even if this was not done under duress, it proves nothing, for the Khilâfat is not hereditary according to Sunni notions, and Sultan Salim was not elected, although, once in power as the chief, or a great chief of Sunnis, his claim, or that of his descendants, is sufficiently ratified by the simplicity of 'the consensus of the faithful,' beyond which it is unnecessary and unsafe to go. Equally unnecessary flirtations for a spiritual sanction of the claim to a perfect Khilâfatship have been carried on with the Sharif of Mecca and are now invoked, not so much against the Mahdi as against the growing agitation among the Arabs and other Muhammadans. That prelate would be more than human if he did not tacitly support a leaning in favour of the sanctity of Koreish descent. Indeed, the innumerable progeny of Sayyads, or descendants of the prophet among Sunni Muhammadans, have been more or less active propagators of the heresy of hereditary sanctity. Many educated Sunnis, especially those who enjoy Persian literature, profess or feel a secret 'affection for the House of Ali,' and indignation at the treatment it received by the Khalifa, whom the 'Jemâat' elected, while it is to be feared that many unscrupulous Shiah, who mistaking the doctrine of 'Taqqia' or denial of their faith which is, unfortunately, permitted to that sect in times of extreme danger and among fellow-Mussulmans only, pass themselves off as Sunnis in order to propagate the fanatical doctrine of the Mahdi."

This letter created some stir at the time, and I received the

thanks of the Porte,* through the Mussurus Pasha, whom I did not know personally. Our greatest Arabic Scholar, Sir William Muir, however, writing to me on the 21st September last, remarks as follows:

"I do not think that I could add anything to what I have already written in the last chapter of the 'Caliphate' on the Sultan's claim to be Caliph.

"I doubt if any of the Semitic races in their heart admit that a Turk could be a Caliph."

Turning to the work I find the following view, which I quote with the greatest respect for its eminent author, though I do not, from the standpoint of practical religious politics, agree with the theory of the Sultan's claim being an anachronism:

The Caliphate, page 590: "In virtue of Murawakkil's cession of his title (of Caliph), the Osmanly Sultans make pretension not only to the sovereignty of the Moslem world, but to the Caliphate itself,—that is to the spiritual as well as political power held by the Successors of the Prophet. Were there no other bar, the Tartar blood which flows in their veins, would make the claim untenable. Even if their pedigree by some flattering fiction could be traced up to Corcishite stock, the claim would be but a fond anachronism. The Caliphate ended with the fall of Bagdad. The illusory resuscitation by the Mamelukes was a lifeless show; the Osmanly Caliphate a dream."—*The Imperial and Asiatic Quarterly Review*.

THE WORLD RUNS AWAY FROM US.

THE other day we had a talk with a man who knew as little of the world around him as a baby. Yet he was a man of naturally fine intelligence. He had just been relieved from prison. Ten years ago he was incarcerated under a life sentence. Recently, however, circumstances had arisen which proved his innocence, and he obtained his freedom. But nothing seemed as before. He had been stationary while the world moved on. Many of his old friends were dead, and all were changed. A big slice of his career was lost, and worse than lost. Could he ever make it up? No, never. Besides, although he had committed no offence, the mere fact that he had been convicted of one, would always place him at a disadvantage.

Different as it is in all outward conditions long illness produces results which resembles those of enforced solitude. When confined to our homes by disease we are virtually out of the world. Friends may and do, pity us; but they do not lie down by our side and suffer with us. Ah! no. They go their own ways and leave us alone. In the midst of company we are still alone. Enjoyment, food, sleep, fresh air, movement, work, &c.—those are for them, not for us. Alas! for the poor prisoner whose jailor is some relentless disease. Who shall open the iron doors and set him free?

"I never had any rest or pleasure." So writes a man whose letter we have just finished reading.

"In the early part of 1883," he says, "a strange feeling came over me. I felt heavy, drowsy, languid, and tired. Something appeared to be wrong with me, and I couldn't account for it. I had a foul taste in the mouth, my appetite failed, and what I did eat lay on me like a stone. Soon I became afraid to eat, as the act was always followed by pain and distress. Sometimes I had a sensation of choking in the throat as if I could not swallow. I was swollen, too, around the body, and got about with difficulty owing to increasing weakness.

"At the pit of my stomach was a hungry, craving sensation, as though I needed support from food; yet the little I took did not abate this feeling. My sleep was broken, and I awoke in the morning unrefreshed. For four years I continued in this wretched state before I found relief."

This letter is signed by Mr. Charles H. Smith, of 19, New City Road, Glasgow, and dated February 15th, 1893.

Before we hear how he was at last delivered from the slavery of illness, let us listen to the words of a lady on the same theme: Mrs. Mary Ann Rusling, of Station Road, Misterton, near Gainsborough. In a brief note dated January 3rd, 1893, Mrs. Rusling says she suffered in a similar way for over fifteen years. Her hands and feet were cold and clammy, and she was pale and bloodless. She had pain in the left side and palpitation, and her breathing was short and hurried. No medicines availed to help her until two years ago. "At that time," she says, "our minister, the late Rev. Mr. Watson, told me of Mather Seigel's Curative Syrup, and urged me to make a trial of it. I did so, and presently felt great relief. It was not long before the bad symptoms all left me, and I gradually got strong. I keep in good health, and have pleasure in making known to others the remedy which did so much for me."

Mr. Smith was completely cured by the same remedy, and says had he known of it sooner he would have been saved years of misery.

The real ailment in both these cases was indigestion and dyspepsia, with its natural consequences. Throughout the civilised world its course is marked by a hundred forms of pain and suffering. Men and women are torn to pieces by it as vessels are by the rocks on which they are driven by tempests. So comprehensive and all-embracing is it that we may almost say that there is no other disease. It signifies life transformed into death, bread turned into poison. Watch for its earliest signs—especially the feeling of weariness, languor, and fatigue, which announce its approach. Prevention is better than cure.

But by the use of Mather Seigel's Curative Syrup, cure is always possible; and poor captives in the loathsome dungeons of illness are daily delivered as the hand of the good German nurse swings open the doors.

* This is not an immaterial detail, for the claim of the Sultan to the Khilâfatship has since assumed an extension and complexion which go considerably beyond what was admitted in 1888.

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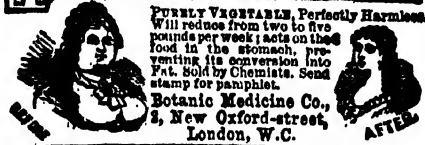
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OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October, 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

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(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

WEEKLY (ENGLISH) NEWSPAPER

AND

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Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 209.

THE CHITRAL HONOURS.

STAR OF INDIA.

Companions.

Colonel George Fletcher Outley Boughey, R. E., Manager, North-Western Railway.

Major Harold Arthus Deane, Indian Staff Corps, Political Officer for Dir and Swat and late Chief Political Officer, Chitral Relief Force.

INDIAN EMPIRE.

Companion.

Francis Erskine Dempster, Esquire, Superintendent, Government Telegraph Department, and late Chief Telegraph Officer, Chitral Relief Force.

It is notified for general information that her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, has been graciously pleased to grant, as a personal distinction, an addition of two guns to the salute at present enjoyed by His Highness Saramad-i-Rajaha-i-Hindustan Raj Rajindra Sri Maharaja-Dhiraj Sawai Sir Mahdo Singh Bahadur, G. C. S. I., of Jaipur.

Sardar Bahadur.

Kashi Rao Surve, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Gwalior State.

Rai Bahadur.

Hazara Singh, Commandant, No. 1, Kashmir Mountain Battery, Imperial Service Troops.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

REWARDS.

Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, has been graciously pleased to grant to Colonel His Highness Maharaja Sir Partab Singh Indar Mahindar Bahadur Sipar-i-Saltanat, G. C. S. I., of Jammu and Kashmir, the honorary rank of Major-General in the Army.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Hon'ble Order of the Bath, in recognition of the services of the under-mentioned officers with the Chitral Relief Force :—

To be an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the First class, or Knight Grand Cross, of the said Most Hon'ble Order, viz. :—

Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Cunliffe Low, K. C. B., Bengal Cavalry.

To be an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the Second class, or Knight Commander, of the said Most Hon'ble Order, viz. :—

Brigadier-General Bindon Blood, C. B., Royal Engineers.

To be Ordinary Members of the Military Division of the Third class, or Companions of the said Most Hon'ble Order, viz. :—

Brigadier-General William Forbes Gatacre, D. S. O., British Service.

Brigadier-General Henry Gordon Waterfield, Indian Staff Corps.

Colonel Harold Pemberton Leach, D. S. C., Royal Engineers.

Colonel George Hugh Coles Dyce, Indian Staff Corps.

Surgeon-Colonel Thomas Maunsell, Army Medical Staff.

Colonel William Walter Hopton Scott, General List, Bengal Infantry.

Colonel Henry Blackwood MacCall, 1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Terence Shone, D. S. O., Royal Engineers.

Colonel Etwall Walter Smyth, General List, Bengal Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Aitken, Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Hales Wilson, Indian Staff Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel George Ernest Harley, 1st Battalion, East Kent Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Charles Henry Leslie, Bart., Indian Staff Corps.

Colonel Ian Standish Monteith Hamilton, D. S. O., British Service.

Surgeon-Colonel George Thomson, M. B., Indian Medical Service, Bengal.

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Grey Dixon, 1st Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Harding Mathias, 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders.

The Queen has further been pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Distinguished Service Order, and promotions in the Army, in recognition of the services of the undermentioned officers during the operations undertaken by the above mentioned Force :—

To be Companions of the Distinguished Service Order, viz. :—

Lieutenant Colonel Stannus Verner Gordon, Indian Staff Corps.

Major James Wyndham Hughes-Hallett, 2nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders.

Major Reginald Campbell Hadow, Indian Staff Corps.

Major John Chivas Shirres, Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant-Guy Melfort Baldwin, Indian Staff Corps.

Lieutenant Frederic Walter Kerr, 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders.

Major Herbert Edward Stacy Abbott, Royal Engineers.

Captain William Robert Robertson, 3rd Dragoon Guards.

Captain William George Hamilton, East Lancashire Regiment.

Lieutenant Alfred George Yaldwin, Indian Staff Corps.

Veterinary Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Poyser, Army Veterinary Department.

Captain John Burnard Edwards, Indian Staff Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Frederick Barrow, C.M.G., Indian Staff Corps.

Captain Oliver Stewart Wood Nugent, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Lieutenant Robert Balmain Low, Indian Staff Corps.

Captain George Howard Bretherton, Indian Staff Corps.

Promotions.—Brevet.—To be Colonels.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Harry Smith Craigie, Highland Light Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cathcart Dempster, Indian Staff Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur McLeod Mills, Indian Staff Corps.

To be Lieutenant-Colonels.

Major John Dacres Cunningham, Royal Artillery.

Major Seymour Charles Hale Munro, Seaforth Highlanders.

Major Harry Heptinstall Rose Heath, Indian Staff Corps.

Major Fenton John Aylmer, V. C., Royal Engineers.

Major John William Godfray, King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Major John Eccles Nixon, Indian Staff Corps.

Major George Dalrymple More Nisbett, Bedfordshire Regiment.

Major Alan Coddington Batten, Indian Staff Corps.

Major Hugh Roddam Tate, Indian Staff Corps.

Major Frederick Stapleton Gwatkin, Indian Staff Corps.

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Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

To be Majors.

Captain George Vero Kemball, Royal Artillery.
 Captain George John Younghusband, Indian Staff Corps.
 Captain Frederick Campbell, Indian Staff Corps.
 Captain Tom Evelyn O'Leary, Royal Irish Fusiliers.
 Captain Lionel Herbert, Indian Staff Corps.
 Captain James Gibbon Turner, Indian Staff Corps.
 Captain William John Bythell, Royal Engineers.

Rewards.—Order of British India.

The Governor-General in Council is pleased to sanction the admission to the Order of British India, as additional members on the Bengal list, of the undermentioned Native Officers, in recognition of their services with the Chitral Relief Force :—

Rai Bahadur Dhanpat Rai, Superintendent of the Jaipur Imperial Service Transport Corps.

Pandit Suraj Pershad, Commandant of the Gwalior Imperial Service Transport Corps.

WEEKLYANA.

A NUMBER of Natives of India having been engaged and about to depart by sea out of British India, under agreements made with or on behalf of Her Majesty's Government to labour for hire in East Africa, on or in connection with the railway from Mombassa to and towards Lake Victoria Nyanza, now in course of construction, the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to exempt them from the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act (XXI of 1883). In other words, none of the provisions of the said Act shall apply to the said labourers or any of them. What then is to be their protection? Are they, bound hand and foot, to be consigned to the horrors of the Middle Passage and the Dark Continent?

**

THE new Fellows of the Calcutta University are :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sile, M.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. McArthur, R.E., Secretary to the Bengal Government, P. W. D., Irrigation and Marine branches.

Surgeon-Major J. B. Gibbons, M.D., Superintendent, Campbell Medical School and Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Medical College, Calcutta.

Mr. W. H. Arden Wood, B.A., Principal, La Martiniere College, Calcutta.

Mr. E. M. Wheeler, M.A., Senior Tutor, Bishop's College, Calcutta.

Shams-ul-Islam Adam Rahman, Superintendent, office of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

Babu Suresh Prasad Sarbadhary, M.D.

Ra Jyotindra Nath Chandhuri, M.A., B.L.

Babu Lal Behari Mitter, M.A., B.L.

The last three come in by election.

**

THE Central Institution, Calcutta, has been affiliated to the Calcutta University in Arts up to the B. A. standard.

**

THE morning papers report that a Mahomedan, while engaged in making fireworks, dropped a lighted cigarette from his mouth into a vessel of gun-powder, which exploded and burnt him severely.

The cigarette is the fashion of the day in Calcutta and has extended to the country. It is not confined to grown up men but is the favourite of young men and children. The hooka is at a discount. Even Mahomedans have begun to discard it in favour of the rolled leaf. This imitation of European civilization bodes no real progress. The hooka may be inconvenient, but it is more sober and less injurious.

**

PREPARATIONS are making for a grand military tournament at the maidan near the Ochterlony column. It will be on the lines of the Agricultural Hall, Islington, and held on February 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th, within an enclosure 400ft. by 200ft. capable of accommodating 5,000 spectators. Performances daily at 3.30 and 9 P. M., consisting of musical ride by 16th Lancers; silent ride, 3rd Bengal Cavalry; feats of horsemanship, 5th Bengal Cavalry; musical Artillery drive by 41st Field Battery, R.A.; gymnastic displays by Lucknow Gymnasium and 3rd B. C., Mountain battery display, and concluding each night with a spectacular display of all arms representing an attack on a fort.

THE rumour is contradicted that the Maharaja of Patiala will lead to the harem a sister of the just deceased Maharani Florence. The grief is too fresh for the second act.

**

SIR Charles Pritchard, the Public Works Minister, has resigned, on account of ill health.

**

THE next Law Member is Mr. Mackenzie D. E. S. Chalmers, County Court Judge, Birmingham. He was in the Indian Civil Service from 1869 to 1871, in the N.-W. P. It was hoped that an Indian in the person of Sir Griffith H. P. Evans would be tried, but it was not to be.

**

SIR Alexander Mackenzie has, in succession to Sir Charles Elliott, accepted the patronship of the India Club. The Club will celebrate the acceptance by an Evening Party.

ON the invitation of the Port Commissioners, Mr. Vernon Harcourt, an expert on English rivers, has arrived at Calcutta to report on the Hughli, and is busy with the enquiry. He is at present reading up the old reports, and will shortly go down the river on a tour of inspection in the company of Captain Parley to prepare his own.

THE public holidays of a year are usually Gzietted before its commencement. This time there is a departure, in the *Calcutta Gazette*, from the old practice. Though the notification is dated December last, it does not appear till the 22nd January following. How to account for the delay? The holidays for the current year have been fixed as under :

"Notification—No. 6205 Mis. *The 9th December 1895.*—Under section 25 of Act XXVI of 1881, entitled 'The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881,' the Lieutenant-Governor hereby declares the following days to be public holidays during the year 1896 :—

All Sundays.

January 1st	...	...	...	New Year's Day.
January 20th and 21st	...	...	...	Sir Pancham.
February 28th	...	...	...	Do juri.
April 3rd	...	...	...	Good Friday.
" 4th	...	...	...	Easter Saturday.
" 11th	...	...	...	Chaiti Sankranti.
June 20th	...	...	...	Dasahara.
August 31st	...	...	...	Jannamasami.
October 6th	...	...	...	Mahalya.
" 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 21st, 22nd	...	...	...	Durg -Lakshmi Puja.
November 4th and 5th	...	...	...	Kali Puja.
" 13th and 14th	...	...	...	Jagadhatri Puja.
December 24th	...	...	...	Christmas Eve.
" 25th and 26th	...	...	...	Christmas Day and the day following.

The day which may be fixed by the Government of India for the observance of the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen Empress of India shall also be a public holiday.

H. H. RISLEY.

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

"Notification—No. 6206 Mis. *The 9th December 1895.*—With reference to the above Notification, the Lieutenant Governor hereby notifies that on the following days during 1896, which are not declared to be 'public holidays,' the offices under the Government of Bengal and all Revenue and Magisterial Courts in Bengal, with the exception of the offices of Collector or Customs, Shipping Master, the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta, the Stamping Department of the Office of the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, and the Salt Rawana and Opium Sale Departments of the Board of Revenue, shall be closed :—

I.—Muhammadan Holidays.

Id-ul-fitr	...	...	On the 17th March, but if the moon be visible on the 15th March, on the 16th March.
Id-ul-zuha	...	...	On the 24th May (Sunday), but if the moon be not visible on the 14th May, on the 25th May.
Muhurram	...	...	On the 22nd and 23rd June, but if the moon be visible on the 12th June, then on the 21st (Sunday) and 22nd June.
Fatiha-dwazdaham	...	...	On the 22nd August, but if the moon be not visible on the 10th August, then on the 23rd August (Sunday).

II.—Hindu Holidays.

Durga-Lakshmi Puja	...	October 11th (Sunday), 12th, 17th, 18th (Sunday), 19th and 20th.
--------------------	-----	--

III.—Other Holidays.

The day preceding Christmas Eve	...	December 23rd.
The second day following Christmas Day	...	" 27th (Sunday).

H. H. RISLEY,

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

The Governor-General in Council has also notified that, with the exception of the office of Issue of the Paper Currency Department and that of the Comptroller and Auditor General, the offices directly subordinate to the Government of India at Calcutta, will also be closed on the days not declared public holidays.

THE dates of the first three of the five Criminal Sessions for the year 1896 are :—

First Session	...	Wednesday	...	February 19.
Second Session	...	Wednesday	...	April 29.
Third Session	...	Wednesday	...	July 1.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

GENERAL Sir F. Scott has occupied Coomassie without opposition. The King Prempeh has agreed to the British demands and submitted to be publicly brought with some relatives to Cape Coast Castle pending the settlement of the indemnity he is to pay to the British. The troops are now returning to the coast. It is said that there is universal rejoicing among the natives at the result of the expedition.

FRANCE has agreed to a renewal of the British commercial treaty with Tunis, and Great Britain has agreed to mutually delimitate the boundaries of the Niger territory.

THE report current in London that a British ultimatum had been presented at Peking demanding the opening of the West River, is positively denied by the Foreign Office. Nothing in the nature of any ultimatum has been presented, the representations made by the British Minister regarding the opening of the ports on the West River being absolutely of a friendly character.

THE death of M. Floquet, the celebrated French politician, is announced.

GREAT fêtes are being held at Berlin in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the German Empire. The Emperor William, speaking at a grand banquet, on the 19th, emphasized the world-wide character of the Empire, and appealed to the nation to continue in the closest unity to enable the Government to protect Germans abroad if required.

THE Boer Commandant who captured Dr. Jameson addressed his men before dispersing them, and said they must not suppose that they had vanquished the British race. He urged them to foster good fellowship and co-operation, which would be for the welfare of the Republic.

MENREK has offered to treat for peace with the Italians. Advices from Abyssinia state that the position of the Italians at Makleh is most critical, and that the winter supply of the garrison is failing.

GREAT Britain and America have agreed each to appoint an arbitrator to settle the amount of the claim for the American seizures of Canadian sealers. In the event of their not being able to agree, the Swiss Government will appoint an umpire.

A RESOLUTION passed by the American Foreign Affairs Committee for extending the Monroe Doctrine has been reported to the Senate. Its effect is to place the smaller American Powers under the absolute subjection of the United States. The Resolution has been ill received, and is not likely to be passed by the Senate. The United States Government appears to be desirous of a speedy settlement with Great Britain. President Cleveland has pronounced the resolution mischievous and untimely.

PRESIDENT Cleveland's Commission of Enquiry into the Venezuelan boundary question has invited Venezuela and Great Britain to furnish evidence of their respective claims.

THE Japanese Minister in London, speaking at a banquet given by the Saddlers' Company, said that during the last eighteen months the Japanese had received material proof of the friendship of Great Britain, which country was the first to conclude a treaty with Japan,

receiving the latter into the comity of nations on an equal footing. Then, again, Great Britain did not join the combination obliging Japan to relinquish some of the fruits of her victory over China. The dominions of the Mikado and of Her Majesty the Queen did not adjoin anywhere, and no conflict was, therefore, likely on that score, but the time might come when Great Britain and Japan would have to defend their common interests.

At a banquet given at the Hotel Metropole, on January 21, to Lord Lamington, Governor elect of Queensland, Mr. Chamberlain made a speech in which he said that Great Britain had lately become isolated and was confronted, from quarters whence one might expect friendship and consideration, with suspicion and even hate. The British love of peace, he said, was regarded as a sign of weakness, and the prospect of their discomfiture was regarded with a satisfaction which could hardly be disguised, but it was shewn that, while they were resolved to fulfil their obligations, the British were equally determined to maintain the rights of the Empire, which was now secure in the strength of its own resources and the loyalty of its children. Mr. Chamberlain then said that the enthusiasm of Australia and Canada proved that British hearts beat in unison throughout the world.

In a despatch to Lord Dufferin, dated the 15th of January, Lord Salisbury explains that the main object of the new agreement is an engagement between France and Great Britain not to make any armed advance in the valley of Menam except in concert for the maintenance of the independence of Siam, and to give security to the tranquil development of trade in that region. Despatches that have passed between Lord Salisbury and Baron De Courcel, French Ambassador in London, declare their joint solicitude for the security and stability of Siam. The French press dislike the agreement.

A RUSSO-CHINESE bank has been formed at St. Petersburg. It will have branches in the chief cities of Europe and Asia.

THE Queen of Madagascar has signed a new treaty making the country virtually a French possession.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* publishes a telegram from its Pera correspondent, stating that Russia and Turkey have concluded an offensive and defensive treaty. Nothing is known of such a treaty either at the Foreign Office or at the British Embassy at Constantinople.

THE latest advices from the Transvaal state that Johannesburg is still unsettled, a number of unemployed being the chief element of danger. Parties of men are daily leaving Johannesburg secretly, but it is not known whither they are going.

OFFICIAL reports state that the Armenians are reduced to a state of despair, and are burning Turkish villages.

A GLOOM has overcast the joy at the bloodless surrender of King Prempeh. Prince Henry of Battenberg, after leaving the Gold Coast on the 15th instant, in the cruiser *Blonde*, for Madeira, had a relapse of fever contracted in Ashanti and died at sea on the 20th. The body will be embalmed and brought over to England to be given a military burial at Windsor. Court mourning will be observed in India until the 5th of March. Ships in port will carry their flags at half-mast.

The Prince was born on October 5, 1858, married Princess Beatrice, the youngest daughter of our Queen-Empress, and made England his home. He died, like the Prince Imperial, in the service of the country of his adoption.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE is vacant. Not that the Exodus has commenced but the Viceroy is away to the Bay to cruise for his health. The fever which seized him on Christmas eve, brought on by chill, followed by affection of the liver, being persistent, Lord Elgin was advised to try sea breeze. Accompanied by Lady Elgin, Lady Elizabeth Bruce, Brigade-Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Franklin, and Captain Adam, Aid-de-Camp, he left Calcutta on Thursday by the *Warren Hastings*. It is expected that he will shake off the fever and return to Calcutta by the middle of next week.

Reis and Rayyet, how successful your biography of Dr. Mookerjee has proved to be, and what wide attention it has attracted. This is as it should be.

If I live till you get back to England, I hope to enjoy the pleasure of your personal acquaintance. Though shaken in health, I somehow still feel youngish; and it may be that I am to jog on a while longer.

Yours sincerely,
Fitzedward Hall."

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, January 25, 1896.

THE TITLED ARISTOCRACY IN INDIA.

THE honours' list of new year's day, as that of the Sovereign's birth-day, comes on us as a matter of course. It does not excite any emotion, save, perhaps, of sadness, not unmixed with a little vexation, at the thought that the selections are made upon a principle unintelligible to the outside world. These recurring opportunities are frequently lost, through absence of correct knowledge on the part of those with whom the selection rests, of achieving something tangible in the true interests of the Empire. From the manner in which they have come to be bestowed, titular distinctions have practically ceased to inspire any respect for their possessors. It is true a happy selection may now and then be noticed; but then the fact stands out in bold relief that for these very few approvable instances dozens occur that are not only not happy but are even mischievous. The consequence is that the deserving, instead of thinking themselves truly honoured, find themselves herded together with others whom they can scarcely regard as their equals. Among the host of Maharanis created by the British Government, who so deserving as Maharani Sarnamoi? The distinction, however, instead of being regarded by her and her advisers as ennobling, is taken as really bracketing her with others who can scarcely come up to her in liberality. The saying is current among the people of India that while the incessant downpour of rain-charged clouds does not produce any alteration in the condition of an oyster, a drop from the constellation Swāti begets a precious jewel within it. Maharani Sarnamoi is come to be taken as the constellation Swāti to most of the applicants that approach her for help. It is a downright injustice to suffer her to be still reckoned with others upon whom the same distinction has been conferred. Take also the title of Maharaja: who will not say that that high distinction has been lowered by being conferred on some that are not worthy of it? Heads of large landed families, who are almost territorial chiefs for the respect in which they are held by the whole country, are Maharajas. In formally conferring this distinction on them, the British Government has only

recognised the voice of the country. Burdwan and Krishnagar, speaking of Bengal, Doomraon and Durbhanga, Bettiah and Hutwa, in Behar, are centres of glorious traditions. Though Zemindars, they have each a territorial significance. These families can trace their descent to Mussalman times. The British Government, on its rise, found them already in existence. So extensive were the charities of Burdwan and Krishnagar that few Brahman families in the metropolitan districts of Bengal are regarded as respectable that cannot show the possession of at least some acres of land obtained in gift by an ancestor noted for learning or piety from those two great houses. The founder of the Sobhabazar family, in the early days of British ascendancy, rendered political services of an important kind. When the time came for rewarding him, he was made a Maharaja. It was the highest reward which the Government of the day could bestow on him. He was numbered with Burdwan and Krishnagar, Durbhanga and Doomraon. The property which he had acquired in the scramble that followed upon the extinction of the house of Ali Verdi, justified the distinction. The departure, in the case of Maharaja Nobokissen, was a wide one. Exceptional circumstances, however, justified it. He was a great figure in those days, known to the Court of Directors in London and intimately connected with those agents of the East India Company who brought about the great revolution in Bengal.

With the growth of the Empire, new ideas came to be entertained about a landed aristocracy. Conservatism is not an ingrained virtue or vice of the British people. Asiatic nations stand on birth and blood for respectability. Western nations rely on wealth and ability as the chief claims to honour and esteem. In their own country, which has an ancient aristocracy still enjoying many valuable privileges, they have always recruited it from the commonalty, the selections being invariably guided by merit and wealth. Under the influence of similar considerations, British statesmen in India readily recognised the ambition for aristocratic honours of successful men in different walks of life. It was felt that if the great houses in England, tracing their origin to the comrades in arms of William the Conqueror or to princes and kings of the Plantagenet and the Tudor lines, could tolerate the presence in their order of men whose eminence depended upon only personal merit and the acquisition of wealth, and submit to their lead and even sway, however galling in some cases as that of Thurlow for a time, the old landed families of India would have little reason to resent the bestowal of honours, to which as yet they only had a claim, upon new men pressed to the fore by merit and wealth. A breach having been effected in the barriers by the admission of a really able man who had succeeded in making himself serviceable to the rulers, no great difficulty was experienced in widening it and admitting men of lesser note as occasion arose. Nor, perhaps, all things considered, can serious objection be taken to the adoption of such ideas by rulers not cognisant of the depth of the sentiment cherished by the people of this country for birth and blood. Unfortunately, the result of that policy has been a fungus growth of Rajahs and Maharajahs all over the land. That growth has really been so rapid, especially within the last few years, that, as already said, the distinctions have lost much of their value, if not in the eyes of some

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Bibu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Monday, the 27th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Bismuth, Arsenious and Arsenic Salts.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., on Tuesday, the 28th Inst., at 6 to 8 P.M. Subjects: Histology—Large and small Intestines; Physiology—Alimentation.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Bibu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Wednesday, the 29th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Salts of Antimony and Tin.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Wednesday, the 29th Inst., at 6 P.M. Subject: Reflection from Plane Mirrors.

Lecture by Babu Sumanadas Mukerjee, M.A., on Thursday, the 30th Inst., at 3 P.M. Subject: Analytical Conics. Trilinear Co-ordinates and their Metric Relations.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Bibu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Friday, the 31st Inst., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Aluminium, Chromium and Iron Salts.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

January 25, 1896.

Honorary Secretary.

of their possessors, at least in those of the people of the land.

The machinery by which titular distinctions are conferred, is not altogether satisfactory. As we had, on a late occasion, to remark, it is the District Collector that in his reports to the Divisional Commissioner, mentions names. The Commissioner exercises his power of selection and sends up a few names to the local Government. The latter makes a report to the Government of India. Practically, it is the Foreign Office that settles the matter. For all that, it is the Viceroy and his Private Secretary who are finally responsible. Both of them have very little personal knowledge of even the most eminent men recommended. The Viceroy is a British nobleman holding the helm of State for only five years. The Private Secretary also is very generally a griffin as unfamiliar with India and Indian names as his chief. Their absence of knowledge could very well be supplied in this direction by both the official and non-official members of Council. But the Council, not even the official members, are ever consulted on such occasions. As a matter of fact, therefore, it is the clever Secretaries of the several local Governments that really rule the roast. As pointed out by us on the occasion adverted to, those amongst them that possess some literary ability carry the day. It is, after all, a battle of sentences, for the Viceroy has to make up his mind from the written materials before him. Overwhelmed as the Provincial Governors and Lieutenants are with work of every description, they are glad to leave the recommendations, unless interest is excited by particular individuals, to their principal scribes in charge of departments. The only satisfactory feature in the existing arrangements is that neither Secretaries, nor Provincial chiefs, have any chance of knowing what the fate is of any particular recommendation till the actual appearance of the *Gazette Extraordinary*. Intrigue, therefore, is unable to penetrate beyond the regions of the Secretariat. Considering the facility there is of recommending undesirable names, it would be an evident improvement if at least the official members of the Government of India were taken into confidence. Nothing can be lost by consulting them. On the other hand, much may be gained from their personal knowledge which is sure to operate as a check upon Secretariat recommendations.

Examining the Indian list of new year's day, we find that out of 82 individuals who have become recipients of the honours showered by the Crown, 22 are Europeans and 60 Asiatics. Of these, 3 belong to Burma, the latest acquisition of Britain in the east. Of the remainder, 41 are Hindus, and 16 Mussulmans. All the Europeans have come in for the higher honours. The Asiatics, for the most part, have been recipients of the inferior honours. Only 8 Hindus and 2 Mussulmans are among those who have been admitted to the higher distinctions. Among these 10, occurs the name of a lady who has been made a Rani. The large number of Europeans honoured with the higher distinctions need create no surprise. They belong to the different services, Civil, Military, and Medical. Their merits become directly known to the Viceroy in connection with the discharge of their duties. Hindu and Mussalman officials do not belong to the higher ranks of service. As regards non-official Hindus and Mussulmans, their only chance is in the favourable notice that District Collectors may take of them. The best men among both Hindus and Mussulmans never,

or very seldom, approach the officials. Their chance, accordingly, is practically nil. No wonder, therefore, that many undesirable names are seen in the list, of both Hindus and Mussalms, particularly those that do not belong to the services.

One name that has come in for the high honour of Maharaja has caused considerable discontent. Considering, however, the efforts he had been making, and assured as he was of support from Mr. Secretary Cotton, his elevation should not be a matter of surprise. It is true, almost all our Calcutta institutions, almost all public movements, lack pecuniary support, the Furf being probably the only fungus that prospers in our midst. The bestowal, therefore, of such an honour on the individual in question, in the absence of a *quid pro quo*, cannot fail to be marked as a blunder, for an opportunity has been lost the like of which may not soon recur. But in these days of intrigue and Secretariat influence, even a small expenditure may be made to go a great way, if judiciously made. The new Maharaja, it is said, has given a local habitation to a little school named after a local Secretary. Of schools we have really too many at Calcutta. The time has fairly come when the Director of Public Instruction should have some power to suppress new schools, considering the mischief that is done to the cause of education by seminaries springing up all around us under the auspices of projectors prompted only by the desire of gain. Under the circumstances, the little school to which we refer would cause no inconvenience if it were to disappear. Nor has the building in which it is accommodated been granted unconditionally. Then, again, it is said that a provincial lieutenant was sumptuously fed by him and dazzled with the gold and silver brought out on the occasion. Lord Elgin, by enquiring into the case to which we refer, will, we are sure, gain abundant experience of how recommendations may be obtained from pliant Secretaries and provincial Governors by particular persons.

The C. I. E. conferred on Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh has been very tardy. If it is meant to honour his profession, he is the first to receive the distinction. As a member of the Legislatures, he comes very late. Babu Sarat Chandra Dass, already a C.I.E., has been made a Rai Bahadur. What does it mean? Is it an elevation or the contrary? As the Dewan of the Nawab of Murshidabad, Mr. Fazl Rabbi has well earned the distinction of Khan Bahadur. If the Nizamut had not been on its wane, he would have been much greater. The bit for Raja Sashisekharswar is recognition of his labours on the Gunja Commission. The Madras and the Bombay recipients do not provoke any comment. The Burmese distinctions for a time remain unintelligible to the people of India. Characterised as they are by monosyllables beginning and ending, for the most part, with double nasals, we hope they are acceptable to those upon whom they have been bestowed.

THE LITERATURE OF BENGAL.

TO THE EDITOR.

IN my last letter I made some general remarks on Mr. R. C. Dutt's *Literature of Bengal*. This time I shall go into details. I wish to inform the reader at the outset that I am entirely friendly to Mr. Dutt and his book. That, however, should not prevent me from pointing out some ugly blunders.

All the English writers, (understanding by that expression those native scholars who employ the English language as the medium of their thoughts), from a long time back, have been commit-

ting a serious error about Chaitanya. The late Babu Tara Prasad Chatterjee, one of the first batch of our B. A.'s, fixed 1484 A. D. as the year of Chaitanya's birth. It will be found in his essay on Chaitanya read before the Bethune Society in 1860. This is a palpable mistake. Babu Surendranath Banerjee, in his lecture before the Bhowanipur Students' Association, said "that Chaitanya was born in the year 1485." Mr. R. C. Dutt, in his present book, follows him and fixes the year 1485 as the correct birth date of the great reformer. Even Sir William Hunter, who is generally accurate, has fallen into the trap, for he writes, in page 95 of his *Brief History of the Indian People*, "in 1485 Chaitanya was born." The year 1485, however, is not correct. Chaitanya was born in the month of *Phalguna* of the Hindu *Saka* 1407. As usual, by adding 78 to the Hindu era, we get the corresponding English year, which is 1485. But the above writers do not seem to be aware of the fact that when the English year ends, the Bengalee year still continues. The English year ends in the middle of the month of *Pous*. Thus we see that 3 additional months are still left, and as Chaitanya was born in one of these additional months, we have to add one more to the number, and, therefore, the year 1486, A. D. is the real birth date of the great latter-day Apostle of Vaishnavism in Bengal. An exactly similar mistake was made by those gentlemen who erected the present tomb to the memory of Michael Madhusudan Dutta. The poet was born in the month of *Magha* of the Bengali year 1230 and, therefore, by adding 593 to the number, they fixed the year 1823 A. D. as his birth-date, which is wrong. This error has been corrected by the biographer of the poet who gives the year 1824, as the proper date.

I take this opportunity of correcting a common blunder regarding the date of Chaitanya's death. On the authority of "Chaitanya-Charitamrita," the year is 1455, Sak. Adding 78, we get 1533 A. D. Sir William Hunter, following Professor H. H. Wilson, gives 1527 A. D. as the date of Chaitanya's death. Some correspondence, I am told, passed between Sir William Hunter and Pandit Mahendra Nath Vidyanidhi, the biographer of Akshaya Kumar Dutt. The Pandit brought the error to the Doctor's notice; but that great scholar seems to be unwilling to accept the correction. That Prof. H. H. Wilson committed a blunder, Sir William Hunter is slow to admit. But he should remember that no authority can be so reliable as that of "Chaitanya-Charitamrita" of Krishnadas Kaviraj Goswami.

In page 193 of the *Literature of Bengal*, Mr. Dutt calls the biographer of Michael Madhusudan Dutta by the name Jogendra Chandra Basu. The biographer is Jogindra Nath Basu and not Jogendra Chandra.

In page 59 he writes "*Academy of Bengali Literature*," &c., &c. The Englished name is not *Academy of Bengali Literature* but *Bengal Academy of Literature*. *Bangiya Sahitya Parishad* is the original appellation. How should it be translated? 'Sahitya Parishad' is, I think, qualified by 'Bangiya' which simply indicates the place of its existence or limits the scope or extent of its operations. The other construction, *viz.*, 'Parishad' qualified by 'Bangiya Sahitya,' would be unnatural; for 'Banga Sahitya' and not 'Bangiya Sahitya,' if such were the meaning, would be proper. If the gentlemen who have christened the institution really mean that 'Parishad' should be qualified by 'Bangiya Sahitya,' the sooner they alter the name into 'Banga-Sahitya Parishad' the better for all concerned. As such, till they alter it, the correct translation would be 'Bengal Academy of Literature.' Mr. Dutt would not have made these mistakes, had he been more in touch with the people about whose literature he has written. While passing a magnificent panegyric on the biographer of Michael Madhusudan Dutta, he is careless of the very name of the author he praises!

These are some of the many instances, in his book, of carelessness, for which he may be called upon to answer. He is the President of the *Bangiya Sahitya Parishad* or Bengal Academy

of Literature. He is not careful about even the name of the institution of which he is the head. The Parishad consists of some men of culture and reputation. The very word "Parishad," as they write it, is doubtful. The vowel sound at the end should be omitted if an assembly be meant. It should be spelt "Parishat" as Kalidasa spells it in the opening scene of *Sakuntala*. Gentlemen desirous of correcting the vagaries of Bengali spelling and idiom should not themselves set the example, in their very name, of slovenliness. "Parishad" may be justified, but the justification will scarcely be admitted by good scholars.

Then, again, the names of the great men of India have all been misspelt: Hurrish into Harish, Rajendralala into Rajendra Lal, Peari Charan Sircar into Pyari Charan Sirkar; Kissory Chand Mittra into Kisori Chand Mitra, &c. The rule has long been accepted of spelling a name after the manner of its holder. A Government security standing in the name of Hurrish will not be allowed to be transferred by a Harish. A cheque signed Rajendra Lal will be dishonoured by any Bank if the account stands in the name of Rajendralala. It is too late to correct Calcutta into Kalikátá. Indeed, if Mr. R. C. Dutt be really desirous of playing the purist in the matter of personal names, he should spell them after the correct method of transliteration from Sanskrit. "Hurrish Chandra" should be "Harichandra," "Pyari Charana Sarakara" for "Peari Charan Sircar," "Rameça Chandra" for "Ramesh Chunder," &c. The first President of the Bengal Academy of Literature should give us some system instead of caprice in such an important matter as the spelling of personal names. Verily, he should begin by correcting the spelling of his own name.

This is scarcely the place for taking up the eulogy bestowed on this very book by the *Englisbman* of the 16th January last. It makes some errors which should not go uncontradicted. Mr. R. C. Dutt is spoken of as a nephew of the poet Madhusudan Dutta. The poet comes from a family in Jessore, while Mr. R. C. Dutt belongs to an altogether different family. Then, again, we are told of a poem named *Srimanta Sadagar* by Mukundaram who also wrote *Chandi*. This is as correct as saying that Moore wrote a poem called "The Veiled Prophet of Khorasan" besides another named *Lalla Rookh*, or that Swift wrote a tale called "Voyage to Lilliput" besides another work called "Gulliver's Travels." The whole of the concluding part of the article, which condemns Sanskritised Bengali, is really a complete retraction of the high praise bestowed in the earlier part on Mr. R. C. Dutt as both a critic and historian of Bengali Literature. The *Englisbman* does not take into account that Michael Madhusudan Dutta, whom Mr. R. C. Dutt regards as the first of Bengali poets, wrote not in Bengali but a highly artificial language abounding with such Sanskrit words as were the delight of the poets of mediæval India and as were eschewed by Valmiki and Vyasa.

S. C. SANYAL.

AN M. P. ON ENGLISH EDUCATION IN INDIA.

At the Baranagore Victoria School, on Sunday, prizes were distributed. Mr. J. Caldwell, M.P., for Mid-Lanarkshire, presided and delivered the following address:—"He said that whilst he had hoped to get away from Calcutta without making anything of the nature of a public speech, yet, if he were to be called upon to make such a speech, it was, perhaps, not inappropriate that it should be on an educational subject, a subject in which for many years, he had taken a deep interest. Some might think that it would be a very easy matter for him (Mr. Caldwell) to address an assemblage of school boys. The task, however, was not so easy as it might at first sight appear. He rather felt himself in the position of a teacher in Scotland who, when asked for the reason why he always reverently took off his cap when he entered the school, replied to the effect that he was but an humble schoolmaster with but very little influence in the world, whilst before him were children, with probably great futures and destinies, before whose undeveloped talents he stood in awe and bowed with reverence. Such, he hoped, also were the feelings which animated their teachers, as, from time to time, and under varying conditions of success, they carried on their work of instruction. In India as in England,

Scotland, and Ireland and, indeed, in every country, the teaching profession was doubtless but poorly paid for the results which were expected and demanded. Nevertheless he thought their teachers and the teachers of India might, in some measure, console themselves for the smallness of their incomes by the thought of the noble work that they were doing in aiding the rising generation to take a fitting place in the civilization, progress and development of the world. From what he (Mr. Caldwell) had seen of India, and from all that he had been able to gather concerning the prosperity of the people, he should say that India was wonderfully developing, and that in no part of India was that development more marked than in the province of Bengal, of which Calcutta was the great and leading centre. There had been a rapid, and at the same time a steady improvement during the last 20 or 25 years, and the improvement was still going on. That a country so largely agricultural as India, should, in common with the rest of the agricultural world, to have suffered, would not have been in the least surprising. But whilst there has been agricultural depression everywhere, and particularly in England and Scotland, it was satisfactory to find that that depression, (except it might be owing to the recent rather dry season) had not extended itself to India. True, other countries like the Argentine Republic had been cutting India largely out of markets for wheat, but that had been more than made up by an advance in the cultivation and production of tea, cotton, and of jute, whilst agriculture in India generally had been aided by increasing railway and canal facilities in bringing produce to the markets and for shipment, and in the extension of irrigation works. Whilst the past had been so far well, yet it was impossible to overlook the depression that might be in store for the agriculturist of India in the near future.

The rural population was increasing, whilst the virgin soil was getting more and more limited. The cultivation of tea was increasing faster than the demands of the present markets, although new markets were being opened out, whilst jute, although at present a monopoly of India, might be cultivated in other countries. It would be well, therefore, for the rulers of India to look ahead and not depend too much on the present agricultural prosperity of India. They ought to recognise that, in order to promote the prosperity of the country, they must also do all they can to develop trades and manufactures. No doubt in many manual arts and manufactures the Native Indian was highly skilled, inheriting the skill and dexterity of many generations. Still, for quantity and for practical purposes, machinery was largely taking the place of hand labour, and, to keep pace with the march of the world, it was as necessary in the case of India as it has been found in the case of Great Britain and Continental countries, to stimulate and quicken the growth of education so as to produce as much highly skilled labour as possible. So convinced were the people of Great Britain of the necessity and importance of education that, in the British Isles, elementary education was entirely free, whilst technical and secondary education, as also University education, by means of scholarships and bursaries, were in a large measure free. Compared with that state of matters, he found that in the Baranagore Victoria School, which was representative of Indian higher schools generally, the school fee in the junior or lowest elementary classes was 2 rupees, or 2/4d. per month, and that while the total income of the school was 5,938 rupees, the school fees amounted to 5,121½ rupees as against only an aggregate of 816½ of Government grant. It was, he stated, impossible not to see that if India was to have any chance at all in the race for the trades and manufactures of the world, India must be put on a more equal footing as regards education and skilled labour with the countries of Europe and America. All honour to what voluntary agencies and enterprise had accomplished and were accomplishing in the way of education, and the Government ought to do everything to stimulate rather than the supplant private enterprise. But private enterprise, although in India most willing, was not able wholly to undertake the vast work of education that was necessary. He quite recognised all the good work and great interest shewn by the Government of India in the work of education, and he congratulated the people of India on having as Viceroy a Scotchman who was distinguished for the interest which he took in education. He found throughout India the great interest which he took in education. He found throughout India the great interest which the Government of India were taking in developing not only University and secondary education, but also in having schools for the more efficient education, and training of Native teachers. Still, even with all that was being done, more local and more Government assistance had become a necessity. He found European opinion in India much divided on the question of education. There were a few Europeans who were against the State having anything to do with the development of education, even of vernacular education. In their opinion it would tend to educate the masses to be above doing any manual labour or drudgery work. The very same objection had been stated against free education in Great Britain, but experience had shown that education did not tend to make the masses unwilling to work, but rather tended to dignify labour and to encourage people to labour more

jealously so as to increase their material comforts. The present difficulty in the case of the Native of India was that his wants being few and his ambition very limited he did not strive to produce more than was necessary to meet his daily wants. It was possible that, in some few cases, education might produce an unwillingness to do menial or manual work, but such unwillingness would quickly disappear when the necessity for work became apparent. Again, the more labour became skilled, the greater would become the prosperity of India, in which prosperity the Europeans and upper classes of India would all share. Obviously in this age of enlightenment, ignorance could never become an object to be desired by any country or people. There were Europeans, however, and some of them very influential, who doubted the expediency of teaching English to the Native or of increasing what was considered to be an already too numerous class of educated Natives. Their objections were twofold. First, what was the use of going on increasing an army of men with University degrees for whom there was no demand in the country, and who could not command probably more than 20 or 25 rupees or from 23s. 4d. to 29s. 2d. per month? As regards this objection the answer was that the value of educated men, although not fully appreciated at present, would gradually become more appreciated and recognised as the value of education became practically more apparent. Electricity was not much in use in Calcutta at present, nevertheless that was no reason for discarding its use as the rising light and motive power of the future. The second objection was that the spread of English education did not conduce either to the true enlightenment or to the loyalty of the recipients. There was no doubt a good deal of most unjust disloyalty on the part of some who had received the benefits of a secondary and of an English education. That, however, was no good objection to the spread of such education, as there was no necessary connection between the progress of secondary and English education and disloyalty. The British Government had no occasion to fear the light of education being brought to bear on its Government of India. Not one anna of tribute was exacted by Great Britain from India. Every anna raised by taxation in India was intended to be spent in behoof of India and in the interest of India—a condition of things without a parallel in the case of dependency of any other country in the world. The British Government had done much to develop the prosperity of India by encouraging railways, canals and irrigation works and to improve the sanitary condition of the people by introducing water supplies to towns and cities, and in promoting works of a sanitary nature. Whatever debt might be due by India was more than represented by the present actual value of such practical and useful works. Britain sent out the pack of her educated young men who devoted the best portion of their lives to the service of India, and who were replaced with fresh and vigorous men when the period of superannuation had arrived. In that way India possessed a stream of continuous fresh and vigorous blood and talent chosen by examination from the West, an advantage for progress and development enjoyed by no other country in the world. It was not too much to say that to this judicious administration and Government of India much of its prosperity was due. Native talent was being increasingly employed in the service of the Government of India and would be extended as far as the peculiar circumstances of India would allow. In the case of a people composed of so many different races and religions as India it might be impossible in all cases to employ Native talent. In the case of the administration of Justice Native Judges were largely employed, and employed to advantage; but in their case there was always an appeal to a Higher Court or Power which gave confidence even to the suitors of different religious belief from the Judge. In the case of other administrations, however, the well recognised impartiality of the European was generally preferred by the Native to that of another Native whose religion must necessarily differ from that of many over whom he might be set. Mere intellectual knowledge or attainments was not of itself a proper or sufficient test as to the relative fitness of a Briton and an Indian for a post of administration, were confidence of the governed in the impartial administration was an important consideration. He (Mr. Caldwell) had been much struck by the number of Scotchmen whom he had met in India, and who all seemed to be occupying places of position or of trust. Why was that? Some would answer that it was because the Scotch were a more highly educated people than the English or the people of other nationalities. He did not think that that was the true answer. The success of the Scotchman was not due alone to his intellectual acquirements. Except in the case of those who went to the University, the attainment of the average Scotch boy was only a very modest attainment of reading, writing and arithmetic. His success lay in a different direction. It was in the moral and religious training and in the personal influence of the teacher which made Scotchmen noted all over the world for their truthfulness, their honesty, their steadiness, their perseverance and their conscientiousness. In a purely intellectual and educational examination there were Natives in Calcutta who could excel the Scotchmen of Calcutta, but yet no one would say that for the position which the

Scotchman occupy an intellectual Native with a University degree would be preferable. That brought him to remark and to point out that mere intellectual knowledge was not the sole end and aim of education. There was something higher beyond, which was the secret of the Scotchman's success. He quite recognised that in all matters of religion the Hindu and the Christian were not agreed, and he for one would not raise any question upon which the Hindu and the Christian disagreed. He would rather refer to those points upon which both Hindu and Christian were agreed, and it would be seen that a good Hindu might possess all the qualities which contributed to a Scotchman's success. So far as he (Mr. Caldwell) had been able to discover—and he would be glad to be corrected if he were wrong in his information—all intelligent Hindu believed in one great God above all other Gods, the maker of heaven and earth who governs the world, who heareth prayer, and who knows everything that is going on in the world or which passeth through the minds or thoughts of men. Christians believed the very same thing. Again, Hindus believe in a future life, and that according as men lived and acted in the present life so should be their condition in the next life. Christians held the same belief. Next Hindus counselled their followers to do three things, to cherish good thoughts, to speak good words, and to perform good actions. Christianity commanded the same. On these great essentials Hindu and Christian were agreed and he reverted to what he had said was the secret of the Scotchman's success, namely, that he was noted for his truthfulness, that is, that he always spoke the truth, and other men might rely on the truth of what he might say, that he was noted for his honesty, never stealing what belonged to his neighbour; that he was noted for his steadiness and integrity, for his perseverance, his determination to overcome obstacles, and for his conscientiousness; that he would perform his work as faithfully in his master's absence as if his master were present. Now there was nothing in all those qualities in a Scotchman which a good Hindu could not aim at, and was not even bound by his profession of Hinduism to observe. He impressed upon them that if they wished to make education an element of success in life they must not content themselves with striving after mere intellectual attainments, with relying solely upon being a Hindu and with saying prayers at certain stated times, or dipping themselves in the waters of the Ganges. They must go further. They must carry out the whole of the Hindu faith. They must put Hinduism into every day life and action. They must daily cherish good thoughts, daily speak good words, and daily do good actions. They must be truthful, honest, steady, persevering and be conscientious, with the ever present belief that there was one great God above who knew their every thought, word, and action, and that according as they lived in this present life so might they expect to fare in the next. Whatever value others may put on education, let every true Hindu value education, intellectual and moral, as the true key to success in life. Let it not be confined to the vernacular, but let it be extended to a full knowledge of English. He (Mr. Caldwell) differed from them in language, in race, and in religion. Nevertheless he acknowledged them as members of the same great British Empire, alike the subjects of Her Majesty the Queen, the Empress of India. It was as part of the British Possessions that India was so much indebted for her prosperity, and in having the fruits of her soil and the products of her manufactures brought out, through British enterprise, into all the markets of the world. Citizenship of the British Empire was a privilege which the people of India might justly value. The British Empire consisted of one-fourth of whole habitable globe, and comprised within its possessions and sphere of influence the most habitable and fruitful quarter of the globe. The English language had now become the language of 130 millions of people, was daily spreading, and was destined to become the most important language of the world. In India with its 300 millions of inhabitants there was a strong and an earnest desire everywhere to learn English. Nor was there any reason to wonder at that, for it had become patent to everyone that a knowledge of English was instrumental to the attainment of positions of trust, power and influence in all parts of the world. The Native of India required no stimulus or inducement to learn English. All that was needed was to place the means of instruction within his reach, and it would be contrary to all the past history and traditions of the world to anticipate any ultimate evil results from a spread of education. It was quite true that notwithstanding the naked condition of the people and the want in many cases of even the elements of a home or of a shelter, still even the very poorest and the most infirm, in the absence even of a compulsory Poor Law, were well cared for, and that the Native had all the appearance of being well fed and well nourished, and seemed everywhere to be contented and happy with his lot. Still they must recognise that the world was progressing and developing, and that, with that progress and development the condition of the people of India must advance. It was necessary, therefore, to look ahead and to begin to sow broadcast the seeds not only of vernacular but of English education. In conclusion, he quite recognised that the responsibility for the Government of

India lay with the House of Commons, of which he (Mr. Caldwell) was a member. He considered that the duty of the House of Commons was to govern India primarily for the benefit and in the interest of the people of India. He had no sympathy with those who might seek to govern India in the interest of any section of the people of the United Kingdom. India was not to be kept back from developing her material prosperity merely on account of any supposed or real detriment that such development might have upon British manufactures. It was quite possible that having the advantage of cotton and jute Native grown, India might be able successfully to compete with and even to overcome the manufactures of Lancashire and of Dundee. To the inexorable law of free competition, certain industries of Great Britain might, perhaps, in course of time, suffer, but the result, as a whole, would be beneficial to the British Isles. The growth of manufactures in India meant, meantime at least, greater trade in machinery from Britain, whilst as India prospered there would be the greater market for other British manufactures. He hoped that nothing would occur which might in the least tend to shake the confidence of the people of India in the unselfish and purely philanthropic character of British rule, and he hoped that the Government of India would continue to gain on the affections of the people, and that its hold of India would be deep seated and deep rooted owing to its justice and impartiality of administration, and to its seeking as its chief end and aim the comfort, well-being, and happiness of the people of India.

OUR REGARDS TO MR. RUSSELL.

THE writer of these lines hereby tenders to Mr. W. Clark Russell the assurance of his thanks and appreciation. I have always loved sea stories, and those of Mr. Russell stand at the head of their class. From "The Wreck of the Grosvenor" to "List, Ye Landsmen!" I have read them all. Yet salt water, and the things thereon and therein, are not the only things he knows about; not by many degrees of latitude.

In his last book he makes a sailor talk thus: "I have suffered from the liver in my time, and know what it is to have *felt mad*. I say I have known moments when I could scarce restrain myself from breaking windows, kicking at the shins of all who approached me, knocking my head against the wall, yelling with the yell of one who drops in a fit; and all the while my brain was as healthy as the healthiest that ever filled a human skull, and nothing was wanted but a musketry of calomel pills to dislodge the fiend," &c., &c.

So much for what Mr. Russell's sailor (or Mr. Russell himself) says; and there are plenty of people who can testify that this is not a bit overdrawn. One fact in particular it helps us to realise, namely, that the life of a sailor does not guarantee good health. Indigestion and dyspepsia—of which liver complaint is a sequence and a symptom—is as common among sailors as among landmen.

One of the latter, however, may now tell of his experience. "All my life," he says, "I had suffered from biliousness and sick headaches. I would have an attack about every three weeks. At such times my appetite left me, and I could neither eat nor drink for days together. I suffered from dreadful sickness and straining, and vomited a greenish-yellow fluid. My head felt as though it would burst. I had a bad taste in the mouth, sallow skin, and the whites of the eyes turned yellow. I was recommended to adopt vegetarian diet, and did so, but the attacks were just as frequent and violent. I consulted doctors and took their medicines, but was none the better for it. In this way I went on year after year."

Well, we shall agree that there could scarcely be a worse way to go on, and it all came about thus: The overworked stomach put more work on the liver than the latter could do. Indignant and disgusted at this the liver refused to do a stroke more than its proper share. Hence more bile accumulated in the blood than the liver was able to remove. This surplus bile acts as a slow poison—and not so very slow either. The tongue is furred, the head aches and feels dull and heavy; the eyes and skin are greenish-yellow; there is dizziness and nausea; cold hands and feet; spots before the eyes; a pungent, biting fluid rises into the throat; constipation; high coloured kidney secretion; prostrated nerves; irritability; loss of ambition; fears and forebodings, &c., &c.

This is "biliousness" or "liver complaint" in its simplest form. When long unchecked it produces irregular action of the heart, rheumatism, gout, and any, or all, of a dozen other organic disorders. There is no more certain or powerful impulse to misbehaviour; suicide and other crimes often resulting.

What to do? To get rid of the poison by starting the skin and bowels into energetic action; then to keep them going at a healthy and natural gait. How to do this? Let our friend Mr. F. Widger, 4, Portland Square, Plymouth—whom we have just quoted—speak on that point.

In his letter, dated March 3rd, 1893, he adds:

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We should mention that Mr. Widger is a tailor and outfitter at Plymouth, and well known and respected in that community. He permits us to use his name out of gratitude for his recovery. The potency of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup over liver disease is due to its ability to cure indigestion and dyspepsia, which is (as we have said) the cause of liver disease.

Every house on the land, and every ship on the sea, should have this remedy as a necessary part of their stock and stores. Perhaps Mr. Russell may recommend it in his next book. But no "musketry of calomel pills." Oh, no.

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to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J.C.,
to Atkinson, the late Mr. E.E.T., C.S.,
to Banerjee, Babu Jyoush Chunder.
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.
to Banerjee, Babu Saro Lapsad.
from Bell, the late Major Evans.
from Baaddon, Chief of.
to Bony Krishna, Raja.
to Curlew, R. Bahadur Ananda.
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.
from Clarke, Mr. S.K.J.
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.
to, from Duffin and Aylmer, the Marquis of.
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.
to Gough, Babu Kesari Mohan.
to Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.
to Ghosh, Babu Kahi Prasanna.
to Graham, Mr. W.
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.
from Gull, Babu Sarda Kant.
to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.
from Hunter, Sir W. W.
to Jenkins, Mr. Edward.
to Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.
to Knight, Mr. Paul.
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.
from Lindsay, the Marquis of.
to Law, Kuma Kistodas.
to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.
to Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.
to Mallik, Mr. H. C.
to Marston, Miss Ann.
from Metha, Mr. R. D.
to Mitra, the late Raji Dr. Rajendralala.
to Mookerjee, late Raji Dakshinarajan.
from Mookerjee, Mr. J.C.
from McNeil, Professor H. (San Francisco).
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.

from Niyatana, Mahanapadhyaya M. C.
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.
to Rao, the late Su T. Mulhava.
to Rattigan, Sir William H.
from Rosebery, Earl of.
to, from Roseberry, Mr. James.
from Russell, Sir W. H.
to Row, Mr. C. Symala.
to Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sushiah.
to Sinha, Babu Brahmananda.
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderney.
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.
to Underwood, Captain T. O.
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.
to Vencataramanah, Mr. G.
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCES, from
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Ameer Hossen, Haidar Nawab Syed.
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.
Banerjee, Babu Manmathanath.
Banerjee, R. Bahadur, Shub Chunder.
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Deb, Babu Manahar.
Dutt, Mr. O. C.
Dutt, Babu Prosaddoss.
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Ghose, Babu Narendra K.

Ghosh, Babu Kahi Prasanna.
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Mitter, Babu Satheshan.
Mookerjee, Raji Prady Mohan.
Mookerjee, Babu Surendra Nath.
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OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of
a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith,
Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October,
1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer,
and there is a breezy freshness and originality
about his correspondence which make it
very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corfi,
K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,
26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing
official duties an English Civilian can find
either time or opportunity to pay so graceful
a tribute to the memory of a native personality
as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of
the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the
well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta:
Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many
who are more worthy of being thus honoured
than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr.
Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with
all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with
lessons for those who desire to know the real
India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not
even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its primeval days
under Kistodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of in-
fluence in any way approaching that which was
soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualifi-
es, his death from pneumonia in the early
spring in the last year was a distinct and
heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was
an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put
his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times*
of India, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journal-
ist becomes worthy of publication; it is more
rarely still that such a life comes to be written
by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the
Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to
pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus,
the life of at least one man among Indian
journalists has been considered worthy of
being written by an Englishman.—*The*
Madras Standard, (Madras) September 30,
1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a
profound student and an accomplished writer,
who has left his mark on Indian journalism.
In that he has found a Civilian like Mr.
Skrine to record the story of his life he is
more fortunate than the great Kistodas Pal
himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2,
1895.

For much of the biographical matter that
issues so freely from the press or apology is
needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee,
the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an
explanation would have been looked for. A man
of his remarkable personality, who was easily
first among native Indian journalists, and in
many respects occupied a higher plane than
they did, and looked at public affairs from a
different point of view from theirs, could not
be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that was nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished citizen in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that Western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from his ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Munny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it to no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 710.

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

THE PURPLE EAST.

Dec. 25.

BY WILLIAM WATSON.

It is the birthday of the Prince of Peace ;
Care is put by ; men greet as brethren ; all
Children are glad ; the holly hangs in hall ;
The fatness of the land, the earth's increase,
Cumbers the board ; their toil the toilers cease ;
Friends unto friends about the wide world call ;
Somewhat of her abundance Wealth lets fall ;
It is the birthday of the Prince of Peace.
The dead rot by the wayside ; the unblest
Who live, in woods and the wild mountains lurk
Trembling, Christ's foldless flock, shorn of their fleece.
Women in travail, babes that suck the breast,
Are spared not. Famine hurries to her work.
It is the birthday of the Prince of Peace.

Speak once again, with that great note of thine,
Hero withdrawn from Senates and their sound
Unto thy home by Cambria's northern bound,
Speak once again, and wake a world supine.
Not always, not in all things, was it mine
To follow where thou led'st : but who hath found
Another man so shod with fire, so crowned
With thunder, and so armed with wrath divine ?
Lift up thy voice once more ! The nation's heart
Is cold as Anatolia's mountain snows.
On, from these alien paths of base repose
Call back thy England, ere thou too depart,—
Ere, on some secret mission, thou too start
With silent footsteps, whither no man knows.

Modest beyond just bounds, whose numbers rung
This eventide, reproachful, in my ear ;
Thou to whom England seems a mistress dear,
Insatiable of honey from thy tongue :
Because I crouch not fawning slaves among,
How is my service proved the less sincere ?
Have not I also deemed her without peer ?
Her beauty have not I too seen and sung ?
But for the love I bore her lofty ways,
What were to me her stumblings and her slips ?
And lovely is she still, her maiden lips
Pressed to the lips whose foam around her plays !
But on her brow's benignant star whose rays
Lit them that sat in darkness, lo ! the eclipse.

"She hides her hour." And must I then believe
That when the day of peril is o'erpast,
She who was great because so oft she cast
All thought of peril to the waves that heave
Against her feet, shall greatly undeceive

Her porblind son who dreamed she shrank aghast
From Duty's signal ? She will act at last—
When there is naught remaining to retrieve ?
At last ! when the last altar is defiled,
And there are no more maidens to deflower,—
When the last mother folds with famished arms
To her dead bosom her last butchered child,—
Then shall our England, throned beyond alarms,
Rise in her might ! Till then, "she bides her hour."

The dewfall of compassion, it is o'er ;
The nightfall of indifference, it is come.
From wintry sea to sea the land lies numb.
With palsy of the spirit stricken sore,
The land lies numb from iron shore to shore.
The unconcerned, they flourish : loud are some
And without shame. The multitude stand dumb.
The England that we vaunted is no more.
Only the witling's sneer, the worldling's smile,
The weakling's tremors, fail him not who fain
Would rouse to noble deed. And all the while,
A homeless people, in their mortal pain,
Toward one far and famous ocean-isle
Stretch hands of prayer, and stretch those hands in vain.

O vanished morn of crimson and of gold,
O youth and roselight and romance, wherein
I read of tourney and of paladin,
And Beauty snatched from ogre's dungeoned hold !
Ever the recreant would in dust be rolled,
Ever the true knight in the joust would win,
Ever the scaly shape of monstrous Sin
At last lie vanquished, fold on writhing fold.
Was it all false, that world of princely deeds,
The splendid quest, the good fight ringing clear ?
Yonder the Dragon ramps with fiery gorge,
Yonder the victim faints and gasps and bleeds ;
But in his Merry England our St. George
Sleeps a base sleep beside his idle spear.

Yea, if ye could not, though ye would, lift hand—
Ye halting leaders—to abridge Hell's reign ;
If, for some cause ye may not yet make plain,
Yearning to strike, ye stood as one may stand
Who in a nightmare sees a murder planned
And hurrying to its issue, and though fain
To stay the knife, and fearless, must remain
Madly inert, held fast by ghostly band ;—
If such your plight, most hapless ye of men !
But if ye could and would not, oh, what plea,
Think ye, shall stead you at your trial, when
The thunder-cloud of witnesses shall loom,
With ravished Childhood on the seat of doom,
At the Assizes of Eternity ?

—The Westminster Gazette.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

WEEKLYANA.

OFFICIAL mourning, on account of the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg, will be observed till the 13th of February as will appear from the following Notification in the Home Department :

"Intelligence having been received of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Henry Maurice of Battenberg, K.G., P.C., the Governor General in Council hereby directs that the officers of Her Majesty's Civil, Military, and Marine Services do put themselves into mourning until the 13th February next, that being the date up to which official mourning has been proclaimed for Great Britain and Ireland.

J. P. HEWITT,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Calcutta, Saturday, Jan. 25, 1896."

Court mourning will last forty days.

It was the pleasant duty of the ex-Sheriff Mr. R. D. Mehta to telegraph to the Queen-Empress the satisfaction of the citizens of Calcutta at the marriage of her grandson, the heir-presumptive. The present Sheriff Mr. Playfair has been as prompt to cable the regret of Calcutta at the death of her youngest son-in-law. On Saturday, after consultation with the heads of representative associations in Calcutta, the Hon. Mr. Playfair despatched the following telegram to the Private Secretary to Her Majesty the Queen, at Windsor :—

"The citizens of Calcutta tender Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, the Princess Beatrice and the Royal Family sincere and heartfelt sympathy in their sorrow."

The following reply was received :—

"Queen and Princess Beatrice return their sincere thanks to the citizens of Calcutta for the kind, sympathetic message of condolence you forwarded."

PRINCE Alexander, the eldest son of Prince Frederic of Prussia, a bachelor, aged 75, is dead. Both the German Emperor and Empress were present at his bed side. He had been in the navy and taken part in the campaign of 1866 when he was posted to the headquarters of the Crown Prince. He took but little interest in political matters. Latterly he passed his days in reclusion devoting much of his time to works of charity.

MR. C. P. Villiers, "father of the House of Commons," celebrated, on January 3, his ninety-fourth birthday. His parliamentary life began in January 1835, when he was returned as member for Wolverhampton. He is in sufficiently good health to take a keen interest in political affairs.

EMILY Jane Mercer Elphinstone de Elphault, or Petty-Fitzmaurice, Baroness Keith, and Dowager Marchioness of Lansdowne, died at Micklecour, Perth, on June 25 last, at the age of 76 years, after making a will bearing date July 13, 1894. The executors are her son, Henry Charles Keith, Marquess of Lansdowne, and her sister Georgine Guinelle, Marquise de Lavalette. The value of the personal estate of the deceased in the United Kingdom (including 36,222*l.* secured on the Tulliallan estate in Scotland, and 20,000*l.* on the Lansdowne estates in Wiltshire) has been sworn at 100,348*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

THE medical evidence at the Westminster Coroner's Court shewed that the death of the Rev. William Hurndall, forty-nine, pastor of the Westminster Congregational Chapel, was due to suffocation and coma, the result of gas fumes. He and his wife were sleeping in a room in which a gas stove was burning. The flue of the stove got blocked, both Mr. and Mrs. Hurndall became unconscious and Mr. Hurndall ultimately died.

A RECENT sounding of the Pacific Ocean, near the coast of Japan, gave a depth of 29,400ft, or approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, or a little more than the height of Mount Everest, the loftiest of the Himalayas. In a previous attempt to reach the floor of the ocean at this depth, the wire broke at 25,800ft. It has been suggested as one theory of the formation of mountain ranges, that they represent the crumpling up, or buckling, of the earth's crust under the severe contraction strains that were set up as the surface of the globe solidified. *The Scientific American* remarks that

"if this be true, the deep ocean valleys or gorges, such as this off the coast of Japan, must be the result of the same action. Taken in connection with the loftiest mountain, this sounding gives a difference in distance, from the earth's centre of about twelve miles, or 1-333 of the earth's radius."

SUICIDE is not confined to man. Moments of desperation have been observed in insects. There are times when life becomes unbearable, overpowering reason and instinct and love of life itself :—

"M. Henry, a Frenchman, being curious to see the effect of benzine on a wasp, put some of it under a glass in which a wasp was imprisoned. The wasp immediately showed signs of great annoyance and anger, darting at a piece of paper which had introduced benzine into his cell. By and by he seems to have given up the unequal contest in despair, for he lay down on his back, and bending up his abdomen, planted his stung thrice into his body, and then died. M. Henry allowed his scientific interest to overcome his humanity so far as to repeat the experiment with three wasps, only to find that the other two did likewise. He is, therefore, of opinion that wasps, under desperate circumstances, commit suicide."

THE newly discovered Argone has been a windfall to the discoverers, Professor Ramsay and Lord Rayleigh. For their gaseous substance in the air, they are getting solid gold and silver. The Smithsonian Institution at Washington has sent them a cheque for ten thousand dollars and the Academy of Sciences, Paris, has awarded them the Lecomte prize of fifty thousand francs. France has further honoured them by making them officers of the Legion of Honour.

THE Prince Albert Victor Fund amounting to about Rs. 85,000 has an unexpended surplus of Rs. 15,000. It is proposed to devote the sum either towards the establishment of an hospital to be erected in the northern part of the town by the Calcutta Medical School, or for the erection of a clock tower near Nimtollah or at the east end of the Harrison Road.

MR. Symthe, Mark Twain's agent, has formed a high opinion of Australia. He says :

"We visited all parts of Australia and New Zealand, and Mr. Clemens established a record so far as the receipts from his lectures were concerned. In Adelaide we took £210 in a single night, and in Melbourne and Sydney it was very much the same. The largeness of the proceeds is the more remarkable when it is remembered that the Australian colonists pay a good deal less for seats than is obtainable in other parts of the world. Thus when we took Sarah Bernhardt there the highest price paid for a seat was 10*s.* 6*d.*, not more than half the sum that would be given in London or New York. But the reason why lectures or concerts pay so well in Australia is that everybody goes to hear them. Their taste for seeing and hearing celebrities is insatiable. In Sydney, a town of less than 300,000 people, Mr. Clemens gave no fewer than ten lectures. There is no part of the world where people are so thoroughly glad to go night after night to a lecture or a musical recital given by a celebrity."

IN the present rage against the Hindu joint family system, it is pleasing to read the letter of Mr. S. K. Banerjee, B.A., of Bankipore, in the *Englishman* of the 27th January. We wish he had given more particulars :

"Sir,—The joint family system has been one of the characteristics, nay a unique characteristic, of the Hindu race. In the Hindu Law we find it presumed that a family is always joint until the contrary is proved. The system is unknown in any other part of the civilized world. Even in India we find millions of cases where such a union has existed for a couple of generations, but comparatively few that extend to the third generation. There is only one family in Bengal, probably the only one in India, that has been living together under the joint system for nine generations. It is the Nandi family of Jaingram in the district of Burdwan.

The Nandis are a very rich family, carrying on business in various branches, and the whole of the income is accumulated into a joint stock. They live in one long two storied barrack, in which one room is allotted to each male member and they are wholly governed by a body of selected members who form themselves into a committee, having the power to regulate and control the affairs of the family. It is like a small republic under a president who is called the kurta of the family. The number of the members amounts to over three hundred. The history of the family is very interesting indeed, their mode of living, and their ways of celebrating festivals and marriages among themselves. There is one general gomasta, who has the charge of all provisions, and early in the morning he distributes chota hazi (consisting of fried rice and treacle) to all the members in equal quantities. The members get their food, clothes, books and almost everything from the common stock.

Envelopes and post cards are also given, but of late some of the members have abused the arrangements by taking a number of envelopes and postcards, and selling them. So now whenever any member asks for envelopes or post cards, they are given to them after the address has been written on them by the manager, who has charge of all the stationery. The house has got a big thick volume containing all the rules and regulations. Whenever a child is born in the family the father gets a fixed sum for ornaments for the new born babe and also gets a monthly stipend for his child. When a daughter is fit to be married the whole expenses are borne by the common stock."

If attempts had been made to improve and reform the system instead of breaking it, the result would have been more satisfactory than the annual sittings of the National Congress.

"RAIPUR" in the *Englishman* bears testimony to the Sanskrit and Bengali scholarship of the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

"I happen to know that Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a good Eastern linguist, and that at Cambridge he took up Sanskrit and passed examinations in it with credit. Sir Alexander may not be a Panini, but he has a scholarly knowledge of Sanskrit that would more than suffice to enable him to form a critical opinion on the comparative merits of text-books in the language. Moreover, I may say he has a colloquial command of Bengali, which is remarkable even from a Bengali standpoint. He speaks the language better than many a Bengali gentleman, as many of my countrymen will be ready to testify. Those who have talked with him in that language can vouch for this."

THE services of Captain J. W. Currie having been replaced at the disposal of the Government of India, in the Military Department, Mr. A. H. Gayer has been appointed Private Secretary to Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Commander E. W. Petley, Calcutta Naval Volunteers; Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Macleod, Bihar Light Horse; and Major W. K. Eddis, Calcutta Light Horse, have also been added to the staff as Honorary Aides-de-Camp.

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MR Michael Finucane, Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, replaces Mr. R. C. Dutt as a member of the Bengal Legislative Council.

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REVISED Transfer Rules for Colleges in Bengal are published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of January 29.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

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REUTER'S Pekin correspondent states that China has agreed to open the West River provided she is allowed to retain the territory ceded by Burma to China by convention. The question has been referred to Lord Salisbury.

MR. Chamberlain, speaking at Birmingham on Jan. 25, said that there were signs that the political storm was abating, and that Germany's unexpected and unprovoked hostility to England was passing away. The Venezuelan dispute, he said, was due to misapprehension. Great Britain would not dispute the Monroe doctrine, and had no desire for an inch of American territory beyond what she rightfully possessed. Armenia, he said, remained a danger and disgrace to Europe, but English efforts to bring about reform in that quarter were fruitless in the absence of support. Referring to the Transvaal, he believed that matters were settling there. Several German papers, we are told, refer to the Emperor's action in the Transvaal as a splendid triumph over Great Britain. The German Press generally continue their virulent attacks upon England.

Austria and Italy are seeking to bring about a reconciliation between Great Britain and Germany.

Sir Henry Fowler, speaking at Wolverhampton, said that the Opposition must support the Government in presenting a united front to every hostile interference with Britain's rights and honour.

Lord George Hamilton, speaking at Chiswick on Jan. 28, said that he felt confident of an honourable and satisfactory settlement of the Venezuela question, thanks to the conciliatory attitude of America. Great Britain, he said, would oppose any interference with her Colonies in South Africa with her whole united force and that of her Colonies throughout the world. He urged the necessity for a continuous policy maintaining the naval and military strength, and said that Government would bring about a closer connection with all parts of the Empire and make it a living reality more capable of its maintenance in times of peace and of its preservation in times of peril.

THE *Times* cordially approves of Sir James Westland's measure in regard to the cotton duties, which is likely to secure equality of treatment for Indian and English industries simply and straightforwardly.

THE report of the offensive and defensive alliance between Russia and Turkey, published by the *Pall Mall Gazette*, is denied at the Turkish Embassy in London. It is, however, believed that a tacit agreement exists whereby Russia would occupy Armenia for the restoration of order, and Russian support would be accorded to Turkey in certain events, such as a British fleet entering the Dardanelles.

THE deaths are announced of Sir Frederic Leighton, the painter, of General Richard Lawrence, last brother of the late Lord Lawrence, of Mr. Alexander Macmillan, the publisher, of Sir Joseph Barnby, the musician, and of the Right Hon. Hugh Childers, the politician.

KING Menelek has written to King Humbert and General Baratieri, asking for a delegate to treat for peace.

A MEETING of Americans has been held at Pretoria at which a telegram was despatched to Mr. Olney, stating that their property was in jeopardy, and requesting an American diplomatic agent to be despatched to the Transvaal, as they desired to have their grievances redressed.

THE *Times*, discussing the question of British Indians in Natal, urges a settlement on the basis of the proclamation of 1858, as Great Britain could not afford a war of races among her own subjects.

ADVICES from Madagascar, dated the 23rd December, state that a native rebellion has broken out against the Hovas. A Norwegian trader and several Hova officers have been killed. The movement at present is in the district of Vatmondry, but it is daily extending.

THE Canadian Government has voted half a million sterling for drilling the entire militia of the Dominion.

THE Ottoman Porte is borrowing from the officials' pension fund for urgent expenses, as the Sultan seriously apprehends a revival of the insurrectionary movement in Macedonia shortly.

A BLUE BOOK on Armenia has just appeared which deals chiefly with the report of the Sassun Commission, and shows that the reports in the press of the massacres were overdrawn. Only forty were killed in the Sassun massacre, and the total of nine hundred perished in the district, in which twenty-three villages were destroyed.

PRESIDENT Kruger has issued a proclamation stating that he has reason to suspect that it is the intent of several Rand Companies to close their mines, which, he says, indicates a desire to renew the disturbance which lately took place. The President says that the Transvaal Government has resolved to vigorously protect the mining industry and to severely punish any attempts to disturb its peaceful development.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette*, in a telegram from Cairo, states that a revolution, due to tribal dissension, has broken out in Khartoum, and that the Mahdi has been overthrown. A Cairo telegram, however, speaks of only rumours of revolt among the tribes south of Khartoum against the Khalifa.

THE Mahomedans in London, at a meeting of the Anjuman-i-Islam, presided over by Mr. Monlen Ibrahim, adopted a resolution offering the Queen-Empress the services of her Mahomedan subjects in defence of Imperial interests. The president was, in addition, of opinion that, provided her finances were in a healthy state, India alone was able to cope with any Great Power.

THE Viceroy's health has greatly improved, the fever having left him. The *Warren Hastings*, in which he is cruising in the Bay, called at Akyab yesterday. Lord Elgin is expected back to Calcutta to-morrow to preside at the Legislative Council meeting postponed from last Thursday to next Monday to pass the two fiscal measures introduced in his absence, though with his consent, reducing the import duty on cotton goods and making the Indian mills' production excisable.

PRINCE Henri D'Orléans and his party consisting of M. Roux, a French lieutenant, and M. Briffaut, a trader, have discovered the real source of the Irrawady. They started from Tonkin and reached Sadiya, the eastern frontier station of Assam, within a year. The travel was hazardous and painful. Leaving Tonkin at the end of January 1895, the travellers reached Tsikon early in September. The most difficult part of the journey was from the last mentioned place to Sadiya. They crossed seventeen ranges of mountains varying from 12,000 to 13,000ft. in height.

It is known that the Irrawady has two sources, the Nmai Kha (Eastern) and the Mali Kha (Western). But it was undecided which was the true one. The French explorers state that the eastern branch, known as Tourong is the true Irrawady. This branch subsequently takes the name of Nmai Kha. The Mali Kha is formed of several small streams which drain the Khamti country.

SIR Lepel Griffin has not lost his hold on Native India. The restorer of the fortress of Gwalior is still a power with Scindia. The young chief has agreed to the payment of £2,000 in aid of the East India Association to its present directing head. We hope the Association will recover, under this refresher, its former vigour and usefulness, and the sovereign princes of India, who built it up and still maintain it, will receive its protection.

THE second group of District Boards having failed to recommend a member for the Legislative Council of the N.-W. P. and Oudh, the Lieutenant-Governor has made a selection for them. In thus appointing Raja Rampal Singh, he has the approbation of the Congressists. The directly nominated members are Mr. Syed Mahmood, of Aligarh, and Kunwar Aditya Narayan Singh, of Benares. Mr. Mahmood is an exceptionally able man, and we hope he is himself again to be of use in the Council. Since his enforced retirement from the Bench of the Allahabad High Court, he was not heard of much. He is now given an opportunity to re-establish his reputation.

ORDERS having passed for official mourning on account of the death in the royal household, the Poudré Bill at Belvedere fixed for the 18th February will not take place. It seems, however, that the Governor is free to be entertained. Sir Alexander Mackenzie strayed into the Black Town last Wednesday for a little amusement. The first to welcome him was the musical Raja of Pathuriaghatta. The opposing House in the same street is preparing to entertain the Lieutenant-Governor next Wednesday, at an Evening Party in the afternoon. Last night, Sir Alexander was present at the Party at the India Club in his honour.

As a means of improving the finances of the Bengal branch of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, Sir Alexander Mackenzie has proposed a "Hospital Sunday" for Mahomedan mosques and Hindu temples. Negotiations have been opened for the purpose. We very much doubt the success of the scheme. Mosques and temples are not churches. Even if mosques be of some assistance, temples must not be thought of in this connection.

THE Charitable Endowments Act, 1890, is gathering funds. The latest investor is Babu Ram Lal Mukerji, the youngest and the only surviving son of the late Babu Thakurdas Mukerji, of Boimchi, in the Hooghly district. It is pleasing to find the son in his declining years follow the footsteps of his revered father rendering charity. He has applied to the Government of Bengal to invest a 3½ per cent. Government promissory note for Rs. 50,000 for the purposes of the Act. The endowment is to be called "Babu Ramlal Mukerji's Fund for the relief of distress due to inundation, or to scarcity brought on by drought, in any part of the province of Bengal, including Bihar, Chota Nagpur, and Orissa." The object is disclosed in the title. The length of the purse is hardly commensurate with the length of the name or the extent of the distress to be relieved. It is doubtful whether the recipients of his favour will bless him for the jaw-breaking name of the Fund. Could not a shorter one be devised? Or, is he anxious to be remembered, in some form, for ever, for the fifty-thousand? In these days of electric speed and telegraphic messages, Babu Ramlal could not have fixed upon a better plan of sinking his charity into

oblivion. The Government notification closes with the words "Any objection to the proposed order (vesting the security in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments) or suggestions therein may be transmitted in writing to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, before the 29th day of February 1896." What may this mean? Is there any doubt about the genuineness of the security, or its ownership, or its validity, or its non-transferability? Or, is the Government afraid of any evil consequences to others of the gift?

THE Bengal Government is grateful for charity, great and small, actual and potential. It has thanks for Raja Rameswar Prosad Narayan Singh of Mukundpur, for a donation of Rs. 25,000 to the Countess of Dufferin's Fund; to Babu Jagat Kisor Acharya Chowdhury for his willingness to pay to the Nasirabad municipality Rs. 1,900 and payment out of that sum of Rs. 1,500 for the construction of a burning ghat to be built on his land for which he will charge nothing; to the Hon'ble Prince Jahan Kadir Mirza Muhammad Wahed Ali Bahadur, K. C. I. E. (as President of the Mahomedan Literary Society) for Rs. 500; to Haji Kasim Arif Sahib for Rs. 2,000; to Maulvi Wahid Bikhsh for Rs. 150 and to Raja Ranjit Singh Bahadur of Nasipur for Rs. 100, the last four sums, an aggregate of Rs. 2,750, being a contribution towards the cost of constructing the building for the Elliott Medressa Hostel. It must not, however, be said that the Bengal Secretariat makes no quantitative analysis of its praises. The Mukundpur Raja is thanked for "his liberality and public spirit," the Archarya Babu for "his liberality"; and for the remaining four, the Director of Public Instruction is requested that "the thanks of Government may be conveyed to the donors." There is another feature in the publication of these four donations which should not be lost sight of. We will not stop to enquire about the taste that can include all the four different descriptions of Her Majesty's subjects under one general denomination of gentlemen. The Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the General Department introduces, in the Gazette, for general information, his letter to the Director of Public Instruction, in big capitals as "Liberality of certain Muhammadan gentlemen in contributing to the Elliott Madrasa hostel building." That there may be no mistake about the nationality of the donors, the letter concludes with the expression "His Honour (the Lieutenant-Governor) would be glad to see other Muhammadan gentlemen following their (the donors') example." Government resents, and rightly too, any assumption of title. The Behar Chiefs would not be allowed to be called their Highnesses in official letters and documents. Yet we see Raja Ranjit Singh described as Raja Bahadur. He has been given only the title of Raja. That of Bahadur yet remains to be won. The British Government is a great leveller. It has ennobled, by conferring of titles, many low in caste and not otherwise worthy of the distinctions. It seems to aim at unwarranted conversion of faith. How could it then call Raja Ranjit a Mahomedan? We know there are Mahomedan Rajas, that is, Rajas with Mahomedan names. But this is the first time we hear of a Mahomedan Raja with a Hindu name. We are not aware that any of the Rajas of Nasipur with a long descent were Mahomedan or embraced Islam, or that Ranjit himself has been converted. The blunders of Europeans have been many. But here is an instance which is not ordinarily matched. Mr. Buckland must answer for the mistake. He is credited with being a knowing Civilian. The more's the pity. The outrage is not the less than when enquiries were made as to what Benares *Sarees* or ornaments would the widowed Maharani Surnomoyi of Cossimbazar receive as khillut, or when it was proposed to call the Durbhanga Babuans Mirzas.

LITTLE did we suspect when, early last month, we feared that the Rana of Jhallawar was tempting fate, that it was to overtake him so soon. Soon after, the *Pioneer* startled all India with the following announcement:

"Some trouble has arisen in Jhallawar, one of the petty States in Rajputana. The ruling Chief there is Maharaj Rana Zalim Singh, and his previous record is not an unclouded one. As a youth he was a promising scholar of the Mayo College, and much was hoped from him when he was entrusted with the charge of the State in 1884. In two years, however, he had so conducted himself that his mis-

government could not be overlooked. It was at first proposed to deprive him of his powers as a ruling Chief, but on a representation from Sir Edward Bradford, the then Agent in Rajputana, he was given a chance of redeeming himself. The Rana failed to profit by this opportunity, and in September 1887 he had to suffer the penalty which he had previously escaped. It was not until July 1894 that full powers were again given to him. For a short time he was on his good behaviour, but gradually he drifted into his old habits. Last year he adopted such tyrannical measures towards his people that serious complaints were made against him. Matters had risen to such a pitch in October that Captain Evans Gordon reported that a reign of terror existed in Jhalapatan, the capital of the State, and that in his opinion the Rana was unfit to remain in power. The Government of India called for further information before taking any action, and as matters did not improve and the Rana took up a defiant attitude, Mr. R. Crosthwaite, the Agent for the Governor-General, was directed to proceed to Jhalapatan. He reached there on December 31st and found affairs were rapidly approaching a critical stage. The Rana had sent his Dewan and other officials out of the way, in order to prevent them from giving information. He had served out ball cartridge to his sepoy and he was engaging Pathan mercenaries from among the local Valahi settlers. This was his method of showing his hostile feeling against Government. Such preparations on the part of a petty Chief, who has only a few hundred half-trained and ill-armed sepoys in his service, are explained by the fact that the Rana is not at times fully responsible for his actions. Mr. Crosthwaite, fearing mischief might result from the presence of the Pathans, and seeing the Rana obstinately bent upon taking his own course, suggested that the Political Officer should be furnished with an escort pending a decision as to the measures to be taken. Accordingly two squadrons of the Central India Horse from Aungar, and two Companies of the Deoli Irregular Force marched to Jhalapatan, where they are now in camp. This movement of troops has restored confidence amongst the townspeople, and no outbreak of lawlessness is now likely to occur. The Rana is to be allowed to address a personal explanation to Government before final orders are passed upon his case, for at present he retains his authority such as it is.

A burnt child dreads the fire, or, in the more expressive Bengali saying, a cow burnt in its shed is afraid of the vermillion cloud. Whatever the *Pioneer's* explanation of the movement of troops, and the Rana has his own, the tragedy at Manipur must have been vivid in the minds of the Politicals who suggested the step. With that recent experience, no Political would now, without a sufficient military *entourage*, attempt the arrest of a native Prince in his own territory or offer him any other insult. Mr. Crosthwaite would not evidently risk the repetition of the Bengal *fiasco* in Rajputana. He has, however, yet to prove that his apprehensions were not unfounded, or rather the Rana, according to our present political code, must disprove the allegations against him.

The plucky little new journal of Ajmere—the *Rajputana Malwa Times* has a different version from the *Pioneer's* :—

"The Maharaj Rana of Jhallawar is an honour to the entire Rajput race, for even in these degenerate days he has still sufficient Rajput spirit left in him not to allow any cowardly considerations to stand in the way of the observance on his part of a due regard for the rights of his fathers and the proud traditions of his house. He is of course in the bad books of the Politicals who want to have their own way in all things, and who consider independence in a Feudatory Prince to be nothing short of a heinous crime. The story of the deposition of the Maharaja of Jhallawar is no doubt an old one, but it will bear telling over again. The unfortunate prince, it would appear, has been endowed with the quality of self-respect which is so very scarce among the titular puppets who now-a-days rule by the name of princes. The Maharaja would not lick the dust off the shoes of the then Political Agent whose impudence was only matched by his impertinence. He was consequently on the look out for catching the Maharaja tripping so that he might put in execution his plots of due vengeance against him. The refusal of the Maharaja to let his state carriage fanned the flame of his wrath, and he proceeded to forge an instrument for the annihilation of the poor prince which descended on his head like a bolt from the blue, and eased him of his throne and prerogatives.

"It was at this time that the Queen of England assumed the title of the Empress of India. Invitations were sent round to the Indian Princes all over the country, asking them to attend the Delhi Durbar, and they all flocked to it with their retinues and followers. A similar letter was, of course, addressed to the Maharaja of Jhallawar, but thanks to the ingenuity of the Political Agent it was intercepted on the way, and never reached the hands of the Prince. Such being the case, he did not of course care to attend the Durbar to which he was not invited. His absence did not fail to attract the notice of Lord Lytton, who construed it as an act of disrespect on the part of the Maharaja to Her Majesty who was his liege and sovereign. This when combined with the representations of the Political Agent cost the Maharaja his throne. In June 1894, however, on the recommendation of a friendly and upright Political Agent, he was once more invested with full authority. But misfortune has not taught him to be servile, and he has resented some encroachments on his rights by Mr. Gordon, the present Political officer who of late has been trying to lay the law down to the prince, and question some of his decisions. He has sent a spirited reply to the officer charging him with overriding the terms of the Jhallawar treaty. He has also made a representation on the subject to Mr. Crosthwaite who, we hope, will follow the straight path of duty, and will not crush the spirit of the prince which he is in honour bound to respect if not to nourish."

Again :—

"Our readers have already been made acquainted with the strained relations which lately existed between the Maharaj Rana and the Political Agent. The latter individual who is fully endowed with the arrogance and impudence which characterize his tribe, had taken umbrage at the spirited and independent behaviour of the prince, and being in possession of the confidence of the higher authorities he has not failed to poison their ears against his foe. On the occasion of Mr. Crosthwaite's visit to Jhallawar, the Maharaj Rana who got due notice of the impending event, told off his troops to be in a state of readiness for the A. G. G.'s inspection. This fact was laid hold of by his foes as the instrument for his annihilation, and when the A. G. G. was in Jhallawar, he was informed that the Maharaj Rana had become a rebel, and had actually his troops in readiness for hostile purposes. The A. G. G. telegraphed to Deoli, and the place was at once in a state of siege. Two Cavalry troops and some forty cannon came up from Deoli, but as the Maharaj Rana as expected did not give battle to the British forces, Mr. Crosthwaite was very much in the position of the English general of whom it is told,

The noble Duke of York,  
Who had ten thousand men,  
He took them up to the top of a hill,  
And he took them down again.

A reign of terror has been instituted in Jhallawar. The Maharana wanted upon the A. G. G. but failing to obtain a fair hearing from him, he sent a representation on the subject by telegram to the Viceroy. The message was intercepted by the clerk, and though it was finally sent to its destination, the A. G. G. ordered that no other communication from the Maharaj Rana should be allowed to leave Jhallawar. It is intimated that the prince is about to break out into mutiny, and he is placed under strict surveillance. He is shuttled like an ordinary criminal, and every movement on his part is keenly watched. The very ordinary human rights are denied to him, and he is not allowed so much as to send a second representation to the Viceroy. And to crown all, he is at last about to be dispossessed of his paternal throne—robbed of his paternal crown—deprived of his paternal sceptre. It was on the 9th January that an act of treachery was perpetrated—that this poor prince was deprived of the services of his faithful Commander-in-Chief. A scion of the same family who is likely to prove so much wiser in the hands of the Politicals to be moulded into any shape that may please them will be placed on the Jhallawar *gaddi* whose present occupant is to be sent to Benares for his spiritual welfare."

Having been spotted, the Rana is an under-trial prisoner in his own house and territory. As such, he is subjected to all the restraints of the position. We do not know if he is restricted to his own unaided judgment, which is said to have gone wrong in the explanation of his conduct. That he is given an opportunity of defence speaks of the fairness of the Viceroy to do him justice. We await further particulars. In the meantime, we will give some facts which may help to unravel the situation.

THE disgraced Rana is the adopted son of the late Maharaj Rana Prithi Singh, the 2nd Chief who reigned in Jhallawar and the great grandson of the celebrated minister Zulim Sing of Kota, in whose family the ministership was made hereditary, by a supplementary article of the Treaty of 1817, concluded, at Delhi, between the British Government and that Principality. On his relinquishing the hereditary right, Kota, in 1837, was dismembered, and a new Principality formed for Zulim. It was called Jhallawar, from Zulim Sing's family being Jhalla Rajputs, originally from the Jhallawar Division of Kutch, in Gujarat. Under the treaty, with Muddan Sing, of April 1838, the succession was limited to the descendants of Zulim Sing. But Prithi Singh, in common with all reigning chiefs, received, after the mutinies, Lord Canning's *Statute* of adoption. He died in 1875, 3 or 4 years before, he had adopted a younger son of the Chief of Wadawan. The British Government recognised the son and the adoption, and proclaimed him, under the name of Zulim Sing, Chief of Jhallawar, ignoring the protest of the Kota Chief who claimed the reversion of the Jhallawar territory on failure of heirs male of the original Zulim Sing. The then Maharaj Sattarod of Kota was himself deprived of his powers and Nawab Sir Fazilly Khan was appointed, by the Supreme Government, administrator with independent powers. A *Kharita* was addressed to the Viceroy for the rendition of Jhallawar to Kota. The Supreme Government had already decided against Kota, though Sir Lewis Pelly, the then Agent to the Governor-General for Rajputana, had, in a manner, supported its contention. He was disinclined to speak in any way against Lord Canning's policy of adoption, nevertheless he thought that a special agreement could not be superseded by a general one.

The proclaimed chief was educated in the Mayo College at Ajmer. After he was invested with powers, some years later, he refused to give an appointment to one educated at the same College and recommended by Sir Edward Bradford. The Rana's troubles now began. Shortly after, he was deprived of his powers, on the ground, that he had changed the settlement made during his minority by the British



Government. After a long rustication, he was reinvested lately, only to be disgraced the more.

BOMBAY in public meeting assembled has denounced the Cotton and Tariff Bills introduced in the Governor-General's Council. The meeting was convened by the Sheriff; Mr. R. M. Sanyal presided, and Mr. George Ketrledge moved "That this meeting protest against the proposal to re-arrange the cotton duties in such a manner that the poorer classes hitherto exempt will have to pay 3½ per cent. duty on coarse cloth manufactured in India, which forms their wearing apparel, while the rich who use the finer goods manufactured in Lancashire are relieved by the reduction of 1½ per cent. of the duty hitherto paid by them without hardship or complaint. That this meeting further protest against the wholly groundless assumption that the finances of India are in a condition to admit of the remission of half a crore of rupees, one-third of the amount of the cotton duties, in presence of the notorious fact that the Famine Insurance Fund is suspended, necessary public works are stopped throughout the Empire, while every Provincial Government in India is embarrassed and the administration impaired owing to the ever-recurring demands of the Government of India." Mr. Ketrledge advised the holding of mass meetings all over the country against the resolution of the House of Commons ordering the withdrawal of the import duties as soon as the finances of India improved. "Think of it," said he, "here is a dependency, a conquered country of three hundred millions of people, a country quite undeveloped, the people dreadfully poor, so little education that only 60 out of 1,000 have the least smattering of the learning, where in times of famine within our experience, men, women and children have died by millions and yet the British House of Commons orders, on the application of a small but influential number of its own body, that as soon as there is a sufficient surplus obtained by other means, the cotton import duties shall not be utilized for the development of the country and the advantage of its people." The resolution was unanimously adopted and a suggestion to boycott Lancashire goods was vociferously cheered. We don't know how far Bombay is prepared to take up the suggestion. Even if it were practicable, how to supply the demand?

There is opposition to the Bills from all quarters, European and Indian. The Government takes its stand on fairness to all, the equalization of duty and excise. Whether it is philanthropy to the people of India, or justice to the Indian taxpayers, these measures have always their origin in the interests of the cotton lords of England. The Indian industries may starve, let only Manchester thrive. So the Indian mills must be handicapped.

Two deputations have waited on the Finance Minister, one from Bombay and the other from Cawnpore, from the two Provinces chiefly and directly affected. But all to no purpose. The Bills must be passed on Monday.

At an inopportune moment, Mr. P. D. Mehta has resigned the membership of Council.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, February 1, 1896.

### THE NEW BENGAL POLICE.

ON the 7th December last, we spoke of the old Police. To-day we take up the new.

At the reconstruction of the new Police in Bengal in 1862-63, the patronage passed away from the hands of the Magistrates, which used to be generally exercised by the Joint-Magistrates at Head-quarters after the amalgamation of the posts of Magistrate and Collector. The District Superintendents at the outset, were mostly military officers and other Europeans having interest with the local Government. These generally believed themselves all powerful, even as the Magistrate of the District. The consequence was a bitter feeling between magisterial officers of all grades and the executive Police, the victims being usually the poor Indian Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. Those very Magistrates in charge of the old Police, who had pressed Darogas to ob-

tain confession by hook or by crook, all on a sudden, turned virtuous, and the first question from the bench was whether the confession was voluntary. Pettifogging Mukhtiaris who always take their cue from the Magistrate, prompted complaints against the investigating officer, of extorting the confession, the result being the discharge of the accused and his place in the dock being taken by the prosecuting Police officer. Many such in this way fell into trouble. Those who were fortunate enough to be acquitted by the Sessions Court, felt the serious strain on their purse. Naturally, in a short time, most of the educated men of good family, who had entered the force, in prospects of pay and promotion, left it in disgust. It was not till Sir Richard Temple's Lieutenant-Governorship, who had been on the Police Commission, that the District Superintendents were subordinated to Magistrates of districts. Sir George Campbell and Sir Charles Elliott completed the subordination. There is now a better feeling between them, though we greatly doubt if it be for the general good. Magistrates are generally known to side with the Police, even when they go wrong. Another serious evil is the lording of the Police Superintendents over the Deputy Magistrates in their judicial capacity.

The wholesale prosecution of Police officers, as we have said, denuded the force of all respectable and educated Indians. There are very few of them now in it. The residue have fully inherited the vices and the bad reputation of the old Police, hence the people are shy of coming across them. The people of Bengal are generally timid. The old Darogas never attempted to remove this timidity. Hence their conspicuous failure in the detection of thefts, house-breaking, robbery and dacoity. It was an evil day, when Government abolished the Commissionership for the suppression of Thugi and Dacoity in the Lower Provinces. Messrs. Wauchope and Ward, of the Civil Service, assisted by a Deputy Magistrate, Babu Chunder Seekur Roy, had almost exterminated the old dacoit gangs and a regular dacoity was very scarce down to 1863. Preliminary to the abolition of the department, the thin end of the wedge was inserted by appointing an uncovenanted officer, Mr. J. H. Reilly, after Mr. Ward's death, lowering its prestige, which became nil when Mr. Reilly was appointed head of the Detective Branch of the Bengal Police with one Inspector on Rs. 200 a month in some districts under him. Since then dacoity has greatly increased, specially in the metropolitan districts, committed by gangs of upcountrymen. We are not aware that any serious attempt has been made by Government to suppress this revival of an old crime.

The failure of the present Police to detect crime, is due to want of touch with the people. House-breaking, robbery and dacoity are always committed after sufficient preparations. A bad character is known to the people of every village where he resides. A meeting of accomplices in his house or his absence for the same purpose in other villages; becomes known to the villagers. An accomplice must also be secured in the village or house itself in which a crime takes place. But the Police fail to obtain any information for its detection. Receivers of stolen property are mostly bunias and sonars, who promptly melt gold and silver. In large towns, these bunias keep their shops open till 2 in the morning and the melting pots in their backyards are busy enough at late hours. Though the Police

are well aware of these misdeeds, they only levy blackmail and never bring the rich receivers to justice. One or two examples, in each town, would root out this remunerative profession in no time. But this is impossible with the *personnel* of the present force. European officers generally live so apart from the people and isolated that they obtain no reliable information to act independently of their subordinates. If they had less desk work and moved more among the people, they would better perform the legitimate functions of the Police,—the suppression and detection of crime.

Credit, however, must be given to the new Police, for suppressing latialism and organised riots, which had been so prevalent previous to 1863, between Zamindars, Indigo-planters and rayyets. They have, however, always failed to trace out thefts of all kinds, so much so, that 80 per cent. of this class of crime, remain unpunished. The old Police were better in this respect. It is, however, strange that 95 per cent. of deliberate murders come to light and are punished. Unless the Indian officers of Police mix freely with the people of both towns and villages and treat them as rational beings and not as machines to screw out money from, no reliable information can be available, regarding a crime committed or to be committed—to frustrate the machination or bring the offenders to justice. But the Police, both old and new, have always been bugbears to the people at large. Hence their failure as detectives.

The superior European officers are, with few exceptions, mere ornamental figure heads. Who ever heard of their having successfully investigated a serious theft, robbery or dacoity? Nevertheless, they are always on the move, which swell their travelling allowances. There are instances of Assistant Superintendents having drawn travelling allowances equal to their pay, while the travelling was performed on borrowed tatts. Indian subordinates, who have to travel about a good deal, are now allowed a mileage within their circles. No wonder, with their scanty pay and fixed horse allowance, they have recourse to extra pickings.

#### DR. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

##### HIS LIFE AND LETTERS.

[ Mr. Skrine has sent us for publication the accompanying letter to him from Baboo Siddheshur Mitter. The two letters from Dr. Mookerjee to Baboo Siddheshur form enclosures of the letter to Mr. Skrine.—ED. R. & R.]

To—F. H. Skrine, Esqr.

16th January, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—It does not become one in my humble position to thrust himself uninvited on the time and attention of a hard-worked official like yourself, specially, when the few moments that he can snatch from business, must naturally be wedded to rank and position similar to his. But by writing a book, you have, I venture

#### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Bibu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Monday, the 3rd Inst., at 4 P.M. *Subject*: Manganese, Nickel, Cobalt and Zinc.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., on Tuesday, the 4th Inst., at 6 to 8 P.M. *Subjects*: Histology—Large and small Intestines; Physiology—Alimentation.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Bibu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Wednesday, the 5th Inst., at 4 P.M. *Subject*: Barium, Strontium, Calcium.

Lecture by Babu Syamadas Mukerjee, M.A., on Thursday, the 6th Inst., at 3 P.M. *Subject*: Analytical Conics.—Trilinear equations of the first degree.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Thursday, the 6th Inst., at 6 P.M. *Subject*: Volta-electric and Magneto-electric Induction.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Bibu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Friday, the 7th Inst., at 4 P.M. *Subject*: Potassium, Iodine, Ammonium, and Magnesium.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

February 1, 1896.

to think, laid yourself amenable to all sorts of criticism and communication, and I dare say, you are prepared to waste some valuable time over them. Besides, the generous but nonetheless vigorous defence of the Bengali character with which, permit me to observe, you have had the courage to usher your maiden (as I think) performance to the literary world, emboldens a Bengali to tread forbidden ground with less fear and caution.

I have read with great interest your excellent biography of Dr. Mookerjee. What with an admiration for the deceased that never knew waning, every line of your precious volume I have read with feelings of gratitude for its author. But I shall leave praise aside and proceed to business.

I think if some more little incidents connected with his life—little anecdotes I mean—than what are already in print, were given, they would materially add to the popularity of the book. I think Jogesh and Kisari Bibus can give you a lot. I am glad to hear that a second edition is necessary and will be soon taken in hand, and I have no doubt advantage will be taken to add to the matter.

You have done me honour by publishing a letter of mine written to Jogesh Bibu on receipt of the sad news of Dr. Mookerjee's death. I really feel quite flattered over it—not because I have figured in print, but because I should be associated with a friend and well-wisher even after his death. I can only find two letters of Dr. Mookerjee addressed to me. I enclose them herewith in original with copies. Kindly return me the originals when no longer required, as I should be sorry to part with them. The copies I have supplemented with notes to enable you to properly understand the letters. I have no idea of course if you will consider it worth your while to publish these letters in the next edition. One of them is important, however, as showing a bit of his mind as influenced by the shameful prosecution he had to undergo for libel. You have, I see, avoided this altogether. But would not that lead an ingenuous critic to think that you have avoided the thing because you could not defend it?—I mean Dr. Mookerjee's conduct in writing the libellous paragraph at all. At one time I used to be well acquainted with the ins and outs of the thing, but I have got such a bad memory that I have forgotten all about it now, except that I was convinced at the time that Dr. Mookerjee was blameless. Whether he was blameless because the matter was forced upon him in a manner there was no escaping it, or because he honestly thought he was doing a public duty (as he says in his 2nd letter to me), I cannot remember—I think, however, that those behind the scenes were satisfied that Dr. Mookerjee did not act maliciously. My idea is that if this somewhat unpleasant matter be given a place in his biography, as like everything else connected with his life it should be (unless the object of biographies is to paint not what a man was but what he should have been), it would not require much effort at special pleading to bring him spotless out of it. I had once well-nigh got him entangled in a suit for libel. [After detailing how the matter referred to appeared in *Reis*, the correspondent continues] The Zamindar thereupon deputed some of his chief amla to visit Dr. Mookerjee and insist upon an unqualified apology, threatening criminal prosecution in case he refused. I was present at most of these interviews that the delegates of the Zamindar had with Dr. Mookerjee, he was firm as a rock and would not eat his own words. He was satisfied that the source I had got the information from was perfectly reliable and he resolved to face all the terrors of a criminal prosecution rather than give the lie to himself. Failing to attain their object by alternately coaxing and threatening him, the Zamindar's people suggested that he should, in justice to the man maligned, thoroughly investigate into the matter by sending a man to the scene of action to make local enquiries, &c. Dr. Mookerjee was by no means wanting in a strong sense of justice, and he readily consented to this. They proposed that L. should be entrusted with the enquiry. I don't know or cannot now remember if he was known to Dr. Mookerjee, but any way he did not object to L.'s going to enquire into the matter. The Zamindar's people left for their place with L. and returned to Calcutta about a month after, L. assuring that he had enquired very minutely but had failed to find an atom of truth in the accusation. The amla thought they had checkmated Dr. Mookerjee and rather strongly demanded the apology. Dr. Mookerjee was not satisfied with the manner in which L. had proceeded on his errand and was not convinced that the report published in *Reis* was not correct. If he were to do anything, he said, there must be a fresh enquiry. It was not pressed, and Mookerjee gave the Zamindar's men distinctly to understand that he would not apologise although other journals, including a notable one, which had quoted him, expressed their regret to the Zamindar and withdrew the imputation. The men returned to their place and neither Dr. Mookerjee nor the public heard anything about the threatened legal proceedings. I have narrated this event somewhat in detail to show Dr. Mookerjee's love of truth and honesty on the one hand and his firmness on the other.

I venture to remark that your book does not contain quite as many little anecdotes about Dr. Mookerjee as would make it more interesting and show to greater advantage Dr. Mookerjee's

likes, dislikes, &c. I dare say Kisai and Jogesh Babus and others could give you heaps. I can now remember only one. There was an Evening Party at Government House, the last I believe, of Lord Dufferin's, when Lord Connemara, the Governor of Madras, was present. Well, at the Party the Viceroy introduced Dr. Mookerjee to Lord Connemara. After the usual courtesies were interchanged and Lord Connemara had complimented Dr. Mookerjee upon the excellence of *Reis and Rayyet*, the Governor asked Dr. Mookerjee what class of Mahomedan he was, i. e., whether Shia or Sunni. Thinking that his dress had misled him, Dr. Mookerjee quietly replied that he was not a Moslem, but a Brahman. This would not satisfy the Governor. When again Dr. Mookerjee said his country was Bengal, Lord Connemara laughed aloud remarking that he had great regard for the learned Editor's wit, which he must reserve for his paper, but he, the Governor, who comes from the land of Brahmans in Maharashtra, was not to be thus befooled. He knew better. In vain would Dr. Mookerjee assert that he was a Brahman of Bengal and a Brahman of Brahmans. Lord Connemara, like Sir Auckland Colvin previously, had fallen into the same error about the nationality of Dr. Mookerjee. Sir Auckland had said that it was not Mookerjee's dress that had led him to think that Mookerjee was a Moslem--it was his face, his features, every lineament of which proclaimed in unmistakable terms his birth from old Moslem stock. The situation was very amusing and poor Dr. Mookerjee did not know how to prove his parentage to the unbelieving official. Thrown on his wits, Mookerjee could only remember that one of his ancestors had been to Delhi. This was a settler. "There now, didn't I tell you you were a Mahomedan? You must have sprung from the Moslem stock of Delhi. You may be a Brahman now--but you must have been a Moghul at one time. I can always make out a Mahomedan from the face." This was, as far as I am aware, one of the few occasions on which Dr. Mookerjee was checkmated. His powers of conversation and his wit were of such a high order that it would require extraordinary skill to turn the talk on him in a discussion like this.

Dr. Mookerjee was a regular store-house of amusing and interesting stories, and one could sit listening to him for hours. I generally used to go to him by nightfall and often sat listening to him till 2 in the morning--when he would rise for his dinner! I had often to go without mine, till one day when, being hard pressed to stay for sometime longer as I was bidding good night at about ten, I told him that on several occasions I had gone without dinner, he reproached me for not telling him that my staying till 1 or 2 A.M. meant fasting, and since then whenever I stayed late I used to have dinner there.

I hope to be pardoned for the length of this letter, for I am sure to a busy man like you it would mean unnecessary waste of time.

Yours truly,  
SIDDHESHUR MITTER.

From Dr. Mookerjee to Baboo Siddheshur Mitter.

September 29, 1888, 1-30 A.M.

MY DEAR SIDDHESHUR,--I received your circular\* diplomatique, but we have no space for circulars of any kind. It has appeared in the proper quarters, not excepting the \* \* Notwithstanding, it will not go down with the public.

Your last circular in *propria persona* is lying before me. I regret I can make no use of it. It wants the essential elements of a proper piece of news of the kind. The minutology of such mementos is an interesting enquiry--the numismatics are indispensable.

I am glad for Pratap's sake that Lord Dufferin has been so good as to give him a medal by way of a *souvenir*. But I cannot publish the fact without more details. It is no use pretending to tell others what you do not yourself know well enough. At any rate, this is my principle and rule of conduct.

Your Beames' interview† will appear shortly. I am still inclined to defer it till the landing of Lansdowne, our next Providence.

\* This relates to a printed letter I had addressed almost every newspaper in India suggesting some public memorial to Sir Charles Aitchison.

† Hearby hangs a rather amusing tale--but it does not affect Dr. Mookerjee's life in any way. Pratap Chandra Roy and myself had our last interview with Lord Dufferin in Simla, in July 1888 I think. We asked him for a certain favour which being refused, I had to bring His Excellency round by a bit of shuffling and the result was a medal. The newspapers said P. C. Roy was the first recipient of the retiring Governor-General's favour, &c., but it was reserved for Dr. Mookerjee with his extraordinary shrewdness to detect something below the surface.

‡ This refers to a somewhat stormy interview I had with Mr. Beames at Bhagalpur soon after his transfer there as Commissioner from the Board of Revenue. I had written an amusing account of it. It was not inspired by any ill feeling. It however never saw the light of day. I think I subsequently withdrew it--or Dr. Mookerjee rejected it as ungenerous.

You must be delightfully enjoying life--always on the move, untouched by *ennui*, a daily and nightly guest of the well-to-do and opulent, a stranger to responsibility or care, endowed with boundless health and spirits and appetite adequate to the demands of a Herculean frame. Yours is the very ideal of a life of happiness.

And yet, for all that, there may lurk a skeleton in the elegant and polished cupboard.

Yours sincerely,  
SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

Dr. Mookerjee to Mr. Mitter.

25th August, 1890.

MY DEAR SIDDHESHUR,--I am afraid I have kept you in suspense too long. You certainly expected an answer to your long letter of the 3rd, even if you were disappointed as regards the appearance in "*Reis and Rayyet*" of the literary communication\* accompanying. If I do not write, you would at any rate hear from the office, directly or indirectly. For you are a man of the world, Mr. Mitter--using the term in the innocent sense, that in which I regard myself a man of the world--and you did not end your long despatch, personal, social, and legal, without a business reference. After the tactics of young misses, my young bachelor reserved his unerring dart for the postscript.† But alas! though my man of the world's understanding appreciated the prudence of thus introducing the matter instead of writing a separate letter to the manager, my unbusinesslike ways, or to speak more accurately, the chaos on my table, spoiled the whole game. So far from getting any reply or seeing your article in print, you did not get your subscribed copy of *Reis*.

26th August.

Now your despatch has turned up, you may be sure of an account in the office of "*Reis and Rayyet*" from August 1890--for that is an advantage--whether your MS. be published or not. Your copy is safe, though your "copy" may be suppressed--if that poor pun be any consolation to you. Don't sulk, my dear fellow, I shall try to humour you. I confess I have a sneaking liking for you with all your youthful pranks and peccadilloes. And I like Premiks and Premikas and always do my best to encourage love and letters. I have from a long time past been expecting to see educated ladies shaming the male man into earnest study in order to maintain his position and elevating the tone of our society. I am thankful to God for sparing me to see the bright day dawn at last unmistakably. The review will probably appear this week, which will be mighty early considering that friend Malabari's *Gujrat and Gujraiti* has only just been noticed in the third edition received early last year--after his second had been entirely ignored!

I have already tired you I am afraid, and have certainly not left enough space for entering at proper length on the subject of the late shameful prosecution of *Reis and Rayyet*. You know all about it. You say you know one of my enemies. There you are modest--certainly mistaken. I know you know many. I know you fellows I all were fanning ashes into flame. You of a place which has been called a "Fari Khana," though without a drop of "Fari," were in ecstasies at the prospect of the ruin of a paper the like of which, according to European opinion, has never been produced in India, and of the imprisonment and consequent death in all likelihood of a man who has sacrificed himself to the public good and for an example to his countrymen of a quiet, honest citizen life, according to his lights, and who had never done any of you harm, had never molested any one at all, unless by speaking the truth in the general interest. You talk of admiring *Reis and Rayyet*. I am afraid you are only tickled by the jokes--at most pleased with the literature--but you miss the soul that breathes through the writing. You have not understood the personality which expresses itself in the words. Had you imbibed the spirit of the paper you would have been a better man--you would have shown more enthusiasm of soul--a more earnest sense of duty. You would have sympathized with the spirit in which the obituary notices which were seized upon by strangers as a splendid opportunity for crushing paper and editor, and you would have done your best to prevent the conspiracy, or, if unable to do that, to reduce its numerical strength, of at any rate to vindicate within the circle of your influence the good faith of the writer. It was your host of miscellaneous, irresponsible

\* This refers to a short review, since published, of "*Pramila*," a book of poems written by a young Bengali girl.

† In the P. S. I asked him to have my name registered in his office as a subscriber to *Reis and Rayyet*.

‡ I am sure, at all events hope, that he was not in earnest when he included me among his enemies.

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croakers and calumniators that inflicted the real wrong by . . . I was terribly prejudiced all round. I would not, under any circumstances, call in Hindu ladies to save myself, though many advisers, including Wilson of the *Daily News*, remonstrated with me for my maudlin sentiment or conservatism. . . . My only consolation is that the leading men of the bar gradually came to learn that . . . and that I had no personal feeling in taking up my pen but wrote entirely in the public interest.

What shall I say of your dogmatizing on a matter in which after my own heart I was guided by the best lawyers in Calcutta? You think this, that, and t'other! What! are you greater than Bonnerjee or the Advocate General?

You say it was not my good policy to go up to the High Court. Surely no giant of a Mitter is needed to tell me that. Why, my own health, if nothing else, admonished me to have done with the nonsense as quickly as possible. My own counsel at the Police Court pressed me repeatedly to submit to the court. But then I thought not of policy, but of honour and truth and the public good. Believe it or not, even at that hour—that critical moment, when I expected every moment to swoon on the floor from the suffocating atmosphere of the court, I thought of perhaps an unworthy world—I was anxious to leave a good example of fortitude and rectitude. I was anxious that my friends might not have to blush for me. Yes, if there were a personal regard, it was a wish not to tarnish my reputation under the pressure of persecution aggravated by ill health and financial strain. Alas! the glory of the stand I made has been wholly lost upon even educated Bengalis like your good self.

Yours most sincerely,  
SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

#### AN INDIAN JOURNALIST.\*

(From the *Calcutta University Magazine*, January, 1896.)

It is an eminently readable volume that Mr. Skrine has produced. The life story, as told by him in the form of a study, is one of entrancing interest. We read it through at a sitting. Mr. Skrine's mode of telling it is really admirable. If the common Anglo-Indian biographies (like Shadwell's *Chyde* or Goldsmid's *Outram*) were written with a tithe of his skill, they would not have fallen still-born from the press. Only one flaw we can detect; it is that he is too often in the moralising vein. The disquisitions on biography, on letter-writing, on heredity, &c., are mere digressions, and are singularly out of place in a life of 71 pages only.

Sambhu Chunder's letters have an unique charm. They have a flavour all their own. No one who had read his enormous sentences and carefully chosen unfamiliar phrases in *Reis & Rayyet*, could have imagined that its editor could write such delightful prose.

In fact, in these letters he lays down his gigantic turban and his cumbersome *choga*, and appears in the plain clothes of a kindly-hearted, scholarly old man. As he himself wrote to a young correspondent: "Friendly letters, to my mind, ought not to be stately narratives, or rigidly construed statements, or elaborate arguments. They should be of the nature of familiar intercourse. For my part, I love to talk with you through the post, giving myself up to the bent of the hour or the suggestion of the moment."

There is one feature which makes these letters of peculiar value to our young men. It is their extremely simple and idiomatic diction. Sambhu Chunder consciously laboured for this end. "I have penned through the word 'accustomed,' not because it is in any way wrong or inaccurate or infelicitous, but because I wished to show that a simpler word would do, and be perhaps more expressive because it is downright English, which the other is not. . . . I wished to present another example to the youth, which is naturally fascinated by the music of voluminous words and of rolling periods, in order to give it confidence in its knowledge and taste" (pp. 149-150). This is a lesson which our young men, especially the writers of our college correspondence, would do well to lay to heart.

Another delightful feature of these letters is that they are strewn over with specimens of Dr. Mookerjee's subtle humour.

We give a few of the shorter passages which I am sure the reader will enjoy:—

(i) "I fear that, like Napoleon the Great, I am too much given to asking questions. You may answer at leisure, or not at all" (p. 153).

(ii) "But it is time enough to send you an assurance that your correspondent lives" (p. 152).

(iii) "Sir Walter Scott said to his dear son-in-law—'Be a good man, John!' Easier said than done, might Lockhart reply. The difficulty is about the way. The Rishis, ancient and modern, are usually silent" (p. 164).

\* *An Indian Journalist*: being the Life, Letters, and Correspondence of Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee late Editor of "Reis and Rayyet" Calcutta. By F. H. Skrine, J.C.S., Calcutta: Thacker, Spink & Co. 1895.

(iv) "I am naturally a very mild man, as I believe most brave men are" (p. 251).

(v) "No longer the formidable White Mogul of all India, you may be loved without high treason or low suspicion. . . . The most gushing sentiment from the Antipodes cannot be very dangerous." Letter to Lord Dufferin (p. 332).

These letters contain much information about Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee's inner man, and, indeed, they look like a Boswell's *Life of Johnson* in an epistolary form. They also contain a good deal of the private thoughts of men who have made their mark in Indian history. All these causes combine to make these letters very delightful reading. We could not help going through dozens of pages every time that we opened the book, and we can confidently recommend it to our readers.

Of Mr. Skrine's work, we shall say only a few words. To him it was a labour of love, and he has done it very well indeed. He deserves the thanks of the Bengali community for making one of their members known to the civilised world. If Europeans ever come to respect Indians it will be from reading lives like these. Mr. Skrine's introduction to the letters is excellent. We notice one serious inaccuracy only: the controversy as to the authorship of the *Vasudeva Vijaya* has not been stated with impartial fulness. The photograph of Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee, which forms the frontispiece, has been very finely executed. The printing does credit to the *Bee* press. Indeed, in the course of a hurried reading, we could discover three mistakes only, viz., "vour's" p. xxvii (probably *sic in orig.*) "guage" (p. 69) and "ormal" (p. 150). There are two changes for which the book would have been the better. The index ought to have been placed at the back of the volume, and Mr. Skrine's "head pieces" to the several letters might well have been printed in a different type from the letters themselves—as in Froude's *Life of Carlyle*.

We heartily wish that the book would run into a second edition, though we are afraid its price would stand in the way of any large sale. As all profits from this book are to go to the late doctor's family, it would be a disgrace to our countrymen if it does not command a wide circulation.

#### MARK TWAIN INTERVIEWED IN BOMBAY.

In the course of an interview with a *Times of India* representative, Mark Twain gave an account of some early experiences:—

"How did I make my first start in journalism you ask? Well I first stumbled into it as a man falls over a precipice that he is not looking for. I wasn't, as far as I could see, intended for a journalist, but out in Nevada in those early silver days it was a struggle—a scramble from pillar to post—and one had to get a living as best he could. I was invited to take a place on the staff of a daily newspaper there—the *Territorial Enterprise*—and I took it. I should have taken command of a ship if it had been offered, for I wasn't particular in those days. I had had no training, but yet they offered me the post of first officer, not the chief editor, but a subordinate post, and I remained in the journalistic profession for four years in Nevada and San Francisco together. On the *Territorial Enterprise* I was what they called the City Editor. It was a large title, but the pay was not correspondingly great, in fact, the name was merely for style, in reality the City Editor should have been called the local reporter. The post was, so to speak, flung at me. I didn't ask for it. There was a chief editor, a news-editor, and a telegraphic-editor, and in those days they gathered in from the San Francisco and Sacramento papers a good part of the reading matter of the journal. We were expected and supposed to furnish facts pure and simple for the columns of the *Enterprise*, but there were not facts enough to fill the required space, and so often the reading material was largely a matter of imagination—sometimes based on fact, but not always. After about four years in these parts I went off to the Sandwich Islands to write a series of letters concerning the sugar industry there for the *Sacramento Union*. I was gone about five or six months, and when I came back I concluded to deliver a lecture or two on the Sandwich Islands, and I did so. It seemed an easier way of making a living than by journalism; it paid better, and there was less work connected with it, so I dropped journalism and took to the lecturer's platform for two or three years. Then I went on an extended tour in Europe, which lasted for five or six months, and when I returned I was asked to write a book. I did so, and from that time on I have written books mainly. Up to the present I have stepped out of silver-mining—that, by the way, was my first start in Nevada—into journalism, from journalism into lecturing, and from lecturing into book-making, each of these steps being not forced in any way, but the one leading to the next by a sort of natural sequence."

#### METHOD OF LITERARY WORK.

The conversation having turned to his method of work, Mr. Clemens remarked: "I work very regularly when I work at all. I work every day and all day from after breakfast till late into the



night until the work is finished. I never begin to work before eleven in the morning, and I sit at it till they pull me away from table to dress for dinner at seven at night. They make me stop then for a while, as they think I might overwork myself, but I don't think there is any fear of that, for I don't consider the kind of writing I do is work in any way: it is in no sense a labour with me. The mere physical work would not hurt me or anyone else, you can sleep that off. The mental part of it is nothing but amusement; it's not work. I always write my own copy. I have tried a type-writer and also a phonograph, but I couldn't get along with either."

"You do not find dictation any help then?"

"I couldn't learn the art. I could conceive that for commercial correspondence it would be easy to do, but there's no inspiration about that. There's nothing to help inspiration or whatever you may call it, like the sight of your own work as it goes along. I am not a very rapid worker, but when I sit down to it I get through a fair amount in a day. For instance take 'The Innocents Abroad': it contains 650 octavo pages with about 200,000 words on them. That book I wrote in a good deal of a hurry, and that's the only book I ever wrote in a hurry. The contract compelled me to furnish the manuscript complete on a certain date, therefore I worked every day from one o'clock in the afternoon till midnight, and I got it finished in sixty-two days. I must have written on an average 3,000 words per day."

"What do you find most helpful in your work?"

"Tobacco," replied Mr. Clemens, picking up a capacious briar-root pipe, which was kept busily engaged as he paced up and down the room, enveloped in a thick cloud of smoke. "I always smoke when at work; I couldn't do without it, I smoke by necessity. I did stop smoking once for a year and a-quarter but in that year and a-quarter I didn't write any thing. I have no works in contemplation just now, but as soon as I get at leisure I shall go to work again. There are two or three things I want to write and I may---no doubt shall---write some sort of book on this excursion, but I always leave myself quite free in these matters. I never make any promises to myself or anybody else, because I don't like being hampered by the feeling that something has to be done when perhaps I am not in the mood to do it."

Passing from Mark Twain's own works to those of other authors, the name of Rudyard Kipling was mentioned. "I have met him several times," said Mr. Clemens, "and I like him very much. I admire his work prodigiously. There is no question as to his genius: that must be confessed by everyone. He has genius and plenty of it, and if there is any fault found with him it can only be as to the accuracy of his presentation of Indian matters. There is sure to be criticism of detail; every author has to put up with that. His accuracy of detail may be criticised here, but we in other parts take his accuracy for granted. We don't know anything about that, and besides we don't read his work for fact anyhow; we read it for the pleasure of it. I have an amazing fondness for his 'Plain Tales,' and I think that some of his ballad work is inimitable; I don't see how anyone could possibly surpass it."

#### MEMORISING THE LECTURES.

To an interviewer from the *Bombay Gazette*, Mark Twain confided something as to his lecturing method:—

"Then I presume you prepare carefully for your lectures?"

"Yes, I am not for one moment going to pretend I do not. I don't believe that any public man has ever attained success as a lecturer to paid audiences (mark the qualification), who has not carefully prepared, and has not gone over every sentence again and again until the whole thing is fixed upon his memory. I write my lectures, and try to memorise them, but I don't always succeed. If I had a better memory it would be worse in some respects, for when one has to fill up an ellipsis on the spot, there is a spontaneity about the thing which is considerable relief. I ought really to write the whole thing beforehand, but I don't do it, as I prefer to use material which has appeared in my books. The extracts, however, are seldom exactly the same as they are printed, but are adapted to circumstances."

"No, I don't localise, because to do that you want to be well posted up, and know exactly what you are about. You must be exactly prepared beforehand. I never pretend that I don't indent on my books for my lectures, for there is no object in doing that. It is all very well to talk about not being prepared and trusting to the spirit of the hour. But a man cannot go from one end of the world to the other, no matter how great his reputation may be and stand before paid houses in various large cities without finding that his tongue is far less glib than it used to be. He might hold audiences spell bound with unpremeditated oratory in past days

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when nothing was charged to hear him, but he cannot rely on being able to do so when they have paid for their seats and require something for the money unless he thinks all out beforehand.

"You ask me whether my memory has deserted me on the platforms sometimes? Yes, it has sometimes entirely. And the worst of it is that, as I prefer to select things from my books, my remarks are often in the narrative form, and if you lose yourself in the narrative it is not very comfortable, because a tale should have an end somewhere. Still I have generally managed to get out of the difficulty some way or other. It is really very curious to see what a man can do on the platform without the audience suspecting anything to be wrong. A case in point occurred in Paris a year ago. I began some opening remarks at one of my 'At Homes' there with an anecdote, as for some reason or another I wanted to fill up the time. I began telling the anecdote, but I found when half-way that my memory regarding it had gone. So I switched on to another line, and was soon leaving the half-told anecdote far behind. My wife and daughter were present. And I afterwards asked them whether they remembered the breakdown. They replied in the negative. I then asked whether they heard the finish of the anecdote with which I had begun my remarks, and they at once replied they had not. As you say, if anyone would be likely to discover a flaw, it would be my wife or my daughter, and when I found that they were unaware of the defect, I was quite satisfied that the audience in general knew nothing about it."

#### OUR REGARDS TO MR. RUSSELL.

THE writer of these lines hereby tenders to Mr. W. Clark Russell the assurance of his thanks and appreciation. I have always loved sea stories, and those of Mr. Russell stand at the head of their class. From "The Wreck of the Grosvenor" to "List, Ye Landsmen!" I have read them all. Yet salt water, and the things thereon and therein, are not the only things he knows about; not by many degrees of latitude.

In his last book he makes a sailor talk thus: "I have suffered from the liver in my time, and know what it is to have *felt mad*. I say I have known moments when I could scarce restrain myself from breaking windows, kicking at the shins of all who approached me, knocking my head against the wall, yelling with the yell of one who drops in a fit and all the while my brain was as healthy as the healthiest that ever filled a human skull, and nothing was wanted but a musketry of calomel pills to dislodge the fiend," &c., &c.

So much for what Mr. Russell's sailor (or Mr. Russell himself) says and there are plenty of people who can testify that this is not a bit overdrawn. One fact in particular it helps us to realise, namely, that the life of a sailor does not guarantee good health. Indigestion and dyspepsia—of which liver complaint is a sequence and a symptom—is as common among sailors as among landmen.

One of the latter, however, may now tell of his experience. "All my life," he says, "I had suffered from biliousness and sick headaches. I would have an attack about every three weeks. At such times my appetite left me, and I could neither eat nor drink for days together. I suffered from dreadful sickness and straining, and vomited a greenish-yellow fluid. My head felt as though it would burst. I had a bad taste in the mouth, sallow skin, and the whites of the eyes turned yellow. I was recommended to adopt vegetarian diet, and did so, but the attacks were just as frequent and violent. I consulted doctors and took their medicines, but was none the better for it. In this way I went on year after year."

Well, we shall agree that there could scarcely be a worse way to go on, and it all came about this: The overworked stomach put more work on the liver than the latter could do. Indignation and disgust at this the liver refused to do a stroke more than its proper share. Hence more bile accumulated in the blood than the liver was able to remove. This surplus bile acts as a slow poison—and not so very slow either. The tongue is furred, the head aches and feels dull and heavy; the eyes and skin are greenish-yellow, there is dizziness and nausea; cold hands and feet; spots before the eyes; a pungent, biting fluid rises into the throat; constipation; high coloured kidney secretion; prostrated nerves; irritability; loss of ambition; fears and forebodings, &c., &c.

This is "biliousness" or "liver complaint" in its simplest form. When long unchecked it produces irregular action of the heart, rheumatism, gout, and any, or all, of a dozen other organic disorders. There is no more certain or powerful impulse to misbehaviour; suicide and other crimes often resulting.

What to do? To get rid of the poison by starting the skin and bowels into energetic action; then to keep them going at a healthy and natural gait. How to do this? Let our friend Mr. F. Widger, 4, Portland Square, Plymouth—whom we have just quoted—speak on that point.

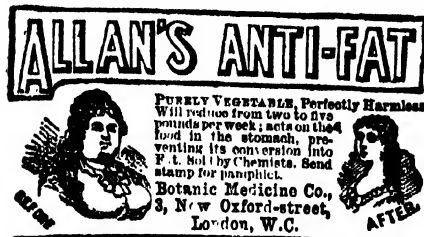
In his letter, dated March 3rd, 1893, he adds:

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We should mention that Mr. Widger is a tailor and outfitter at Plymouth, and well known and respected in that community. He permits us to use his name out of gratitude for his recovery. The potency of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup over liver disease is due to its ability to cure indigestion and dyspepsia, which is (as we have said) the cause of liver disease.

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**AN INDIAN JOURNALIST:**

Life, Letters and Correspondence

OF

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late Editor of "Reis and Rayyet,"

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 (Collector of Customs, Calcutta.)

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 to Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
 from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
 to Banerjee, Babu Saodaprasad.  
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 to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
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 to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
 to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from  
 Abdus Subhan, Moulvi A. K. M.  
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 Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
 Banerjee, Babu Mannathanath.  
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Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
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 Sanyal, Babu Dinabundho.  
 Sivito Library.

Tippura, the Bara Thakur of.  
 Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
 Vizianagram, the Maharaja of.

## POSTSCRIPT.

After paying the expenses of the publication the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal of the family of the deceased man of letters.

Orders to be made to the Business Manager, "An Indian Journalist," at the Bee Press, 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October, 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that is set so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahmin of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, and some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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*Scientific American.*

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OFFICE: 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 711.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY

### THE PURPLE EAST.

BY WILLIAM WATSON.

Never, O craven England, nevermore  
Prate thou of generous effort righteous aim !  
Betrayed of a People, know thy shame !  
Summer hath passed, and Autumn's threshing floor  
Been winnowed ; Winter at Armenia's door  
Snarls like a wolf ; and still the sword and flame  
Sleep not ; *thou only* sleepest ; and the same  
Cry unto Heaven ascends as heretofore ;  
And the red stream thou might'st have stanch'd, yet runs ;  
And o'er the earth there sounds no trumpet's tone  
To shake the ignoble torpor of thy sons ;  
But with indifferent eyes they watch, and see  
Hell's regent sitting yonder, propped by thee,  
Abdul the Damned, on his infernal throne.

You in high places ; you that drive the seeds  
Of Empire ; you that say unto our hosts,  
" Go thither," and they go ; and from our coasts  
Bid sail the squadrons, and they sail, their deeds  
Shaking the world : lo ! from a land that pleads  
For mercy where no mercy is, the ghosts  
Look in upon you faltering at your posts—  
Upbraid you parleying while a People bleeds  
To death. What stays the thunder in your hand ?  
A fear for England ? Can her pillared fane  
Only on faith forsworn securely stand,  
On faith forsworn that murders babes and men ?  
Are such the terms of Glory's tenure ? Then  
Fall her accursed greatness, in God's name !

Heaped in their ghastly graves they lie, the breeze  
Sickening o'er fields where others vainly wait  
For burial : and the butchers keep high state  
In silken palaces of perfumed ease.  
The panther of the desert, matched with these,  
Is pitiful ; beside their lust and hate,  
Fire and the plague-wind are compassionate,  
And soft the deadliest fangs of ravening seas.  
How long shall they be borne ? Is not the cup  
Of crime yet full ? Doth devildom still lack  
Some consummating crown, that we hold back  
The scourge, and in Christ's borders give them room ?  
How long shall they be borne, O England ? Up,  
Tempest of God, and sweep them to their doom !

**DEAFNESS.** An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

I had not thought to hear it voiced so plain,  
Uttered so forthright, on their lips who steer  
This nation's course : I had not thought to hear  
That word re-echoed by an English thane,  
Guilt's maiden speech when first a man lay slain,  
" Am I my brother's keeper ? " Yet full near  
It sounded, and the syllables rang clear  
As the immortal rhetoric of Cain.  
" Wherefore should *we*, sirs, more than they—or they—  
Unto these helpless reach a hand to save ? "  
An English thane, in this our English air,  
Speaking for England ? Then indeed her day  
Slopes to its twilight, and for Honour there  
Is needed but a requiem, and a grave.

O towering Daughter, titan of the West,  
Behind a thousand leagues of foam secure ;  
Thou toward whom our inmost heart is pure  
Of ill intent : although thou threatenest  
With most unfilial hand thy mother's breast,  
Not for one breathing-space may Earth endure  
The thought of War's intolerable cure  
For such vague pains as vex to-day thy rest !  
But if thou hast more strength than thou canst spend  
In tasks of Peace, and find'st her yoke too tame,  
Help us to smite the cruel, to befriend  
The succourless, and put the false to shame.  
So shall the ages laud thee, and thy name  
Be lovely among nations to the end.

Still, on Life's loom, the infernal warp and weft  
Woven each hour ! Still, in august renown,  
A great realm watching, under God's great frown !  
Ever the same ! The little children cleft  
In twain : the little tender maidens reft  
Of maidenhood ! And through a little town  
A stranger journeying, wrote this record down,  
" In all the place there was not one man left."  
O friend, the sudden lightning of whose pen  
Makes Horror's countenance visible afar,  
And Desolation's face familiar,  
I think this very England of my ken  
Is wonderous like that little town, where are  
In all the streets and houses no more men

—*The Westminster Gazette.*

**DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED !** Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, A. H. S. Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE Select Committee on the Cotton Duties Bill agreed to the following provision:—

"No duty shall be levied under this Act on any goods which at the commencement of this Act are upon the premises of any mill and are ready for issue therefrom, either without undergoing any further process, or after being made up into bales or packets:

Provided that a list of such goods be made up and deposited with the Collector within seven days from the commencement of this Act.

(2).—The returns of the production of such goods prepared under section 8 of this Act shall be separate from those of other goods."

The Select Committee report:

"There is now to be leviable an uniform duty of three-and-a-half per cent. *ad valorem* on cotton goods produced in British India with power to apply tariff valuations as in the case of customs-duties.

We have, at the instance of the millowners, provided that the returns of goods produced shall be rendered once in each month instead of twice.

We have made additions to section 16, respecting inspections of mills, for the purpose of protecting secrets pertaining to trade processes.

We have amplified sections 28 and 29, relating to the taking of samples, by enabling the Government to prescribe, when necessary, what are to be deemed to be sufficient samples, and owners to require that any sample taken at a mill shall be delivered to the Collector in a sealed cover.

We have added a section (41) providing that no duty shall be levied under the proposed Act on any goods which at the commencement of the Act are upon the premises of any mill and are ready for issue therefrom.

We do not think that the measure has been so altered as to require re-publication, and we recommend that it be passed as now amended.

J. Westland.  
Alex. Edw. Miller.  
C. B. Pritchard.  
J. D. Rees.  
G. P. Glendinning.  
P. Playfair.  
G. P. Glendinning.  
P. Playfair."

We dissent from the recommendation that the Bill be passed.

Thus all of the Committee sign the report. But the two non-official members, in a separate note, do not agree with the recommendation to pass the Bill. In pursuance of the same plan of protest and non-opposition, at the final debate on Monday, while objecting to the policy of Government, they agreed to the measure without voting against the motion to pass the Bill.

FOLLOWING the suggestion thrown out at the Bombay mixed meeting of Natives and Europeans, Poona, by way of practical protest against the excise on coarse cotton cloths, at a native meeting, on Feb. 2, of 2,000 persons, resolved that all Indians should wear cotton goods manufactured in the country. The Poona patriots are practical men. But do they believe the scheme feasible, to say nothing about the other objections?

THERE is a proposal to bridge the Mahanady at Cuttack, to link the Bengal-Nagpur with the East Coast Railway.

AN order having passed for the tindal or the man in charge of a boat to wear, after the manner of the gariwallas, a badge, the boatmen of Karachi have struck work. Pending a settlement and to prevent public inconvenience as much as possible, the Port Trust are plying their boats free.

THE Convocation of the Calcutta University comes off on Saturday, the 22nd February, at 3 P. M.

WE give below the dates of the University Examinations for the year 1897:—

The Entrance, 28th and 29th January and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd February.

The F. A., ... 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th March.

The B. A., ... 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 15th March.

The M. A., Premaund Roychand Studentship, B. L., and Honours in Law Examinations of the current year will be held on the 16th November next and following days. The re-examination of the unsuccessful candidates at the 2nd L. M. S. Examination will commence on the 16th November, 1896.

DURING January, 45,347 persons visited the Indian Museum, that is, 1,417 male and 480 female Europeans, and 31,882 male and 11,568

female Natives of India, at a daily average of 2,155 during the 21 public days.

MR. W. Griffiths goes on six months' leave. Professor A. Pedler acts for him as Principal of the Presidency College.

THE holidays of the year prescribed for the Court of Small Causes of Calcutta, are:

|                                                                                          |     |                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| New Year's Day ...                                                                       | ... | January 1st.            |
| Sri Panchami ...                                                                         | ... | " 20th and 21st.        |
| Dole Jatra ...                                                                           | ... | February 28th.          |
| Eed-ul-Fitr ...                                                                          | ... | March 16th and 17th.    |
| Good Friday ...                                                                          | ... | April 3rd and 4th.      |
| Chaitra Sankranti ...                                                                    | ... | " 11th.                 |
| Id-uz-Zuha ...                                                                           | ... | May 25th and 26th.      |
| Dasahara ...                                                                             | ... | June 20th.              |
| Mohurram ...                                                                             | ... | " 22nd to 24th.         |
| Patihā Dawazdahum ...                                                                    | ... | August 22nd.            |
| Janmashtami ...                                                                          | ... | " 31st.                 |
| Dusserah Vacation, including Mahalaya, Durga, Lukhi and Kali Pujas, and Bhadridditya ... | ... | Oct. 6th to Nov. 6th.   |
| Jagadhatri Puja ...                                                                      | ... | November 13th and 14th. |
| Christmas holidays ...                                                                   | ... | December 24th to 31st.  |

All Sundays are holidays.

The day which may be fixed by the Government of India for the observance of the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India shall also be a holiday.

THERE was an interesting meeting, on January 16, of Indians or rather of the Society of Arts, Adelphi. The occasion was the reading of a paper, by Colonel R. G. Woodthorpe, of the Indian Survey Department, on "The Shan Hills: Their People and Products." Mr. Geo. Cuzon, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, presided.

The Chairman, reports the *Standard*, introduced the lecturer "as one possessing long and unique experience of the Indian frontier, having been a member of the Commission, under Sir W. Lockhart, which explored the Southern Pamirs and the Oxus Valley, and established friendly relations at Chitral. After being head of the Indian Intelligence Department at Simla, Colonel Woodthorpe was transferred to the north-eastern frontier, and was placed in charge of the survey operations on the Commission then delimitating the boundaries between Siam and the States we had taken over as part of the heritage of Burma. It was natural, therefore, that he should have been made a member of Mr. J. G. Scott's Commission of Inquiry into the geographical character of the areas out of which it was then proposed to make a buffer State."

"Colonel Woodthorpe gave a graphic description of the physical features of the Shan States, which form the easternmost portion of our Burmese possessions. Under Burmese rule peace and quiet were seldom their lot, and evidences were plentiful of the depopulation of States that were at one time under profitable cultivation. Since our occupation of Mandalay an improvement had been observable. To the devoted labours of our political officers and their able assistants to their resourcefulness in emergencies, and their infinite tact and skill in dealing with both rulers and people, the Shan States owed their present peaceful and happy condition, and their increasing prosperity. Having described a long journey through the States, and illustrated some of their peculiarities with lime-light views, the lecturer spoke of the habits of the people. Gambling, he said, was universal; and on market days respectable-looking men might be seen seated in a booth, or some other shelter, selling tickets from little books for the lottery of the thirty-six animals, a diagram of which hung behind him to assist the investor in making his choice. Attempts were being made, with some success, to reduce the excessive public gambling, but as the receipts from the licences were very great, and in Keng Tung some were set apart to provide pin money for the Queen and Princesses, the reform must not be effected too violently. The Sawbwa was assisted in his government of the State by sixteen Ministers. They received no settled salary, but a certain proportion of fines, taxes, &c., and were often very poor, the daughter of the Prime Minister of Keng Tung having a vegetable stall in the market. The State was divided into districts, each under a *hpaza*, or commissioner, with four or five advisers, invested with certain magisterial, civil and revenue powers. These *hpazas* had the power of life and death, without reference to the Sawbwa. Each district was subdivided into village circles under their own head men. The chance of studying these peoples to full advantage was, added the lecturer, fast slipping away. Up till now they had been almost entirely isolated, owing to the insecurity that had prevailed in the regions where they were settled. In consequence, they had, no doubt, preserved their languages and institutions in a far purer state than members of the same races who had lived under happier and



more peaceful conditions elsewhere. Now, however, an era of peace seemed to have set in. These tribes were in constant contact with the outside world; their languages were undergoing modifications, or dying out, and their customs were being assimilated to those of the Shans and Chinese. Many illustrations of this had come under his observation during the past half-year. He would, therefore, recommend any one interested in such inquiries to come before it was too late; the inducements were surely sufficient—a good climate, in the midst of splendid mountain scenery, simple, friendly folk to live among, and an occupation full of interest in itself, and sure to lead to results of permanent value. Work had been begun on the line of railway from Mandalay to the Kun Low ferry on the Salween. It was hoped that it would tap the trade of Western Yunnan. He would have been glad to see a line run up into the Southern Shanplateau, at least, if not to the Salween itself. The construction of the cartroad to Taunggyi had had most excellent results; but a line of rail would, in the opinion of many qualified to judge, greatly increase the agricultural wealth of the country.

Sir Charles Crosthwaite, formerly Chief Commissioner of Burma, expressed the hope that some public interest would be taken in the very beautiful country and the very remarkable people described by Colonel Woodthorpe.

Lord Lamington believed that with the advantages of peace and security under British Government, the Shan States would be developed. Properly cultivated, the land would pay any labour.

Mr. J. G. Scott remarked that no one knew where the Shans came from.

Sir Owen Burn, Chairman of the Indian Section of the Society of Arts, expressed the obligation of the Society to Colonel Woodthorpe and to Mr. Curzon.

The Chairman endorsed what had been said as to the importance of the particular corner of the world to the ethnologist, the philologist, and the comparative sociologist. He could imagine no more interesting study for a man of such tastes than those interesting tribes hidden away in this remote country, with customs, superstitions, habits, and language entirely dissociated from those of the rest of the world. The time for studying these people was now. The British system that had taken them into its embrace had many advantages. It brought the Pax Britannica to that out-of-the-way country; but, on the other hand, it had a strange and, in some respects, an unfortunate knack of flattening out the social knobs and excrescences which everywhere appeared on the surface of national character. Those States would benefit by peace and improved social conditions, but they would lose by the gradual disappearance of those idiosyncrasies which should be studied at once by competent students (hear, hear).—*The Standard*, Jan. 16.

The British system, according to the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, is an eraser. It extinguishes a race by deathly peace and order. There is a call therefore to his countrymen to study the curious Shans before they are transformed by British rule.

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MR. C. E. A. W. Oldham, Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Financial and Municipal Departments, having been transferred, in the same capacity, to the Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments under the Chief Secretary, Mr. B. Foley, Offg. Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bettiah, Champaran, acts as Financial Under-Secretary.

..

PROFESSOR Richard, M.E., has been made to pay double penalty for his bad temper. On the complaint of E. Calder, the Chief Magistrate has fined the Professor in the sums of Rs. 30 and Rs. 100 on charges of assault and wrongful confinement. The evidence for the defence connecting the *Sunday Times* with the prosecution, that the complainant was a tool for extorting money for that journal, had no effect on the Magistrate.

..

THE public exhibitions by the Professor of the healing power of electricity are being repeated by Dr. Maloney who has just arrived to elbow up the Professor. The Doctor heralds himself by a long array of medical diplomas, testimonials, and press extracts in the advertisement columns of the *Englishman*.

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PROFESSOR Schuster, of Owen's College, Manchester, writes to the *Manchester Guardian*, explaining the discovery of Professor Röntgen, of Würzburg, which may lead to the unraveling of the secrets of the human system.

"It has long been known that the highly electrified particles projected from the negative pole of a vacuum tube produce a strong luminosity (phosphorescence) of the glass walls of the tube. Professor Röntgen's discovery is that, in addition to this phosphorescence another radiation is produced which is capable of penetrating through all bodies, though not to the same extent; thus, aluminium is more transparent to this radiation than Iceland spar. Flesh, skin, and blood are more transparent than bone, and it is quite correct than a photographic print can be obtained in which all the bones of the hand are shown perfectly, while the flesh parts are extremely faint; any abnormal formation of the bony parts would certainly appear in the photograph. The images are, however, of the nature of shadows, and not

like the images formed by a lens. In consequence, it would not, I believe, at present be possible to obtain pictures of the inside of bodies which are more than about an inch thick. The new radiation is very different from that of light; it is not possible to say at present what its nature is."

The credit of the first discovery is claimed, by the Buda-Pesth *Pester Lloyd*, for a Hungarian, Professor Philip Lenard, of the Stuttgart University.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE mad and maddening poetical appeal of Mr. William Watson with which we open our present number, does no justice, poetic or other, to the Sultan. He would send him to an unmentionable place, as a late Prime Minister of England would send the Turk bag and baggage out of Europe. The present Prime Minister, however, takes a more moderate view of the situation. The horrors in Armenia, if not disproved have been found to be vastly exaggerated. Lord Salisbury is not deaf to an appeal for redress. The Armenians, we are afraid, are more sinning than sinned against. It is the unfortunate Sultan who has to answer for all their sins. They of Armenia are not so suffering as the appeals for their protection make them to be. They are more aggressive than their alleged aggressors. Lord Salisbury, though not so pronouncedly in favour of the Turk as the late Lord Beaconsfield, has still a sneaking fondness for the Sultan and will not rush to war against him.

AT a banquet given by Nonconformists at the Hotel Metropole, Lord Salisbury made a speech, when he said that the appeal made by the Transvaal for foreign support proved what would have happened had Ireland been under Home Rule. He upheld the cause of the Ulstermen, whose demands had been ignored though they formed the majority of the population in the Transvaal. Respecting Venezuela, he said he had never contested the Monroe Doctrine, though he had upheld it as Monroe understood it. England, continued the Prime Minister, was unable to go to war with the Sultan on behalf of Armenia, and must give time for the execution of the reforms. He did not believe that the Sultan had ordered the cruelties in Armenia, though his Government was weak, wretched, and impotent. The Powers, he further added, would watch the execution of reforms, and not go further. Referring to the loyalty of the Colonies, Lord Salisbury declared that he cared not how much the British were isolated, so long as they were united.

THE remains of the late Prince Henry of Battenberg were, on February 4, transferred at Portsmouth from the *Blenheim* to the yacht *Alberta*, anchored off Cowes. The Queen and Princess Beatrice visited the ship and deposited wreaths on the coffin. The funeral took place next day and was a most imposing military ceremony. The Queen and Princess took part in the procession from Cowes to Whippingham.

THE *Times'* Berlin correspondent states that the Emperor William's action regarding the Transvaal is the natural outcome of the policy pursued for years past to secure the development of South Africa on German lines under his own influence, to render the Transvaal economically independent of the Cape Government. It is reported at Cape Town that the visit of Dr. Leyds, the Transvaal Agent to Berlin, is connected with the German purchase of seven miles of land on Delagoa Bay coast.

MR. Gladstone, replying to a letter addressed to him by an Egyptian resident in Paris, says that the moment for the British evacuation of Egypt appeared to him to have arrived some years ago, and that he then hoped that other Governments would assist him to effect a settlement, but that hope was not realised, and he cannot say why.

THE *Times'* Rome correspondent states that Great Britain has referred to France the request of Italy to allow the passage of the Italian troops through Zeila to the interior of Abyssinia.

THE Porte is arranging a loan of thirty million francs on the security of lighthouse dues.

MR. Justin McCarthy retires from the leadership of the Irish party owing to ill-health, but will retain his seat in the House of Commons.

THE American Senate has adopted the Free Silver Bill, replacing the Bond Bill of the House of Representatives.

MR. Holland, speaking at the annual meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, admitted that Sir James Westland's new Bill was an honest attempt on the part of the Government to fulfil Sir Henry Fowler's pledges made to the House of Commons in February, 1894. One of the advantages of the Bill, he said, was that the customs and excise moved on parallel lines.

ADVICES from Queensland state that heavy floods have occurred there, in which twenty people have been drowned and fifty miles of railway submerged.

THE French Chamber of Deputies has passed without a division the Peking Convention of June, 1895.

THE Emperor William has issued a rescript thanking the Germans throughout the world for the greetings on the occasion of his birthday, and expressing his gratification at their increasing readiness to co-operate with his efforts to promote their welfare.

THE intention to propose to the Reichstag to create a big German Navy has been abandoned for the present session, Prince Hohenlohe, the Chancellor, fearing to jeopardize the ordinary estimates.

NOTWITHSTANDING the strongest opposition on the part of his wife and the Pope, Prince Ferdinand has issued a proclamation announcing that his son will be baptized in the orthodox faith on the 14th instant, and that the Czar will be the sponsor.

IN the course of a speech made by Mr. Balfour at Bristol, he said that Asia and Africa were large enough for all, and he regarded without fear and jealousy a commercial outlet for Russia on the Pacific Ocean. Russia, he said, the world generally, and British commerce in particular, would be gainers thereby.

A CONFERENCE of the Commanders of forces in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland has been held, at which a scheme of federal defence was drafted, and also urging the immediate adoption of the rifle in use by the Imperial forces.

THE United States bond issue has been covered five times over.

CAPTAIN Stewart and Lieutenant Alston, commanding the Sikh force in Nyassaland, have gained two brilliant victories over the remaining slave dealing Arabs who were utterly routed. The Chiefs who have been captured will be executed forthwith. The trade route into the far interior is now open.

LORD Elgin returned to Government House on Sunday, and, after presiding at the Legislative Councils on Monday and Thursday, again left, on Friday, for a cruise in the Bay. He will be back in time for the next sitting of the Council to be held on the 13th instant.

WE read in the *Englishman* of February 5 that the Governor of Madras could not accept the invitation of the Adyar Club to a farewell ball in honour of himself and Lady Wenlock on the 14th February, because, as he said, the Viceroy and Governors are precluded from attending such festivities during a Court mourning. The official mourning in India on account of the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg lasts till the 13th February, and Lord Wenlock did not think himself justified to accept any invitation of a festive kind on the day immediately following the close of that mourning, for the Court mourning does not end till later. In Bengal, the etiquette is different. The Governor not only accepts such invitations but also attends them in succession, while the official mourning, prescribed by the Governor-General of India in Council, continues.

THE Entertainment at the residence of Babu Romanath Ghose to the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Mackenzie, on Wednesday, was splendid, considering how parties for mixed gathering in native houses now pass as such. He expended freely and was anxious that no part of the programme suffered from niggardliness. After the fashion of the time, arboriculture was largely laid under contribution. The house was fitted for the nonce for high dames and mighty eels. There was also a full tide of song, mostly a graphophone reproduction by Father Lafont. Sir Alexander Mackenzie freely enjoyed the entertainment and himself added to it by singing for the graphophone snatches of two songs—"Once I loved a maiden fair" and a Scotch song, and gave the exhibiting Father permission to use the musical record in his future performances.

The invitations for the party included all grades of society. Some ladies and many officials were present. The titled and the untitled made a great show. Babu Romanath was not unmindful of the creature comforts of his guests.

THE three Honorary Secretaries of the Anjuman-i-Islam of Surat have addressed the following letter to Kuan Bahadur Abdul Jubbar of this city :

"Dear Sir, We have the pleasure to convey to you the thanks of the Anjuman-i-Islam of Surat for your very interesting letter (published in the newspapers) regarding your experience of the Belhinn Arabs and your pilgrimage to the Hedjaz. Allow us to assure you that the Anjuman-i-Islam of Surat is proud of Mahomedans like you.

The members of the Anjuman-i-Islam were greatly interested when your letter was read before them, and they one and all felt that the Almighty Creator has already accepted you as one of the best Hajis."

We hope the Kuan Bahadur will follow up his last letter and give to the public his utter experiences. He could not better employ his hours in retirement, or nothing would be more agreeable to him. He declined with thanks the offers of private service, successively made to him, that he might devote himself entirely to the service of his God. Not only the followers of the Prophet but the public in general will be much interested in a book from the pen of one of such mature judgment and held in general esteem. It could not fail to be an authority, it is sure to be a good and unfailing guide to the future Hajis.

A GRAND-DAUGHTER of the late Dr. Alexander Duff, Miss Duff, who is a good Sanskrit scholar, having studied Sanskrit at Berlin with Professors Oldenberg and Geldner, is now engaged on a great work "Tables of Indian Chronology down to 1300."

IN another column will be found a letter from one of the medical men of this city to the author of "An Indian Journalist," objecting to Mr. Skrine's remarks on early marriage. The correspondent draws an erroneous deduction from the book. Mr. Skrine is not an advocate of infant, but, in Bengal, of early marriage. They are two very different things. The first is a crime against nature; the second a sociological necessity in a tropical climate, where the passions are so precocious and so overmastering. Mr. Skrine thinks that here marriages should take place as soon after the attainment of a certain stage as possible. How many, he remarks, are wrecked at the very outset of life by celibacy!

THE *Athenaeum's* notice of "An Indian Journalist" which we reproduce elsewhere, though short, is appreciative. The remarks to which exception has been taken by the London journal, belong to what Mr. Skrine calls Dr. Mookerjee's "juvenilia" and are introduced to show a phase in his intellectual development. Mr. Skrine evidently does not believe in the story about the appointment of Lord Canning, the last Governor-General and the first Viceroy of India, and has a very high regard for the abilities of the first Indian Chancellor of the Exchequer, who gave to India something better than the hated income tax, who restored order in the finances of the empire reduced as they were to chaos by the mutiny, and who, had he not been cut off in his punie, would, Mr. Skrine believes, have placed them on a basis unshaken by the depreciation of silver. What a contrast is presented by his grasp of the situation and the policy of alternate drift and tinkering which has passed current since the days of Mr. James Watson.

THE Mahomedans of Bombay, having cabled a message of condolence to the Queen-Empress, have received a telegram of thanks "for their kind sympathy in this moment of deep sorrow." The Mahomedans

of Calcutta have not combined for the same loyal purpose. The societies representing them mean to proceed independently of each other. The Central National Mohammedan Association has resolved that "This Association's sense of grief at the untimely death of H. R. H. Prince Henry of Battenberg be recorded, and that a letter of condolence be sent to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice." There seems to be a split in the camp of the Central Muhamedans. Recently, we read, a preliminary meeting for a new society was held on the 20th January, at the residence of one of the prominent members. This organization has been named the Mahomedan Constitutional Association, to distinguish it from the existing ones, or to mark them down as unconstitutional. A cub of Mysore has been appointed at its head. If the cub has a tithe of the organizing power of the Tiger, the "Constitutional" will soon overleap its predecessors. But it will not be a walk over.

The two old Societies welcomed the new Lieutenant-Governor at Belvedere on Thursday. Sir Alexander Mackenzie gave a joint reply to the two separate addresses. The Constitutional was nowhere.

THE Classified List issued by the Statistical Department of the Custom House, Calcutta, is a very useful publication. It will materially lessen the work of the Department, and is indeed welcome to importers who will be saved much time and constant references to the Department. Its want has all along been felt, but it was reserved for Mr. Skrine to remove it. The List is alphabetical and gives the names of the articles, their denomination, the heading in trade returns under which they are to be entered, and whether dutiable or free on import, and if dutiable under what number of the Tariff Schedule. It might be made independent of the Tariff Act, by adding two more heads of information, the rate of duty and how it is leviable. Being published before the Cotton Duties Act, 1896 (II of 1896) and the Act to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 (III of 1896), the List necessarily takes no account of them. All omissions will be rectified and additions made from time to time, to make it a complete guide. The Collector himself will "be much obliged by any information bearing on errors or omissions therein." The additions will be issued free to subscribers. The price has been fixed to include only the costs of printing and publication.

IN 1892, the Maharaja of Rewah married the Maharani of Ojein, the only daughter of the late Maharaja Sir Radhaprasad Sing of Dumraon. That marriage was a triumph for the Dewan Jai Prakash Lal. His Highness of Rewah takes a second wife in the sister of the Maharaja of Rutlam. All the British superintendence during his minority and English education seem to have been lost on him. When will our Princes cease to practise polygamy? This over-marrying, for one thing, causes no small trouble to their States, and is a great hindrance to a successful rule. English statesmanship in India once consisted in not allowing State prisoners to marry. The present policy of the Paramount Power seems to be not to discourage the marrying propensity of the Princes. The end is the same or similar.

THE Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta, as represented by their General Committee, are prepared to meet half way the demand for increased emoluments to their Chairman to be selected by the Local Government. They are willing to pay the maximum salary of Rs. 3,000 fixed by the law. But they would reserve the exercise of the discretion vested in them by the law to grant any house allowance, till, perhaps, they find their new Chairman agreeable to themselves. This disinclination to give in at once has been construed in certain quarters as a good and sufficient ground for depriving the Commissioners of the discretionary power and empowering the Local Government to fix the pay and allowances of the Municipal Chairman. The Commissioners as a body will consider the matter next Thursday. We have already pointed out that Sir Ashley Eden thought that allowances to the Chairman should be capitalized and invested in a house for his official residence. Sir Charles Elliott laid down that a house-allowance in Calcutta should not exceed Rs. 250 a month.

THE tragic end of Ram Chandra Singh Deo, the late Raja of Patna, in the Central Provinces, was made the subject of a question

in the Governor-General's Legislative Council on Thursday. Replying to the Hon'ble Rao Sireh Bulwant Rao Banskote, the member from those Provinces, the Hon'ble Mr. Woodburn, the late Chief Commissioner, said:—

"The Government of India have had their attention called to this case, but they do not think it necessary to make any further inquiry into the circumstances."

A very full inquiry was made at the time by the Administration of the Central Provinces. The result of that enquiry was reported to the Government of India in the following terms:—

"I am directed to report, for the information of the Government of India the death, by suicide, of the Maharaja of Patna on the 8th of June. The Maharaja shot his wife dead, and then shot himself. The Political Agent for the Chhattisgarh Feudatories at once proceeded to Bilangir, the Maharaja's headquarters, and made a detailed enquiry, of which the official report has just reached the Chief Commissioner."

"At the time of the murder and suicide the Maharaja was undoubtedly insane. Suspicion of this had before been occasionally hinted. His mother is of unsound mind. The Maharaja himself had especially since his accession, from time to time displayed eccentricities of conduct and outbursts of temper, only too easily to be accounted for in the light of the present tragedy, but regarded at the time as not unnatural in a hot-headed and self-willed young Chief, new to power, impatient of restraint, and forming, in his distant and isolated capital, exaggerated ideas of his own power and importance. For such outbreaks the Chief Commissioner has himself had to take the Maharaja to task. To reproof and counsel he showed himself readily amenable. And his bearing and conversation were so uniformly frank, courteous and amiable as to rebut all suspicion of his character or intellect being seriously warped. The terrible ending came suddenly when after an outbreak of unfounded fear and suspicion of his wife, his servants and his surroundings, he had in a visit to the Political Agent and Commissioner of the Division become apparently calm and reasonable. The Maharani was a sister of the Raja of Kutubudi, a neighbouring Chief, and was a lady held in the highest esteem by all who knew her. There was one child of the marriage, a daughter, who sustained no injury."

It may be added that the Political Agent reported that he had reason to believe that the immediate cause which led the Maharaja to shoot his wife was her refusal to give him a sum of Rs. 20,000 from her private purse for the purpose of a trip to England, which he contemplated, and the Government of India have no information which would lead them to doubt the correctness of the report.

Restrictions were imposed on the powers of the Maharaja, which were not imposed on the two other young chiefs, who were installed along with him in January, 1894. Under these restrictions he chafed, but they were unfortunately necessary, and were imposed not at the instance of the Political Agent, but by myself as Chief Commissioner. The Political Agent, in his relations with the Chiefs in Chhattisgarh, amply justified the expectations in which I appointed him to the post.

The Diwan was an officer of the Maharaja's own selection."

Mr. Woodburn takes all the responsibility, if there be any, upon himself. The Raja was a lunatic and was born of an insane woman. He was put under restrictions, but not such as to save him from self-destruction. An immediate cause, uninvestigated, of the bloody deed is given. But it was not deemed necessary to make the inquest done on the violent or accidental death of any ordinary subject of Her Majesty. If the report now made public were published at the time, there would probably have been no cause for the agitation of which the present question and answer are the outcome. It is the mystery in which the action of Government is shrouded and the difficulty of getting any true information that supply causes for many unfounded or ugly rumours.

To the question of the Hon'ble Bibu Mohini Mohan Roy, regarding the apprehended transfer of the Chittagong Division under the Government of Bengal to the Assam administration, the Hon'ble Mr. Woodburn made answer:

"The Government of India decided in 1892 that the Chittagong District should be transferred to Assam as soon as settlement operations were concluded in it. It was at the same time decided that the expediency of transferring the whole of the Chittagong Division should be considered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Chief Commissioner of Assam. That question is now under the consideration of those authorities, and will be eventually submitted for the decision of the Government of India."

The Government of India will give attentive consideration to any representation against the proposed transfer which the people of the Chittagong Division may submit through the Government of Bengal; but they do not think it necessary to publish at present any papers relating to the matter."

The transfer has been decided upon. It is only a question of days to make over a Regulation Division to a non-Regulation Administration. Sir Rivers Thompson often complained of the vastness of his dominions. Sir Charles Elliott agreed to part with a portion of them. It is a superfluous assurance that a hearing will be given to a representation through the proper channel. But will the papers be published in proper time to allow of a representation? Or, will it be rejected as too early, or too late, or not to the point?

## REIS &amp; RAYYET.

Saturday, February 8, 1896.

## THE NEW COTTON LAW NO LAW.

THE English agitation against the Indian cotton duties has begun to bear fruit. There is already a reduction preparatory to wholesale repeal. Last Monday, the two Bills for the purpose were passed. They would have been law the previous Thursday, but could not be as it was found necessary for the Viceroy to be present, who had been away to the Bay to regain health, shattered by a long persistent fever. Alive to his duty, he cut short his cruise to preside at the meeting specially fixed out of the ordinary council day. The Bills were introduced in his absence by the Finance Minister, on Thursday, the 23rd of January, after suspension of the ordinary rules of business. The same day, the Bills were referred to the Select Committee with notice that they would be passed the next Council day, a week after. A motion asking for another week's time, as the proposed measure, which could be accepted only at a sacrifice of nearly half a crore of revenue, was too important to be disposed off so quickly, was not agreed to. Sir James Westland explained, that a fiscal measure should not be delayed in council, but be passed as soon as introduced. He had a high precedent for his contention in the practice of the House of Commons where, he said, "when a Resolution on a fiscal matter is before it, it practically comes into effect at once, without a day's delay." We wish the Legislative Councils in India were as many Houses of Commons for the several Presidencies of the Empire. There may be occasions for passing measures as quickly as possible. There may be times when delay would be dangerous. The provision in the rules for such despatch is not intended for every-day business or for matters requiring serious deliberation. The imposition of a new tax or the repeal of one is a matter not to be lightly approached or easily disposed of. The exceptional provisions are reserved for extraordinary circumstances. If every request for suspension of ordinary rules were to be complied with, they might as well not have been made. Exceptions ought to prove, not be the rule. Nor are rules made without a purpose. They are so many safeguards for the general good. A practice, which cannot bode good, is growing to dispense with the rules on ordinary occasions. That shews either negligence, or laziness, or ignorance or a spirit of lawlessness. Those charged with special powers have a distinct responsibility thrown on them. Let such powers not be lightly exercised. Again, the giving up of a revenue is a more serious task than the imposition of a new impost. The repeal, though partial, of the cotton duties was a matter of more concern than was its re-imposition. The repeal, at a sacrifice of revenue, demanded still more lengthy consideration. Sir James was, however, prepared to grant time, if the Select Committee found it necessary, that is, if they could not finish their deliberations, after every exertion, within the prescribed seven days. The Bills were, accordingly referred, for report, to Sir Alexander Miller, Sir Charles Pritchard, Mr. J. D. Rees, Mr. G. S. Glendinning, Mr. P. Playfair, Sir James Westland and Mr. P. M. Mehta, who was not present in Council or Calcutta, having resigned his seat. The Finance Minister was all fairness. The unseemly haste he attributed to the desire to cause the least inconvenience to trade. He would

not also, by the reference to the Select Committee, bind the members of the Council to the principles of the Bills.

It was unfortunate that Mr. Mehta resigned at a time when no non-official member from Bombay could be appointed to speak on the Bills. To give the people there no cause of grievance, the Finance Minister had taken the unprecedented course of forwarding beforehand, to that city, his speeches and the Bills. "To-day," he said, "all mill-owners at Bombay, and the newspapers there, will receive copies of the speeches which I have delivered, and also of the Bills as they stand and as now introduced before the Council."

Sir Griffith Evans saw no objection to the reference at that stage to the Select Committee, on the understanding that the Council was in no way committed to the principle of the Bills, and as the views of the Committee would aid the Council in the discussion of the measure.

To be in order, the same Committee was appointed twice to report on the two Bills—one to provide for the Imposition and Levy of certain Duties on Cotton Goods, and the other to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894.

It is not said how many times or on what days the Select Committee sat. They considered the papers numbered 1 to 16 placed before them, and made their reports. These reports are dated the 3rd of February, the day the Council sat for passing the Bills. It will be remembered that the Bills were referred to them on the 23rd of January with instructions to report within a week. The reports were therefore due on Thursday, the 30th of January. It does not appear that any extension of time was granted them, nor could it be, for there was no meeting of the Council till Monday next, the 3rd of February.

There is no knowing when they completed their deliberations. Four days before they made their report, they were *functus officio*. Even if they wrote any portions of it before the 30th of January, there being no separate dates for them and the whole bearing an after date, a date subsequent to the determination of their duties, the report is void from beginning to end. Its acceptance cannot validate it. There being nothing to receive, how can there be an acceptance? Presentation cannot bring the dead to life. It is a wonder how the first Legislative Assembly in the Empire could perpetrate the illegality. It is no legal maxim that a Legislature can do no illegality.

Could then the reports be acted upon? What becomes then of the structure built on no foundation? The Council could probably discuss the Bills as introduced by the Financial Minister. The debate was not confined to it. At any rate, the Bills as amended by the Select Committee were considered in Council and passed as such. The Governor-General on the same day gave his assent to the Bills miscalled Acts of the Governor-General of India in Council. The next question is, Does that assent rectify the original mistake or does it not add to the illegality? We do not suppose that there is any lawyer who will argue that two illegalities make one legality. Are we then to accept the so passed Acts as law and be bound by them?

Sir James Westland might have avoided this predicament and yet gained his object, if he could see his way to agree to the motion of Rai Bahadur



Ananda Charlu for extension of time. The members of the Committee might fret to sit and finish their work within the first week. Still they would have submitted as the sequel proved in the Council, where several members spoke opposition but had none to record.

We may here make an end of the two Bills. But we will go a little farther.

When the Council met on Monday, the 3rd of February, the Viceroy presiding, Sir James Westland, after "expressing the very great pleasure with which I and the Hon'ble Members of your Excellency's Legislative Council see you take your seat once more amongst us as our President," presented the Report of the Select Committee and explained the changes made by the Committee. He had nothing to say about the resurrection of the Committee after their legal demise, or how they derived any authority to act after the 30th of January.

Again the Finance Minister applied for suspension of the rules of business, to admit of the report of the defunct Committee, dead before the date of the report, being taken into consideration. The President declared accordingly. The member in charge of the Bill then moved that the report be taken into consideration.

If a law could be made at one sitting of the Council, or if the members were to be saved the trouble of attending more than twice on one particular measure, the rules of business would be different. It is necessary that a measure be examined at different stages, for one thing, to allow time for due consideration. We advocate no unnecessary opposition to Government. It was, however, a sorry sight to find non-official members abandoning their position in a matter which they believed uncalled for, and unwisely introduced. It was a voluntary abandonment of rights and, therefore, worse than the pass to which the members of a Local Legislature were reduced by the strong action of the President. In due course a Bill was introduced, after leave taken, without any suspension of the rules of business. In proper time, after wide publicity, it was referred to the Select Committee. That Committee made their report. It was for a time before the public. Then was started an agitation which aimed at the root of the principle of the Bill. The Governor saw the propriety of the agitation and the necessity of the reconstruction of the Bill. He was for the concession claimed. He consulted his counsel, not one member would agree to any alteration, as, for one valid, substantial reason, it could not be done, at that stage. But the Governor had declared himself for it and was determined to have it. In spite of the opposition of the entire Council, he ordered a re-reference to the Select Committee. That Committee again deliberated and re-amended the Bill as the Governor wished. The measure so amended a second time passed the Council and the members did not feel themselves humiliated.

In the present instance, several members, official and non-official, spoke against the measure, but under command of the Viceroy, for we cannot explain their conduct in any other way, they agreed to it. In the earlier Bills we were familiarized to the doctrine of legislation by mandate. Now we have the theory of opposition without a division. The legislative conscience, both official and non-official, tends towards the same direction.

## THE COTTON DUTIES DEBATE.

THE VICEROY'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the President said :—

The same cause which has compelled me most unwillingly to absent myself from earlier meetings of this Council prevents me from attempting any lengthy or reasoned arguments in favour of the Bills now before it. It is, however, the less necessary for me to do so, because I entirely agree in and adopt the defence of the policy of the Government which has been made by my hon'ble colleague in charge of the Finance Department in a manner which, while it was in no way deficient in vigour and mastery of detail, has been commended here, and will no doubt be recognised elsewhere, as showing a full measure of temper and moderation. I desire, however, more especially to express my entire concurrence in what he has said of the nature of our responsibilities as administering the affairs of this portion of the great Empire of the Queen-Empress. It is, of course, absurd to represent the Government of India and Her Majesty's Government as advocates of two hostile interests. Hon'ble members may recollect a spirited passage in an eloquent speech of Sir Henry Fowler, in which he declared that every member of the House of Commons was a member for India. Is there to be no reciprocity in this matter? I am glad to say that I am not called upon to argue that question after the speech of the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans to-day. So far as we are concerned, who hold our commission from the Queen-Empress, we are bound, as the Hon'ble Finance Member has pointed out, to weigh carefully all the circumstances of the case where, as here, other interests as well as purely Indian interests are involved.

Now, I should like to look for a moment at the history of this case. The Hon'ble Finance Member reminded you in his introductory speech that it extended over three years. None of us, I think, will wish to renew the discussions or even the memory of the discussions of 1894, and all I would say is that I cannot take the description of those discussions by the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans as completely exhaustive, because he omitted one result of that controversy which perhaps did not attract so much attention at the time, but which I always thought was of great importance; and that was the admission by Her Majesty's Government that the claim for the imposition of these cotton duties must be measured by the financial necessities of India. Accordingly when, at the end of 1894, we presented an overwhelming case, so far as our necessities were concerned, the imposition of these duties was agreed to subject to the condition that they were not to be protective. I am not going to enter into any argument now as to the propriety or reasonableness of that condition. It is sufficient for my purpose to say that it was accepted by the Government of India, and that this Council endorsed our acceptance. The main debate in 1895 was concerned with the method by which we should carry out that condition. We, the Government of India, certainly thought then, and Council probably thought still more emphatically, that we had amply met our obligation; but in matters of this importance we are bound to be fair-minded, and it has been impossible for us to refuse to acknowledge that the arrangement which we thought sufficient last year has been inadequate to fulfil our obligation. It then became our duty to reconsider our arrangements. I regret that it was not in our power to act upon the suggestion which those interested in cotton goods in Bombay and Calcutta made to us; and I join with my hon' colleague in recognising the ability, liberality, and fairness of mind which are apparent in the papers in which they embodied their views. There were no doubt advantages to be gained from that proposal, and it was most carefully discussed and considered by us; but we came distinctly to the opinion—and

### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1895-96.)

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., on Tuesday, the 11th Inst., at 6 to 8 P.M. *Subjects*: Histology—Large and small Intestines; Physiology—Alimentation.

Lecture by Babu Syamadas Mukerjee, M.A., on Thursday, the 13th Inst., at 3 P.M. *Subject*: Analytical Conics.—Anharmonic Ratios.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Friday, the 14th Inst., at 6 P.M. *Subject*: Curved Mirrors, its Properties and Applications.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

February 8, 1896.

nothing that has emerged since has weakened my conviction---that this particular remedy would fail in what the Hon. Mr. Playfair has most truly insisted upon as the all-important condition, namely, some reasonable chance of finality. It is impossible, of course, to give the hon'ble member the pledge he asks. If, as I have said, the imposition of these duties must be ruled by India's financial necessities, he would be a bold man who would undertake to prophesy the duration of those necessities; but we do put forward the present legislation in the hope and belief that it meets the obligation which we undertook when the duties were imposed, that obligation being that the mills in England and the mills in India should compete on equal terms. I have said the mills in England and the mills in India, because it has been attempted to put forward the hand loom weaver, and I have been somewhat surprised to find this matter insisted upon so strongly in this Council. We have had some suggestions from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, based on the statistics of a limited area, which of course I cannot deal with on the spur of the moment; and we have had an ingenious, and, if I may say so, an amusing attempt by the Hon. Sir Griffith Evans to reconcile his opinion of 1894 with the necessities of his argument to-day.

The Hon. Finance Member and the Hon. Mr. Rees have, I think, shown how entirely different is the position of the hand-loom weaver as a competitor from that of one set of millowners competing with another. I cannot but think that the reasonable men in Lancashire (and I venture to say that there are reasonable men there) will be the first to acknowledge this fact. I say so with the more confidence, because I come from a district Scotland which was the home of hand-loom weaving in the memory of men still living; but all that I can recollect is row upon row of houses, through the dusty windows of which one could see the looms still there, but silent and deserted as an asset of no value, to perish with the roof that covered them. It may be said that these weavers at home had no duty to assist them: no, but they also were not scattered over the vast Empire of India, but were able and knew how to bring their influence to bear on Parliamentary elections, and they had the Scottish "dourness" (if I may use a Scotch word) that is not easily beaten; yet beaten they were absolutely out of the field, and I have a firm conviction that, if it ever comes to real competition between mills and hand-loom in India, I shall be able to agree with the Hon. Sir Griffith Evans of 1894 that it is not 3½ or 5 per cent. that will save the latter.

The Government must proceed with the legislation they have put before you, and must ask you to pass these Bills. We believe they will effect their purpose and restore to the great trade both in Lancashire and in India the feeling of security which at this moment it sorely needs. I venture to hope that, if this most desirable end is attained, the somewhat excited feelings of to-day in certain circles will pass away, and it will at least be acknowledged, as the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans has most handsomely said, that the Government of India has had no other object in view but to deal with a most difficult question in the manner which, in their judgment, is most likely to be effectual.

#### NAUTCH GIRLS IN LONDON.

Begum Jan and Wazeer Jan, two Nautch girls who have recently arrived in England (made their first salaam before an English audience at 35 Leicester Square. These, it is claimed, are "the first two genuine Nautch girls who have ever left the shores of our Indian Empire for Europe," and they challenge contradiction of this fact, declaring that the so-called Nautch girls who have before this come to Europe were not the genuine article, but were Italian or Hungarian women. A Nautch girl, it is asserted, has too lucrative a living to be tempted to come away to a foreign country, and she has not the moral courage to encounter the difficulties involved in maintaining her caste and obtaining her accustomed victuals. The general notion that Nautch dances are improper is not borne out by the performances of Begum Jan and Wazeer Jan. Just as there are with us respectable dances and others, so there are in India moral and immoral Nautch dances.

There is no "mystic mythology" in the dances of Begum and Wazeer; they execute curious little *pas seules* with out-stretched arms and twirling fingers; they move to and fro with jingling of bangles and an occasional sedate pirouette, and, on the whole, their performance is monotonous and unexciting. The girls are accompanied by three musicians, two of whom play extraordinary "violins," each with forty-seven strings, and the other plays two little drums which he carries in an apron. The music consists of the usual crude wailing sounds emitted in a minor key---there is not a major tone in all the forty-seven strings---and the very drums are pitched in the same lugubrious tones. The whole performance, consisting of dance music and song, is fascinating enough in its quaint and weird way. The girls wear costumes of green and red gauze over tinselled tunics, with little tasselled caps of gold embroidery, and have nose rings, small but brilliant, in the left nostril.

Every Indian Nautch dance has its story, and every dance is a pantomimic representation of the story. What the story was which

was danced and sung there were no means of knowing, but the Nautch girls were obliging enough to sing a special "Ode in honour of the English Press," of which the following is as near a rendering as possible :---

"Kings and Queens with golden crowns and jewels and money are only puppets,

The real Kings of the world are those who influence with the pen  
And tell people in all parts of the globe what others are doing.  
Whether from the jungle, or city, or sea, or earth,  
They it is who will find out the truth of every thing;  
But what they write, being the truth, is not always pleasant,  
And so they are always very poor."

After the dancing Professor Abaji Bhise, of Bombay, gave a clever and beautiful "transformation" performance. A cylindrical lump of plaster, which stood in a little brilliantly lighted niche, slowly turned into a statue-like head, and this, in turn, Galatea-like, became the head of a living and good-natured Indian girl with merry eyes and a broad grin. She died away into the statue again, and then a flower-pot seemed to grow out of the air and a tree sprang up, first with leaves and then with bud and blossom. A glass bowl of water was then seen in which a fish presently appeared, and then came a birdcage with birds---every transformation seeming to fade and dissolve, and grow again into some new form without any apparent manipulation or machinery whatever.

#### THE MILLENNIAL FESTIVAL OF HUNGARY.

The State of Hungary will, under the august protectorate of His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty Francis Joseph I., celebrate this year the Millennial Anniversary of its Foundation.

The whole civilized world takes an interest in this rare historical festivity, fully appreciating its high importance.

The chosen representatives of the Nation have decided to organize a series of festivities in order to give foreign guests and other visitors a clear and correct idea of the importance, this State has proved itself to be in the historical events of the last ten centuries, and of its present position amongst civilized nations.

Solemn Political Acts,

Festivities

in Commemoration of National Heroes; an Historical Exhibition, showing relics of great value and treasures of Art and Industry methodically classified:

an Historical Pageant

arranged with extraordinary splendour by the higher classes of Society, as well as numerous other symbolic acts and performances shall recall to the visitor's mind the foundation and the vicissitudes of this State, revive the weary struggles for national independence and Christian civilization, and give testimony of its steady and unswerving contests for progress and liberty, thus to render evident the great

historical, political and cultural Mission of the Hungarian Nation.

The General National Exhibition

is meant to set forth all the moral and intellectual power of the Hungarian People; it is to comprise not only the agricultural and industrial products of the country, but also to show the national character and faculties that reveal themselves in popular life, the progress made in every line of public instruction, as well as the means produced and developed by the country in view of taking its share in the economical competition of all the progressive Nations of the World.

The Millennial Festivities will give occasion to the inauguration of newly erected public institutions as well as to the convocation of International and National Congresses, which are to be held by nearly hundred different social groups, classes and avocations, in view of discussing the result attained in the past as well as the aspirations of the future. All the constitutive elements of the National Power will unite to illustrate, from every point of view, the importance of the Hungarian Nation as an element of political, intellectual and economical power in modern civilization.

It is unnecessary to enumerate here, at greater length, all the instructive details which will be afforded by the Millennial Exhibition to Scholars, Politicians, Literary Men, Artists, Agriculturists, Manufacturers, Merchants and even to simple Workmen. We want only to point out such details, as are likely to arouse the interest of the Public at large.

Festivities, Monuments.

The Millennial Festivities shall commence on the 2nd May 1896.

On this day the Millennial Exhibition will be inaugurated by His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty Francis Joseph I., in the presence of the Princely Guests, the Members of the Dynasty, the Ambassadors accredited to the Imperial and Royal Court in representation of all the civilized nations of the World; the Members of both Houses of the Hungarian Legislature, the Hungarian Government and the common Ministers of the Monarchy, the Members of the Austrian Legislature and the Austrian Government, the Deputations of the Residential City of Budapest and of all the Departments and Municipal Bodies of the country, and the representatives of all its Scientific and Literary Societies and Institutions of Fine-Arts.

On the following days

Thanksgiving services

will be held in all the Churches of the country; all the Municipal Bodies, Institutions and Societies will assemble at

Special Meetings;

Gala Performances

will be given in all the Theatres, the programmes of which will consist of Dramatical Plays and Operas which have been awarded first prize;

Gymnastic and various Sporting Clubs

will arrange races, regattas and shooting-matches with valuable prizes. At the same time an almost uninterrupted series of

International Congresses

and other Meetings will be held, accompanied by Inaugurations of public buildings; while in various provincial towns and counties numerous

Millennial Art-objects

(memorials and historical paintings) will be exhibited and charitable and other foundations created for the occasion will be inaugurated. The Government will establish 500 primary and technical schools in different parts of the country. In short, public life will present a varied and vivid picture, not surpassed even by Nations of the highest culture. All these festivities will culminate in the

Anniversary of the King's Coronation.

As early as June the 5th the Royal Insignia, viz., the holy Crown, the Purple Mantle, the Sword and Sceptre will be conveyed to the Coronation Chapel, there to remain on public show for three days. On June the 8th the High Dignitaries of the Realm shall proceed in procession with the Royal Insignia to the Royal Castle, there to pay homage, in the name of the Nation, to the Bearer of the Crown of Saint Stephen. This procession will be headed by caualcades arranged by the Nobility of the country and by gala carriages occupied by the Members of Parliament. The procession shall defile before the King and then proceed to the new

Parliament House.

This monumental Structure

has been erected at a cost of nearly 16,000,000 Fls. for the Nation wanted it to be worthy of her constitution, laid down a thousand years ago. Its inauguration will be solemnized by

a Millennial Meeting of Parliament,

the first that has ever been held before.

After this meeting the Members of both Houses will once more proceed to the Royal Castle, there to renew to the King the oath of reciprocal fidelity, sworn to by their ancestors 1,000 years ago at Püsztaszer.

As a continuation of this solemn act, the

Arpad Memorials

will be erected at those seven points of the Hungarian frontier (Deveny, Zimony, Munkacs, etc.) which were occupied by Prince Arpad ten centuries ago on entering this country with his horsemen.

The official Millenary Festivities will, on the 27th of September, be closed by an act of international importance.

His Majesty the King will on that day open, for international traffic, the new waterway called the

"Iron Gate"

which colossal work was commenced by Count Szechenyi and accomplished by Hungarian Engineering art and capital.

Finally the last generation of the first Millennium will erect as a token and memorial for generations to come

a Pantheon-like Triumphal Arc

to hold the statues of all those great men, who by their genius and bravery have so often led up Hungary to the heights of Prosperity and Power.

The series of official festivities will be diversified by such a social and popular character. These will be the

Interparliamentary Conference for international Courts of Arbitration;

the Congress of Journalists

with the view to constitute an International Journalistic Union; international Congresses of Art-Historians, of Actors, Tourists, Athletes, Mountaineers, etc.; numerous National Congresses embracing every intellectual and material interest of the country, in which the leading personages of all groups and branches of national production, the highest authorities in the field of commerce, industry, communication, etc., as well as those who are in the forefronts of the literary, spiritual and philanthropic movements of the country will convene, in order to demonstrate their faculties and aspirations at this most solemn moment of the History of the Nation.

There is a movement in all classes of Hungarian Society with a view to carry out the ingenious project of the Artist Paul Vago, the great

Historical Pageant

Several Municipal Bodies have already promised their concurrence, while scores of noble men and women, bearers of historical names have declared their readiness to take part at their own costs. All the costumes and fashions of all the races and social

classes who have inhabited this country, during ten centuries, shall pass before our eyes in this beautiful Cortège. The genius of the artist will call into life in their now living descendants all the belligerent ancestors, who have conquered Pannonia under Arpad and, during the reign of Louis the Great, annexed to this Realm all the neighbouring countries; all the High Dignitaries, both Civil and Ecclesiastical, who, under Stephen the Saint, King Kalman and Mathias Corvinus have spread Christianity, Enlightenment, Liberty and Wealth to the extreme confines of this part of Europe; all the Crusaders of Joannes Hunyady; all the Kings, Princes, Noblemen and Poets of modern times who have led on the Nation in her struggle for modern ideas. All these historical figures will be followed by their retinues or surrounded by the popular types of the respective epochs. To judge by the sketches of the artists, this Pageant promises, with its glamour, the picturesqueness of its groups and the symbolic significance of its details, far to surpass everything that has hitherto been offered on similar occasions.

The Millennial Exhibition.

All these festivals cover an area of 500,000 square metres and consist of 169 constructions and pavilions erected at a total cost (including private expenses) of 10,000,000 Fls. This Exhibition is divided into two sections, viz.

I. The Historical Section

containing, as above mentioned, Art-Treasures, Relics, Memorabilia and Antiquities of the past, which shall illustrate the Political, Religious, Military and Private life of each principal period of the History of the Nation.

His Majesty Francis Joseph I.

will figure as chief exhibitor, upon whose command the Archives and Treasuries of the Dynasty will exhibit a collection of priceless value;

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan

will send the precious relics of those of His illustrious Predecessors on the Ottoman Throne who, in the past, have materially influenced the destinies of Hungary. Italian, German, Polish and Russian Museums and Collections have also promised to send valuable objects relating to Hungary; while the Hungarian Clergy, the Aristocracy and the Municipal Bodies have voluntarily offered for exhibition all the relics and art-treasures in their possession. Graphic sketches, paintings, historical charts, battlepieces, imitations and similar means and objects shall fill up any void that might be left in the picture of an epoch.

These collections will be accommodated in a group of buildings the architectural details of which are a reproduction of all the conspicuous parts of the monumental buildings of the country, thus presenting a general review of the History of Hungarian architecture. These groups of buildings, though of a temporary character, have nevertheless required an outlay of 600,000 Fls.

II. The Section of modern Times.

This section will contain everything offered by similar exhibitions. Nevertheless, the visitor's mind will, here too, be impressed with the solemnity of the Millennium and the enthusiasm inspiring the Nation at this momentous period of her History. The buildings show the luxury of solemn festivities and the programme embraces the national life in all its manifestations. And not only shall the present condition of Hungary be laid open to general view, but the world shall also be impressed with the fact of the great progress Hungary has made during the re-establishment of her Constitution, in 1867, obliterating, in this comparatively short time the misfortunes and neglects of many centuries.

In order that none of the social or economical classes of the country should remain excluded from the Millennial Exhibition, there will be represented besides exhibiting producers also those elements of the People which are not usually represented in exhibitions, viz., the Army and Navy whose colossal mechanism shall be explained in all its details, the Public Health Institutions with all their various apparatuses, Commerce with its complicated organisation, its far-reaching almost invisible threads, and finally the village and country people with their manners of life, their customs, and in their picturesque costumes, placed in a natural frame in the shape of some 30 dwelling houses copied from nature and used by the different nationalities and tribes of this country.

These brief indications will perhaps suffice to arouse the sympathies of all civilized people and direct the interest of the public at large of all countries toward the Millennial Festivities of the State of Hungary.

### "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST."

(From the *Athenæum*, January 10, 1896.)

Mr. F. H. Skrine's book *An Indian Journalist* (Calcutta, Thacker, Spink & Co.) tells the story of the life of Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, late editor of the well-known Calcutta paper *Reis and Rayyet*. Dr. Mookerjee must have been a remarkable man, and by his death India, and particularly Bengal, has lost its most eminent

native journalist. He had a wonderful spirit of independence, and stood up manfully against his own countrymen when he thought their "reptile press" was behaving unfairly to the British Government. It was his privilege to enjoy the friendship of Lord Dufferin and Lord Lansdowne, both of whom bear hearty testimony to his worth. He set a great example to his countrymen by cultivating the friendship of his Mohammedan fellow subjects, and by inculcating the lesson that Hindus and Mohammedans should endeavour to live together in peace and amity. He was no friend of the fluent orators of what is called the "National Congress" party, yet he did not hesitate to criticize sharply the British Government, if he thought it was taking a line of policy inimical to the best interests of the natives of India. But, while holding a manly, straightforward attitude of independence on all questions of political importance, he was never tired of avowing what India owed to the "British Crown, which has given us such a strong and equitable government as we could never hope to form ourselves, which has advanced us to a new life, and is daily improving us." It is decidedly unfortunate Mr. Skrine should very unnecessarily have revived Dr. Mookerjee's severe strictures on Mr. James Wilson, the first Indian Chancellor of the Exchequer, and given currency to the apocryphal story of Lord Palmerston's reason for nominating Lord Canning to be Governor-General. Mr. Wilson's untimely death was the greatest loss India has sustained, so far as her financial interests are concerned, and his far-seeing perspicacity and true financial genius might possibly have saved her from her present grievous monetary troubles. As to the story of Lord Canning's appointment, Mr. Skrine ought to have known that Lord Canning's illustrious father died in 1827, and Lord Palmerston first entered the Cabinet in Lord Grey's ministry of 1830. But bating these two points, we have to thank Mr. Skrine for a highly interesting memoir of one whose memory the best sons of Bengal will long hold in reverent esteem.

#### "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST."

MR. SKRINE AND EARLY MARRIAGE.

To F. H. Skrine, Esquire, I. C. S.

DEAR SIR.—It is with great pleasure and interest, I have read your biography of our late talented countryman Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*. You have faithfully portrayed his character, not omitting even his great cynicism which was a bar to his popularity amongst his countrymen. But I would be wanting in my duty should I allow your diatribe against the opponents of infant marriage (for I am not against early marriage in the European sense of the term) to pass without a protest, however well-intentioned it may be. It is likely to create mischief in our community, for the advocates of that baneful custom will always cite you as an unbiassed authority.

You are perhaps not unaware that the hero of your work was at one with us on the subject of infant marriage and presided at the meeting of the supporters of the Age of Consent Bill and was entrusted with the drawing of the memorial that was presented to strengthen the hands of Government.

May I introduce myself by informing you that I am a medical man of over 30 years' experience and have paid considerable attention to the subject long before the Age of Consent Bill came before the legislature and read a paper on the nubile age of females in India in the Calcutta Medical Society, and sometime after also another on the Indian causes of diabetes, its prevention and treatment, and, year before last, at the Indian Medical Congress, a third one on functional flow in warm climates?

I take my stand on physiological grounds, not forgetting the experience derived from living in the very community itself and comparing the past with the present. Happily for my country, infant marriage of boys may be considered as a thing of the past, perhaps, never to return, while the infant marriage of girls yet remains a matter for serious consideration. But I have every hope that in course of time a truer estimate of the evil will have a firmer hold on the minds of the people.

Begging to be excused for the intrusion (but should you like to call for my opinions, I shall be too glad to let you have them), I remain, Yours faithfully,

BALLY CHUNDER SEN.

\* \* We have noticed the letter editorially.—ED. R. & R.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HOMŒOPATHY.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—At the forthcoming International Congress of Homœopathy to be held at London, in July next, it is desirable that Indian experience should be well represented. For this reason, it is requested that our colleagues, that is, the licentiates and graduates of the Medical Colleges in India, will favour the Congress with papers on medicine, surgery, gynecology, &c., to Dr. Richard Hughes, M. D., 36 Sillwood Road, Brighton, England. Any information regarding the present state of homœopathy in the different parts of India, will be gratefully accepted by me.

For the information of those who may want to know them, I give the names of the office-bearers of this Congress:

Dr. R. Dudgeon, Honorary President; Dr. Alfred C. Pope, President; Dr. Dyce Brown, Vice-President; Dr. Galley Blackley, Treasurer, Dr. Hawkes and Mr. Dudley Wright, Joint-Secretaries.

Yours, &c.,

HEM CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI, L. M. S.

24, Mirzapore Lane, near Creek Row, Calcutta.

#### OUR REGARDS TO MR. RUSSELL.

THE writer of these lines hereby tenders to Mr. W. Clark Russell the assurance of his thanks and appreciation. I have always loved sea stories, and those of Mr. Russell stand at the head of their class. From "The Wreck of the Grosvenor" to "Last, Ye Landsmen!" I have read them all. Yet salt water, and the things thereon and therein, are not the only things he knows about; not by many degrees of latitude.

In his last book he makes a sailor talk thus: "I have suffered from the liver in my time, and know what it is to have *felt mad*. I say I have known moments when I could scarce restrain myself from breaking windows, kicking at the shins of all who approached me, knocking my head against the wall, yelling with the yell of one who drops in a fit; and all the while my brain was as healthy as the healthiest that ever filled a human skull, and nothing was wanted but a musketry of calomel pills to dislodge the fiend," &c., &c.

So much for what Mr. Russell's sailor (or Mr. Russell himself,) says and there are plenty of people who can testify that this is not a bit overdrawn. One fact in particular it helps us to realise, namely, that the life of a sailor does not guarantee good health. Indigestion and dyspepsia—of which liver complaint is a sequence and a symptom—is as common among sailors as among landsmen.

One of the latter, however, may now tell of his experience. "All my life," he says, "I had suffered from biliousness and sick headaches. I would have an attack about every three weeks. At such times my appetite left me, and I could neither eat nor drink for days together. I suffered from dreadful sickness and straining, and vomited a greenish-yellow fluid. My head felt as though it would burst. I had a bad taste in the mouth, sallow skin, and the whites of the eyes turned yellow. I was recommended to adopt vegetarian diet, and did so, but the attacks were just as frequent and violent. I consulted doctors and took their medicines, but was none the better for it. In this way I went on year after year."

Well, we shall agree that there could scarcely be a worse way to go on, and it all came about this: The overworked stomach put more work on the liver than the latter could do. Indignant and disgusted at this the liver refused to do a stroke more than its proper share. Hence more bile accumulated in the blood than the liver was able to remove. This surplus bile acts as a slow poison—and not so very slow either. The tongue is furred, the head aches and feels dull and heavy; the eyes and skin are greenish-yellow; there is dizziness and nausea; cold hands and feet; spots before the eyes; a pungent, biting fluid rises into the throat; constipation; high coloured kidney secretion; prostrated nerves; irritability; loss of ambition; fears and forebodings, &c., &c.

This is "biliousness" or "liver complaint" in its simplest form. When long unchecked it produces irregular action of the heart, rheumatism, gout, and any, or all, of a dozen other organic disorders. There is no more certain or powerful impulse to misbehaviour; suicide and other crimes often resulting.

What to do? To get rid of the poison by starting the skin and bowels into energetic action; then to keep them going at a healthy and natural gait. How to do this? Let our friend Mr. F. Widger, 4, Portland Square, Plymouth—whom we have just quoted—speak on that point.

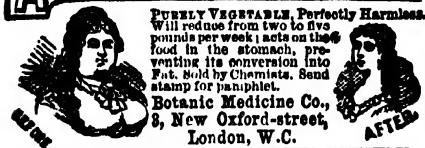
In his letter, dated March 3rd, 1893, he adds:

"Two years ago, after ten men had failed to help me, I first heard of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I procured it from Mr. R. S. Luke, Chemist, Tavistock Road, and began to use it, and nothing else. After having consumed one bottle I found myself vastly better, and by continuing with it I got rid of my old trouble altogether."

We should mention that Mr. Widger is a tailor and outfitter at Plymouth, and well known and respected in that community. He permits us to use his name out of gratitude for his recovery. The potency of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup over liver disease is due to its ability to cure indigestion and dyspepsia, which is (as we have said) the cause of liver disease.

Every house on the land, and every ship on the sea, should have this remedy as a necessary part of their stock and stores. Perhaps Mr. Russell may recommend it in his next book. But no "musketry of calomel pills." Oh, no.



**ALLAN'S ANTI-FAT****CAUTION!**

It having been notified to the Proprietor of Beecham's Pills that certain unscrupulous dealers have recently been perpetrating a fraud in connection with the 4 anna box lately introduced, the public are requested to see that the retail prices, (*viz.*, 4 annas, 8 annas or 9½d, 12 annas or 1s. 1½d. and Rs. 2 or 2s. 6d.) are *clearly printed* on the lid of each box. The fraud to which attention is drawn is that in the case of the two smaller sizes the prices have been obliterated and the boxes represented to be of higher value than they really are.

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**AN INDIAN JOURNALIST:**

Life, Letters and Correspondence

OF

**DR. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,**

late Editor of "*Reis and Rayyet*,"

BY

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(Collector of Customs, Calcutta.)

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DEDICATION (To Sir W. W. Hunter.)

HIS LIFE STORY.

CORRESPONDENCE OF DR. S. C. MOOKERJEE.  
LETTERS

to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J.C.,  
to, Atkinson the late Mr. E.F.T., C.S.,  
to, Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to, Banerjee, Babu Sootiprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddan, Chief of.  
to, Binay Krishna, Raja.  
to, Chinn, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to, Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, to D. J. Fernand and A. J. the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.  
to, Gough, Babu Kisan Mohan.  
to, Ghose, Babu Nibho Kissen.  
to, Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
to, Graham, Mr. W.  
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.  
from G. J. to Sir J. Kant.  
to, Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
from Hall, Mr. A. M. O.  
from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
to, Jackson, Mr. Edward.  
to, Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.  
to, Kington, Mr. Paul.  
from Kington, the late Mr. Robert.  
from L. to the Marquis of.  
to, Law, Kumar Kristodas.  
to, Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
to, Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
to, Mallik, Mr. H. C.  
to, Marston, Miss Ann.  
from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
to, Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.  
to, Mookerjee, late Raja Dakhinranjan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
from Nayarathna, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.  
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.  
to, Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Anpa.  
to, Rio, the late S. T. Midhava.  
to, Rattigan, Sir William H.  
from Rosebery, Earl of.  
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.  
from Russell, Sir W. H.  
to, R. to Mr. G. Syamala.  
to, Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.  
to, Sinha, Babu Bishwananda.  
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.  
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.  
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
to, Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
to, Vencataramanth, Mr. G.  
to, Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to, Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.  
LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from  
Abdus Subhan, Moulvi A. K. M.  
Ameer Husein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.  
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
Banerjee, Babu Manmathanath.  
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Sinb Chunder.  
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Ghose, Babu Narendra K.

Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
Graham, Mr. William.  
Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
Haridas Viharid is Desai, the late Dewan.  
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POSTSCRIPT.

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**OPINION ON THE BOOK.**

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Binghamton Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October, 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its primeval days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or straining after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. A letter on page 285, for instance, is a delight to the eye and to the ear; it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate a man unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his confidence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 712.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### EAST OR WEST?

BY MR. WALTER CRANE.

Which England wouldst thou waken? Her asleep?  
With jewelled hand upon the gaming board  
Of commerce, dreaming gold, to spend or hoard—  
The toil-wrung wealth of mine and furrow deep?  
Or her, the wasted mother, able scarce to keep  
Her starveling brood from hunger's cruel sword—  
Or death untimely, or disease untoward—  
Mid stoid barns, and fattened kine and sheep?  
Wouldst kindle War's red flame from East to West?  
With blood wipe out the stains of blood and wrong?  
While furnished children pine within thy gate,  
Or, hopeless, workless, wander dispossessed?  
Make clean thine own hearth, England, and be strong—  
The sword and scales thy Ministers of State.

Dec. 31, 1895.

### A VINDICATION OF ENGLAND.

BY MR. ALFRED AUSTIN, THE NEW POET LAUREATE.

To the Author of "The Purple East."  
Comrade, to whom I stretched a comrade's hand  
Ere Fame found hers to greet you, and whom still  
Right bravely singing up the Sacred Hill,  
I watch from where its cloudless peaks expand,  
Think not that you my love now less command  
If to you, wilful, I oppose my will,  
And pray you not untune sweet voice to shrill,  
In harsh upbraidings of the Mother Land.  
To smirch Her is to soil oneself with shame;  
Nor is the rhyme yet written that can mar  
The scroll emblazoned with her fadeless fame.  
"Sloping to twilight"! Blinded that you are!  
Look! in her hand shines Freedom's sword aflame,  
And on her forehead glows the Morning Star.

But She, not you, nor any child of Song,  
Must sound the hour the friendless to befriend,  
And with immitigable justice rend  
The ensanguined trappings from the Rod of wrong.  
I too cry out, "How long, O Lord! how long  
Shall ghouls assail, and not one glaive defend?"  
But God's great patience never comes to end,  
And by long-suffering Vengeance grows more strong.  
So from unseasonable chidings cease,  
Impious to Her who bears within her breast  
Wails from the East and clamours from the West.  
Nay, should the clamour and the wails increase,  
Firm in the faith she knoweth what is best,  
Keep you, to-night, the Festival of Peace.

Would that we now together were, we twain,  
Together seated by the Yule-log blaze,  
And you should read to me your latest lays,  
While at my window wept the wintry rain,  
And I would lend my heart unto the strain,  
So sweet it is to listen and to praise,  
Now wisdom grafted on the greener days  
Hath made antipathy a part of pain.  
And you should pledge me in the wassail wine,  
And I pledge you; and you aloud should cry,  
"Drink we to England!" and my voice reply,  
"Yes, unto England! England, yours and mine!"  
And you would understand, with God on high,  
She bides her hour behind the bastioned brine.

—The Westminster Gazette.

## WEEKLYANA.

A MEMBER of the Nandi family of Jamgram writes to us:—

"In your issue of the 1st February you have quoted a few lines from the *Englishman*, in which Mr. S. K. Banerjee, B.A., gives an account of a joint family at Jamgram, District Burdwan.

Perhaps Jamgram is a mistake for Jamgram which is in the District of Hughli. If he means the Nandi family of Jamgram, then I would humbly beg to point out the following inaccuracy in one of his statements. At the end of his brief note he says—

"Envelopes and post cards are also given, but of late some of the members have abused the arrangement by taking a number of envelopes and post cards and selling them."

This is not quite true. The envelopes and post cards are only given to the members of the family to correspond with their relatives. Some of the youngsters abused this privilege by writing to their friends. So now whenever they ask for post cards and envelopes, they are given to them, by the officer in charge, after the address has been written. But this does in no way concern the grown up members of the family."

We shall be glad to receive further information. A full account of the family and the constitution that governs it, with other particulars, will be an interesting and useful study. In a land where dissension is the rule, the Nandis of Jamgram are a great family and deserving of public respect. They teach a practical lesson which our patriots will do well to recognize and follow. The Congressists will surely profit by the system of domestic government which has survived nine generations amid uncongenial surroundings.

IN memory of the late Mr. Framjee Dinshaw Petit, Bai Awabai Framjee Petit has paid to the Trustees of the Bai Sakerbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital, Bombay, Rs. 1,000, the interest of which is to be applied in feeding animals at the hospital. Another donation of the value of Rs. 7,500 has been made, for the same purpose, to the same hospital, by Sir Dinshaw Manockjee Petit, Bart., and family.

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Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

THE Governor-General in Council has laid down the following test, for detection of lead or copper in the articles of food and drink in emigrant vessels :

"To test the water, a cup or any small white vessel should be about half-filled with it, and a drop of sulphide of ammonium stirred in with the glass rod. Any iron-lead or copper contained in the water, even to a smaller extent than 1/10th of a grain per gallon, would be shown by an inky colouration appearing more or less deep according to the quantity. Should such a change occur, then a drop of hydrochloric acid should be stirred in, when the colour will disappear instantly if due to iron, but persist if due to lead or copper. It is unnecessary to distinguish between lead and copper, as both are highly dangerous.

To test lime-juice for lead or copper, pour two ounces of the juice into a white cup or basin, add ten drops of hydrochloric acid (B.P.—Sp. gr. 1.16), stir with a glass rod, and add five drops of solution of ammonium sulphide. A darkening indicates lead or copper. If the amount of these metals is small, the darkening will require about ten minutes to attain its maximum intensity.

To test ghee, flour, rice, meal or any light-coloured food, about 30 minims of sulphide and an equal measure of the acid should be added separately to 2 ounces of water and a portion of the food well stirred with the mixture, lead or copper being indicated by the darkening that occurs."

THE Board of Revenue, L.P., has notified for general information that, under the orders of the Government of Bengal, the importation of Garhjat ganja and siddhi into British territory will be prohibited from the 1st of April 1896.

A REVISED notification, taking effect from the 1st of April next, prohibits the possession, without a license from the Collector or other duly authorized officer, of any foreign excisable article in any quantity whatever (except spirituous and fermented liquors imported by sea and kept only for private use and consumption and not for sale,) within the districts of Champaran, Mozaffarpur and Durbhanga in the Patna Division; Bhagalpur and Purnea in the Bhagalpur Division; Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri in the Rajshahi; Chittagong, Noakhali and Tippera in the Chittagong; Lohardaga, Palamau, and Singhbhum in the Chota Nagpur; Cuttack, Balasore, Puri and Angul and Khondmals in the Orissa; and Midnapore and Hooghly in the Burdwan Divisions of the Bengal Presidency.

MR. Justice Hill will preside at the first Criminal Sessions of the year opening on Wednesday, the 19th of February.

MR. H. Dawson having been allowed leave for six months from the 7th April, Mr. A. S. Judge will act as Superintendent of the Customs Preventive Service, Calcutta, and of the Sulkea Salt Golahs, Mr. Judge in his turn being replaced as Collector of Income-tax, Calcutta, by Mr. R. G. Girard, Superintendent, Stamp Department, Calcutta Collectorate.

THE examination of candidates for admission to the Executive Branch of the Provincial Civil Service and to the Subordinate Civil Service, will be held at the Senate House of the Calcutta University, on the 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th instant.

MR. Madhu Sudan Das, the elected representative of the Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions, has been gazetted a member of the Bengal Legislative Council.

TWO prisoners having escaped from the Cossipore police station, and one of them re-arrested, he and the guard over him were each sentenced by the Sealdah Magistrate to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

THE post of Scientific Adviser to the Trinity House, originally held by Professor Faraday, and which has been in abeyance since the resignation of Dr. Tyndall, was offered to the discoverer of argone and has been accepted by Lord Rayleigh.

THE Queen has approved of the appointment of Viscount Midleton as Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Surrey in the room of the late Admiral the Hon. Francis Egerton.

MISS "Birdie" Sutherland of the Gaiety Theatre has refused to settle for £3,000 her claim for £20,000 for breach of promise of marriage against the Hon. Dudley Marjoribanks, offered by his father Lord Tweedmouth who was opposed to the marriage.

"HE is a liar, a daylight robber, and one of the greatest imposters that ever came to London. He has killed a woman in three weeks stone dead. When I first knew him he was a tailor, and then a boat-maker, and he is now a doctor." Such were the expressions used by Mr. Richard Brown, a medical man of Stafford, Peckham, of Mr. J. Ferdinand, an American living at King's-road, Chelsea. The American sued the Englishman for slander claiming damages at £2,000. The English jury awarded 5 shillings. How to account for the smallness of the amount which seems to add insult to injury? Is it to be supposed that the reputation of the American was so high that it could not be affected by the disparaging statements against him? Then, greater the fame, the smaller the damages. The insignificant may now look for substantial ones. Or, was it the truth of the imputations that belittled the claim? We in India must not suppose so. For, here, whatever its truth, a libel is always heavily punished both civilly and criminally. We must not, however, omit to mention that, besides the 5 shillings, the plaintiff got his costs. The defendant pays in addition his own expenses which may be heavy.

WE read in an English paper :—

"A hard struggle for life was made the other day by a fox in the vicinity of Sittingbourne. The Tickham Foxhounds met at Bredgar, and there was a large attendance. A fox was soon found, and it led the hounds at a hot pace through Stockbury, where it doubled back near to the point whence it started. The fox recrossed the Maidstone road, revisited Stockbury, and then ran straight to Newington, where it passed through an orchard and was temporarily lost to view. Up to this point the fox had given the hounds a hard run of one hour and five minutes. It was next seen scaling a garden wall, and, being hard pressed, it dashed through a window, entered the sitting-room of a cottage, jumped into the empty fire grate, and clambered up the chimney, whence it emerged, covered with soot. The fox got on the roof, but was driven back, and at once dived down the chimney. But it was compelled to beat a retreat backwards. From the roof it was hustled to the ground, and upon Mr. Rigden, M.F.H., coming up was despatched. And the slaughter, by a crowd of mounted Englishmen and a mob of savage dogs, of this brave little animal, after such a gallant struggle for life, is called sport!"

What savagery! The large crowd that could see unmoved or rather enjoyed the struggle for life, were no better than the brutes that so diabolically made an end of it.

IT is refreshing to turn to the efforts made by ladies to preserve birds who afford more pleasure while living than when killed :

"A number of ladies in the neighbourhood of Godalming and Guildford have commenced a crusade against the wearing of any aigrettes or feathers the obtaining of which leads to the destruction of rare or beautiful birds. In an appeal which is made by two ladies of Charterhouse, Godalming, it is pointed out that when it was remembered that 60,000 dozen aigrettes were supplied to one dealer alone in London, and that an American lady was seen wearing a coat made of the breasts of humming birds, it is evident that no species can long withstand such a drain, and that the white heron, the bird of paradise, and many other beautiful birds must become extinct unless the demand ceases. Over 100 ladies in the neighbourhood have pledged themselves not to wear any aigrettes or feathers except those of the ostrich, domesticated birds, or birds killed for food."

THE Secretary of State has passed a second order in the Madras kissing case. Lord George Hamilton takes a lenient view and is unwilling to punish the wife for the sin of the husband :

"After giving full weight to everything that has been urged on Doctor Smith's behalf, I have come to the conclusion that the complaint made against Doctor Smith was substantially true. This being so, I desire to express my concurrence in the view taken by Sir H. Fowler that an officer who has been guilty of the conduct charged against Doctor Smith more especially when regard is had to the professional relation of Dr. Smith and of the complainant, who was also his guest at the time, could not be allowed to remain in the service. I am therefore unable to comply with the prayer of Doctor Smith's memorial that Sir H. Fowler's decision be reversed and that he may be reinstated in the service with arrears of pay. I have, however, taken into account the fact that since my predecessor's decision was given, Doctor Smith, owing to the appointment of the Commission, has been kept in suspense as to his final sentence for a very considerable time, and that in the course of that time the period which would have sufficed to qualify him for pension, if he had been allowed to remain in the service, has expired. I have also borne in mind the fact that the concession which I am about to make will more particularly benefit Doctor Smith's family who must otherwise have suffered very severely on account of his offence. In view of these considerations, and solely as an act of grace, I have decided that Doctor Smith be retired with effect from the 1st July 1895, on a pension of £292 per annum. He may be allowed his grade pay (Article 306 C. Army Regulations, volume 1) for the period between 9th October 1894 (when he resigned) and the date above mentioned minus the amount of any compassionate allowance already drawn under this decision. He will be able to continue his subscription for pension for his family under the Indian Service Family Pension Regulations. The Government of India will be asked to issue the necessary instructions."



A "HOME" Correspondent writes to the *Times of India* :—

"The Bombay Government has recently issued a printed State paper, signed by Lord Sandhurst, the Governor, calling in question certain allegations made by Mr. Donald Mackenzie, a member of the Committee of the Howard Association, 5, Bishoogate-street Without, London, and published by that body in their last Annual Report, protesting against the cruel practice of flogging Somali (African) boys and men at Aden for petty offences. It now appears that Mr. Mackenzie was merely so far in error that he reported fifty lashes as the maximum legal limit, whereas it is thirty. With this modification, he still maintains that his protests were justified.

The Bombay Government paper says of the Somalis, at Aden, that 'their treatment, in connection with petty offences, differs in no respect from that observed in the case of all other *native* subjects of her Majesty.' Thereupon Mr. Mackenzie writes to the Howard Association (January, 1896):—"It is to my mind doubtful if the Aden authorities have a right to apply the Indian Criminal Code to the Somalis. These are not British Indians. They are natives of Africa under British protection and are a fine set of men. I do not think that the Arabs of Aden are punished by flogging. India being a conquered country, this mode of punishment for petty offences is there inflicted on the natives as a mark of inferiority. Would the British officials in India, or Aden, flog a Frenchman, a German, or an Englishman for such minor offences?"

The Committee of the Howard Association, having carefully gone into this matter, have adopted the following resolution, which was moved by Mr. W. W. Baynes, J. P., and seconded by Mr. Henry Gurney, *vis* :—

'The Committee of the Howard Association have repeatedly taken occasion to express their appreciation of various penal reforms adopted by the Bombay and other Governments of India; but they are convinced that the statements of their colleague, Mr. Donald Mackenzie, in relation to the flogging of natives for petty offences, in Aden as also in India, are substantially correct, being indeed corroborated by the recent State paper of the Bombay Government.

'The Committee hope that, both in Aden and in India, the chief authorities may see the justice and wisdom of abolishing invidious race distinctions in modes of punishment, not only on grounds of humanity, but also because such distinctions tend to injure the interest of Imperial loyalty and unity."

#### NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

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#### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

PARLIAMENT was opened on Tuesday, the 11th of February, by Royal Commission. The Queen's Speech, as read by the Lord Chancellor, was as follows:—"I continue to receive assurances of friendly sentiments from the Foreign Powers. The principal object of the Anglo-French treaty in Siam is to make more secure the establishment of the independence of the kingdom of Siam. I have accepted, with the Emperor of Russia, the line agreed upon by the Commissioners for delimitating the frontier of India and Afghanistan from the Russian dominions.

The Government of the United States has expressed a wish to co-operate in the termination of the differences between Britain and Venezuela, and I have expressed sympathy with the desire to come to an equitable arrangement, and trust that further negotiations will lead to a satisfactory settlement.

The Sultan has sanctioned the principal reforms in Armenia urged by Great Britain, France, and Russia. I deeply regret the fanatical outbreak of a section of the Turkish population resulting in a series of massacres, causing the deepest indignation in Great Britain."

Her Majesty then alludes to the armed incursion into Transvaal from the territory of the Chartered Company, resulting in a deplorable collision with the Boers, which the British Government promptly intervened to prohibit, and warned its subjects against participating in. The origin of the proceeding will be the subjects of a searching enquiry. President Kruger, acting with moderation and wisdom, has placed his prisoners in the hands of Sir Hercules Robinson, and I undertake to bring to trial their leader. Mr. Kruger's conduct and his voluntary assurances lead one to believe that he recognises the importance of redressing the legitimate grievances complained of by the majority of the inhabitants of the Transvaal.

Next allusion is made to the necessity and the fortunate result of the Ashanti expedition. Her Majesty and her daughter are greatly touched and comforted by the wide-spread sympathy at home and abroad regarding the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg. Her Majesty hopes that efficient British control over Coomassie will tend to develop the country, benefit the people, and promote peace and commerce.

Reference is then made to the success of the Chitral engagement with the Border tribes to maintain and protect the road from Peshawar, which will be loyally observed.

Her Majesty then says that the extension and improvement of the Naval defences of the country are the most important subject to which the efforts of Parliament can be directed. Measures will be presented during the session to mitigate agricultural distress, and further assistance will be given to voluntary schools.

The Lords voted the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. In the debate which took place, Lord Rosebery criticized various points of the Speech, notably the Siam treaty and the inaction as regards Armenia. He approved the policy of Government in the Transvaal, but ridiculed the proposal to grant Home Rule to the Rand.

Lord Salisbury defended the Siam treaty which, he said, removed the possible danger of a French occupation of Siam. He believed that the compromise would be found to remove the chances of a conflict between Britain and Venezuela. Regarding Armenia, he said that it was useless to threaten warlike measures which it was impossible to enforce.

In the debate in the House of Commons Sir W. V. Harcourt eulogized the action of Mr. Chamberlain in the Transvaal and the attitude of President Kruger, and demanded that a searching enquiry be made regarding the action of Dr. Jameson and the Chartered Company. Mr. Balfour said that the Company's armed force would be transferred to the Imperial officer and a full enquiry would be opened as to the position of the Chartered Company after the trial of Dr. Jameson, unless all the facts were revealed. A Home Rule amendment brought forward by Mr. Dillon has been rejected by a majority of a hundred to sixteen votes. The Liberals support the amendment. Mr. Chamberlain said that he believed that Mr. Cecil Rhodes, Sir Hercules Robinson, the Reform Committee at Johannesburg, and President Kruger were equally ignorant of Dr. Jameson's intentions. Government, he said, had no desire to insist on the autonomy of the Rand, and hoped that if President Kruger disliked the idea that he would submit other proposals. He hoped that President Kruger would come to England, as personal negotiations would greatly facilitate the settlement.

In a long despatch to Sir Hercules Robinson Mr. Chamberlain endorses the grievances of the Uitlanders, and says that a decreasing minority, mostly composed of agriculturists, monopolise the whole government and right of taxation, while the great majority, who have made the prosperity of the Transvaal, are without a voice. Nevertheless, the despatch adds, neither the British nor the Cape Government in any way foresaw the rising in the Rand or Dr. Jameson's invasion. In view of meeting the wishes of the Uitlanders, without interfering with the interests of the Transvaal generally, Mr. Chamberlain suggests that President Kruger should establish a scheme of local autonomy for the Rand, with power to legislate on local questions, including taxes and paying tribute to the executive. Mr. Chamberlain also invited President Kruger to England to discuss the question. The President accepted the invitation provided the subjects for discussion were specified beforehand. In the despatch from Mr. Chamberlain to Sir Hercules Robinson, dated 13th January, he instructs him to warn President Kruger against relying on any Foreign Power, as Great Britain would prevent, at all cost, foreign interference in South Africa where she was the paramount power, hence the commissioning of a powerful special flying squadron for the Cape. In reply to Mr. Chamberlain's despatch, the premature publication of which he deplores the President is compelled to state that he cannot suffer any interference in the internal affairs of the country, and that the efforts of the Transvaal to secure an understanding with Great Britain are endangered by again exciting the minds of the public.

In the German Reichstag, on February 7, Baron Marschall Von Bieherstein, Foreign Minister, in reply to a question, said that he accepted the responsibility of the Emperor William's telegram to President Kruger. He further stated that it was not intended to ask for an increase in the Navy during the present session, but that it would be necessary to increase the German fleet in proportion to the growth of German interests abroad. This, he added, had nothing to do with the recent events. The Prince also stated that

he was informed that there was no prospect of the early re-opening of the Indian Mints. Germany, he said, does not consider it expedient to take the initiative in convoking a monetary conference. On the 13th, the Foreign Minister declared that President Kruger had never asked for German intervention. He praised the correct attitude of Mr. Chamberlain in the Transvaal affair, and said that the relations between Germany and Great Britain had remained throughout friendly. The Baron added that the reported German designs against the autonomy of the Transvaal were baseless.

THE Czar, in announcing to Prince Ferdinand the despatch of Count Kutusoff to Bulgaria to act as his representative at the baptism of Prince Boris, says that Russia is prepared to forget the past and to restore friendly relations between the two countries. A deputation from the Sobranje having waited on him to express thanks for the baptism of Prince Boris in the orthodox faith, Prince Ferdinand in vehement language replied that his sacrifice of his son had broken family ties, and he had demanded from the Bulgarians no mere lip-service in return. The Russian Government have decided to appoint a Resident diplomatic Agent at Sofia. The Sultan has formally recognized Prince Ferdinand.

THE Anglo-French Niger Commission is about to begin its sittings in Paris. It is believed that the deliberations will be extended to other pending questions between the two countries.

MR. Sexton was offered and has declined the leadership of the Irish party in place of Mr. Justin McCarthy.

THE young Turkish party are again showing signs of activity at Constantinople. Several of them have been arrested.

ADVICES from Corea state that the rebels have killed a detachment of Japanese who were guarding the telegraphs, and that the Russians have landed one hundred men and one gun at Chemulpo. Reuter's correspondent at Yokohama telegraphs that a revolt took place at Seoul on the 11th instant, and that the Premier and seven officials were murdered. The King and the Crown Prince took refuge in the Russian Legation, which is now guarded by two hundred Russian marines.

THE Bluebook on Armenia has appeared from which it appears that Sir Frank Lascelles, British Minister at St. Petersburg, telegraphed to Lord Salisbury on the 9th of August that Prince Lobanoff, replying to Sir Frank Lascelles, had said that the employment of force by Russia or any other Power against Turkey was repugnant to the Czar.

NANSEN is said to have reached the North Pole.

THE Viceroy returned from the Bay on Wednesday. Lord Elgin does not go to sea again, but passes a few days at Barackpore where he goes this afternoon, returning thence on Wednesday next. We are not sure that it is a proper place to go to to recover health.

MR. A. C. Trevor succeeds Sir Charles Pritchard as Public Works Minister.

OFFICIAL mourning on account of the death of H. R. H. Prince Henry of Battenberg having ended, Lady Mackenzie will be "At Home," on Monday next, to ladies and gentlemen on the Belvedere List.

ONE of the first orders passed by Sir Alexander Mackenzie was to further improve the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor. Accordingly, a scheme is under consideration for lighting the Alipur Jail and Belvedere with electric light.

THE first to welcome Mark Twain to Calcutta was Sir Alexander Mackenzie. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal invited the American humourist to dinner on Saturday last. The three "At Homes" of the distinguished visitor were crowded and very much appreciated. After enlivening Darjeeling he was to have given another lecture at Calcutta, but it is not to be.

THE Military Tournament was vastly patronized by the public. The earnings for the ordinary days were Rs. 42,000. More accommodation had to be provided for and extra performances were given. These last added another Rs. 11,000 to the drawings.

A TELEGRAM from Simla dated the 13th of February to a contemporary thus reports the destruction of the P. W. D. offices and records:

"About eight o'clock last night flames were seen issuing from the upper rooms of the Public Works Secretariat, and in an incredibly short space of time the whole of the upper portion of the centre block was ignited. The fire speedily extended to the whole building and the wind, being fresh, caused the fire to burn fiercely. The Municipal and Government fire brigades were present but the fire was too fierce to be subdued, and the efforts of the firemen were concentrated on saving the adjoining houses, and were successful. The ruins are still smouldering, although the hose were playing all night. The building is entirely destroyed and few records have been saved. The fire apparently originated in a fire-place or stove after the office was closed. There were no fatalities, but three men were slightly injured."

Another telegram of the 14th says:—

"The ruins of the Public Works Secretariat are still smouldering. A working party, under an Executive Engineer, is engaged in removing the debris where cool enough. The basement range of masonry and the record rooms are found to be uninjured, and the valuable records are saved. The safe containing the cash and the stamps has been recovered. The fire engines continue to play on the burning ruins. A searching enquiry into the cause of the fire is already proceeding. It is rumoured that the Secretariat will remain at Calcutta this season, as there is no office accommodation at Simla. The injured men are progressing well."

MR. Wilkins and Mrs. Ricard were married in 1865. Soon after they fell out, and under a mutual agreement lived separately till 1892, when the wife sued for a divorce. The husband also filed a suit for nullity of marriage in that she had taken in him another mate when her previous husband Mr. Ricard was living. The court and jury decided that Mr. Ricard, who was not heard of since 1860, was dead, and a decree nisi passed in favour of the wife. Six months after, Ricard suddenly turned up. Wilkins then filed a fresh suit for a declaration that his marriage with Mrs. Ricard was void. It was proved that the new comer, who did not claim back Mrs. Wilkins as Mrs. Ricard, having married again in the belief that she was dead, was no imposter. The question now was could the court go behind the decree already given, or was it not a bar to the present suit? The court did not see its way and the counsel for the wife stuck to the technical plea of *res judicata*, for, as he said, he could not give up his client without a provision being made for her. The court adjourned the case to allow the parties to come to a settlement.

A BARRISTER in India complains to Mr. Labouchere of *Truth* "of the unfair advantage which a young member of the same Bar is said to enjoy over his professional competitors owing to the fact that he is the son of a gentleman holding high office in the Government. The father is practically in a position of authority over the Magistrates of the Presidency, and it is suggested that for this reason Natives think it to their advantage to retain the services of the son."

A father is certainly not to be blamed if he is anxious for the welfare of his son and does nothing wrong for his advancement. Nor is the son to suffer, if he is worthy of success, because of the high position of the father. The question in the particular instance is, has the father unduly influenced any one in the interest of his son? He may have descended from his high platform and introduced his hopeful to attorneys commanding briefs. If litigants in the most foolish employ the son, in prospective hopes of benefit from the father, their sins, if any, are not to be visited on the father, unless he himself be the direct or indirect cause of such employment. It is too sweeping a charge and a far-fetched grievance that the father has control of a kind over the magistrates before whom the son appears as an advocate. It may be demanding too much to enquire if any magistrate has suffered because the son lost his case. Litigants are not to be expected to engage the son unless they believe that the magistrates, before whom he appears, are guided more by the considerations of his sonship than influenced by his arguments. There may be magistrates weak enough to be stirred by visions of distant disasters. As a rule, we suppose, we must take them to be better men of the world, that they are more attentive to their immediate duty than to any possible prospective disadvantage. They may shew for the son of the arbiter of their official

career a regard which they may not reserve for any other. But that is a distinction which the particular son can always expect with every son of Britain from the magistrates of India. There are very few magistrates, of all grades and kinds, in India who make no distinction among the advocates, or are equally rude or gracious to them. You cannot deny to the son in question the advantage of his birth. It is at the same time the duty of the father to see that his name is not wantonly dragged through the mire when he does not wish it, by those who, wishing to befriend him, for benefits received or expected, take his name, not in vain, to advance the son in his profession.

SIR Griffith Evans characterised Sir James Westland's tinkering of the Tariff Act in 1894 as a descent from the high region of finance for grovelling among fish maws and shark fins. No remark could be happier. Heroic, however, as the stand was that the Finance Minister had made in 1894, against the imposition of the cotton duties, his necessities soon obliged him to listen to the voice of reason and raise a revenue that is almost ideally unobjectionable. As the fates, unfortunately, would have it, before the ink was dry with which the order was promulgated for the reimposition of those duties, the Finance Minister has once more been obliged to tinker with the customs tariff. Compelled to give up a portion of the duties on cotton at the dictation of Manchester, or, if that be offensive, in the interests of free trade, though every other import must continue to be dutiable, Sir James Westland has taken up a powerful microscope for examining every public department and seeing what can be made of this or that situation. The privilege, hitherto enjoyed freely by a number of poor scribes, of sitting on the verandahs of the Calcutta post offices for assisting the illiterate, chiefly Upcountry coolies, cartmen and servants, in the writing of their money-orders and superscriptions of letters and, very occasionally, a letter or two, for a very small fee, never exceeding half an anna, has been put up to auction. It is said that full fifteen hundred rupees have been found by the Finance Minister by this scheme of fleecing a dozen or so of very poor people whom no other Government would have thought of taxing. It is proposed to extend the plan to Howrah and some of the suburban post offices, preparatory to its ultimate extension all over India. The measure is worthy of a great Government such as we have. The glory, hitherto unique, of the revenue adventures of bold baron North and his good knight Probert among the mountains of Venodotia, would pale before that of Sir James Westland in search of ways and means on the plains of Hindustan. The ingenuity displayed deserves to be immortalized. It is on a par with that discovered by the Agent to the East India Railway Company. Under the orders of that lynx-eyed official, the cobblers and shoe-blacks plying their trade within the Howrah railway station have to pay a fair percentage of their earnings to the Company. Resolved to give to the shareholders as large a dividend as possible, the Agent has discovered another source of income. Cabs waiting at the station in expectation of fare have begun to be charged. A late Superintendent of one of the large printing establishments of the Government of India displayed greater genius. It seems that half a dozen bullocks are entertained for dragging carts laden with printed forms to different public offices in Calcutta. It struck him that the dung of these animals, might reduce the expenditure of coal for his engines. The order was passed that the keepers of the animals should supply a certain quantity of dung-cakes everyday. The men protested that as the animals always worked from early dawn to dewy eve along the public thoroughfares, their droppings went to swell the street refuse and were the property of the Municipal Corporation, and that employed as they themselves were for the whole day in loading the carts and driving them, they had neither the time nor the right for storing the valuable material. It was with great difficulty that they could escape obeying the order of the Superintendent whose economical zeal was praise-worthy. The Asiatics believe in the transmigration of souls. Is it difficult to conjecture what such officials were in a previous state of existence? There are confectioners in the Indian bazars who kill ants and bees for the sugar in the stomachs of those little thieves.

THE attempts to dissuade Maharaja Sriram Chunder Bhunj Deo from marrying beyond his caste, seem at last to have succeeded. Yesterday we received a telegram that there was joy at Maunbhanj,

among the Raja's relatives, officials, friends and subjects at the change of his determination to marry an accomplished girl of a pioneer of a new religion who had married a daughter of his to a prince who was far removed from him in political status as in the religion of his birth. As soon as he became of age, the Maunbhanj Raja had made his choice of this girl, whom he intended to marry after he had married his sisters and then take her to England. When this intention was known, there was alarm at that backward Hindu Raj. However enlightened a prince may become, it is no good policy to cause pain to his people by adoption of a faith or unfaith which they do not believe in or cannot comprehend. They may overlook many excesses but will not allow him to commit an outrage on their religion. That is a sore point, especially with the uneducated and the fanatical. It is a wise resolve not to drive them to desperation. We hope the present determination in the interests of the state which he represents, is final and the Maharaja will be allowed peace. He is not to be pursued for an indiscretion committed in youthful hot haste, when he was scarcely master of himself. There may be reasons why he should stick to his word, but there are good grounds and sufficient why he should not.

WE are grieved at the death, this morning, from pneumonia, of Babu Bolly Chand Singh of this city—the sole survivor of the glorious Singhis of Jorasanko. The attending physician, Dr. Sanders had despaired of his life for the last three days and had prepared the family for the worst. Last night Dr. Salzer was called in and he found the patient dying. Babu Bolly Chand cannot be said to have died young like some of the prominent members of his family, for he was 61 years of age and the average span of life in Bengal is much less. Baboo Bolly, without inheriting a fortune, had to keep up the prestige of the great name he bore, and he maintained it to an extent to the last. For his good manners, amiable disposition, regard for others, great and small, nontentative private charity, he had many friends who besieged his house during his last illness, and the esteem of all who knew him. The circle of his friends and acquaintances was very large.

Though born of high degree he had almost to begin his life anew. He was an orphan at an early age and inherited an involved estate. More to acquire business habits than to make an income, he accepted Government service as an ordinary clerk, under Mr. Edmund Drummond, the Comptroller-General, Bengal, afterwards Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. P., who was fond of the Babu and wanted to train him up in business, and wished to see him in a responsible post in the Upper Provinces. For a scion of a wealthy house, to rise above the disadvantages and difficulties in which Baboo Bolly found himself in his early years, shews ability and judgment. Unwilling to cause pain to anyone, he understood his rights, and knew how to enforce them. In a notable instance he firmly resisted a very doubtful claim from a very high quarter, to which many, greater than he, would have submitted.

A good soul, he was in peace with all the world. *Requiescat!*

POOR Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, who is undergoing imprisonment for having used an order with an altered date in filing an appeal, and who has been disbarred, with, as it must be said, undue haste may, after,

### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1895-96.)

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Wednesday, the 19th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Inorganic Acids.

Lecture by Babu Syamadas Mukerjee, M.A., on Thursday, the 20th Inst., at 3 P.M. *Subject*: Analytical Conics.—Trilinear equation of the Circle.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Friday, the 21st Inst., at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Inorganic Acids (continued).

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Friday, the 21st Inst., at 6-30 P.M. *Subject*: Refraction its laws and their Applications.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Saturday, the 22nd Inst., at 4 P.M. *Subject*: Inorganic Acids (continued).

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary,

February 15, 1896.

all, be the victim of a wrong conviction. The man had unfortunately a bad name while acting as a Moonsiff at Balia in the Ghazipore district. A mass of anonymous letters and petitions had been sent up to the N.-W. P. High Court, and the Judge of Ghazipore also charged him with various irregularities. The enquiry then made brought to light that as an Overseer in the Bengal P. W. D., he had a bad odour. It is possible that these matters had some thing to do with the terrible punishment to which he has been subjected and which every man of feeling cannot but deplore. Rajendra comes of a good stock, from the old town of Haulshahar. He had been educated at the Seals' Free College, Calcutta. Passing the matriculation examination of the Calcutta University, he joined the Civil Engineering College. Then he became, as already said, an Overseer. Leaving this appointment, he took up the law and successfully passed the examination of the Allahabad High Court. He then practised at Furrakhabad and Goruckpore and then officiated as Moonsiff at Balia. Not being confirmed in that appointment, he joined the Allahabad High Court and, after practising there for about 9 years, got into his present troubles. During the latter period of his practice at Allahabad he used to make a fair income. He had good natural parts which he had improved by study. Indeed, unlike most native lawyers in good practice, he had retained his habits of study. Every one at Allahabad is sincerely sorry for him. What a sad collapse of a promising career!

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, February 15, 1896.

### JHALAWAR.

THE fate of the Maharaj Rana still hangs in the balance. Let us take a dip into the past history of the State.

Jhalawar is one of the Rajputana States to which a British Resident is attached. It is not so very petty as it is supposed to be, having an area of 2,694 square miles and a population of 340,488, chiefly Hindus including 20,863 Mahomedans. The income is about 20 lakhs a year, though during the time of its first Chief Muddon Singh, the grandson of Zalim Singh, the minister of Kotah, it had been about 24 lakhs. The reason is obvious. For the new principality, the Jhalla family took, in 1838, almost the half of Kotah or its most fertile provinces from Maharao Ram Singh, who from ignorance of the administration of his own State, was easily deceived into the belief that only a third of his territory was alienated, to free him from the domination of the hereditary Jhalla administrator of his kingdom.

The ancestors of Zalim Singh of Kotah originally came from Hulwad, a small Jhalla chiefship in Kattywar, and first settled in Mewar territory, where they were given a small hamlet in *Jagir* in return for the feudal service of two horses to the Maharana at Udeypore. By marrying a daughter to one of the Kotah chiefs, the grandfather of Zalim Singh entered the service of that State, where he rose to be Fouzdar or Commander of the Forces, the post being subsequently inherited by his celebrated grandson, the founder of the family in Rajputana.

For some private reasons, he incurred the serious displeasure of the then reigning chief Maharao Durjan Sal. He had, therefore, to leave Kotah and take refuge in his Jagir hamlet in Udeypore (the kingdom being called Mewar). His great ability and genius, however, soon gained for him the favour of the Maharana whom he successfully advised to resist the incursions of the Marhattas headed by the Peshwa. The result was a drawn battle stopping, for a time, their advance into Mewar, at the sacrifice of the lives of her bravest nobles, which made Zalim's position very unsafe in the capital, as the sons

vowed vengeance for the originator of the calamity in their families. Under the advice of the Rana, Zalim once more retired to obscurity. Repenting at his death-bed and fully aware of Zalim's sterling qualities, Maharao Durjan Sal sent for him and placed in his lap the young heir and son Omed Singh, then 10 years old. After Durjan Sal's death, Zalim Singh became the *de facto* Ruler of Kotah and remained so, without interruption, during the long reign of Omed Singh of 52 years. Immediately after the accession of Omed Singh, Zalim Singh, following the custom of Rajasthan, invaded and acquired a pergunah named Khicheewarra, inhabited by the *Khichee* Rajputs, and the small chiefship of Shahabad worth 3 lakhs a year, owned by a degenerate descendant of the famous King Nal of ancient India. This custom is still known in Rajasthan by the word *Tikadour*, that is, a run after new acquisition immediately after coronation.

When Zalim came to power, Kotah was heavily indebted and most of its fertile lands usurped by powerful Sirdars who, living in their moated castles with armies of retainers, set law and the Maharao's authority at defiance. The fiscal or khalsa income did not exceed 4½ lakhs of Rupees a year, a sum insufficient to keep up the dignity of the Ruler or even pay the interest of the heavy debts due to native bankers and soucars.

From this miserable plight, Zalim raised Kotah to the first rank of the then Native States of India. He began by crushing the powerful nobility, by sending them one after another to fight the Marhattas, hordes of whom were then ravaging Rajputana, now under the Peshwa, then under Holkar and Scindia and again under Amir Khan, the Pindara leader, who rose from a Sowar to be leader of armies and finally Ruler of the Tonk Principality. The policy was to withhold aid from the nobles and, when sufficiently humbled, to sequester their usurped lands. There was not a biga of fallow land; he cultivated all the culturable waste, by thousands of cattle purchased by the State. The income rose to more than 50 lakhs, and the stored grain of the crown lands in a famine year was sold for 1 crore of rupees. By a well-equipped army, both of mercenaries and Jagirdars, he protected the Kotah territory from the incursions of the predatory Pindaras, in whose final subjugation by the British, he greatly assisted. His reward was the hereditary primeministership of Kotah by the Supplementary Article of the Delhi Treaty of 1818. His loyalty to Maharao Omed Singh was amply borne out by the fact that, when the British offered him the Chaumahala or four out of the twelve pergunahs sequestered from Jaswant Rao Holkar, he declined the grant for himself and had it transferred to his Chief. He was a prominent figure for more than 50 years, during the latter end of the last and the beginning of the present century, not only in Rajputana but also in all India. He maintained an army of scouts in all the Indian Courts who brought him intelligence in a marvellously short time. It was he who advised the Paramount Power against the extension of the monopoly of opium into Rajputana, which, if persisted in, would probably have brought on a war.

During the long reign of Maharao Omed Singh no troubles arose. He left 3 sons—Maharao Kishore Singh, who succeeded him, Bishen Singh, who was exiled and whose descendants are now living at Indore, and Prithi Singh, killed in the battle of Mangrole, which took place between Kishore Singh after his accession



to the Gadi and Zalim Sing, the minister. Though a quiet man, Kishore Sing was induced by his fiery brother Prithi Sing to try to cancel the hereditary prime-ministership. This was too much for Zalim who revolted. In the war which ensued, the British Government assisted the Prime Minister and the battle of Mangrole humbled down Kishore Sing, who had to resubmit himself to the dominion of the Jhalla.

Maharao Kishore Sing got an annual allowance of Rs. 1,64,000 with the assignment of a small escort of horse and foot and the outward semblance of royalty. The Chief's jurisdiction was limited to the Palace enclosure, while Zalim Sing remained master of the State with the *personnel* of the administration, both civil and military, entirely under his command. At this time the old administrator had grown totally blind and the agreements between the nominal reigning chief and the *de facto* ruling party were therefore drawn up by Colonel Todd, in favour of Zalim's son, Madho Sing. We may here mention what is still related at Kotah, that when Colonel Monson had to retreat with his small army, followed by an overwhelming force, with Juswant Rao Holkar in command, the gates of the Mokundurra pass were closed to the Holkar, while Monson passed through them to a place of safety. A meeting was then arranged to settle matters between Juswant Rao, blind of one eye, and the Kotah administrator, who was wholly blinded by age. It took place on a small boat on the River Chambul, commanded by the guns of the Palace Fort. Before leaving the city, Zalim had given peremptory orders, that on the slightest show of treachery on Holkar's part, the boat with them both should be sunk by cannon shot. He said that as he was too old, being almost 90, his life was of no consequence, but the death of Juswant Rao would free the Kotah State of its troubles. The recourse to cannon shot was not necessary, as Holkar listened to reason. It is still believed in those parts that the fate of India was settled that day by two men with only one eye. Zalim Sing was so conscious of his powers, that to the last he used to say that if he had only been able to secure the Rana of Udeypore as his permanent master, he could have secured the empire of India—not altogether a vain boast, considering the prominent figure he cut in those troublous times and the services he rendered to his master of Kotah, to Rajputana generally, and to the then-rising British Power.

On the death of Zalim Sing, his only son Madho Sing quietly succeeded him and remained in power for 10 years, when he died. Nothing of importance occurred during his incumbency, as he was a quiet inoffensive man and the great prestige of his father assisted his peaceful administration of Kotah. After him came his son Muddon Sing, whose arrogance and want of consideration for the reigning Chief Maharao Ram Sing, the nephew and the adopted successor of Maharao Kishore Sing, produced, in A. D. 1838, a serious quarrel which led to the dismemberment of Kotah and the creation of the new Principality of Jhalawar for Muddon Sing on his relinquishing the hereditary administratorship of Kotah.

#### HOMŒOPATHY IN INDIA.

THE Homœopathic League of London is doing good work. Its honorary secretary is Mr. E. H. Laurie, 16 Blandford Square, London, from whom information respecting it may be obtained. Recently it issued the tract No. 50, treating of "Homœopathy in India." The pamphlet is divided in two parts. The first contains a History of Homœopathy in India, by Dr. P. C. Mazum-

dar, and the second gives the Reminiscences of an old Homœopath in Calcutta.

A book that deals with the origin and the spread of homœopathy in India is welcome indeed. But the League tract gives no sufficient information. Dr. Mazumdar writes some words about himself and his father-in-law, the late Dr. B. L. Bhaduri. The paper is more a homage paid by the son to the father than a contribution to the subject. It contains no reference to work done outside Calcutta, and even about the metropolitan sphere the writer shows meagre knowledge. Homœopathy has been introduced and is gradually being pushed forward against mighty odds. The introduction of a new faith based on positive sciences is a great phenomenon, especially in India where medical science is based more on deduction than on induction. It is not only by ratiocination but also by cures, where the other schools have failed, that homœopathy has gained a footing.

I give some particulars, most of which are taken from Dr. Sircar's paper published in the "Transactions of the International Homœopathic Convention" held at London in 1881. The first homœopath was Dr. Honigberger who came to Lahore in 1839 to treat the famous Maharaja Ranjeet Singh, and his book "Thirty-five years in the East" was published in London, in the year 1852, describing his experiences. In 1846, Surgeon Samuel Brooking, a retired medical officer, opened homœopathic hospitals at Tanjore and Pudocota, under the patronage of the respective rajahs. In 1851, a similar institution was opened at Calcutta by Dr. C. Fabre Tonnere under the patronage of the hon'ble Sir John Hunter Littler, G. C. B., Deputy Governor of Bengal. In 1854, Mr. E. De Latour, Judge of Shahabad, treated many cases of cholera there, and converted his deputy Syed Zainuddin Hosein to the new creed. Two of his sons, Syed Hosein and Syed Ali Bilgrami hold important offices in the dominions of the Nizam of Hyderabad. About this period many civil and military officers in India used homœopathic medicines. Captain May in Hastings and Mr. Walter Duval in Entaly used to distribute free medicines to the poor. In 1861, Babu Rajinder Dutt, of the Wellington Square Dutt Family, took to the new science being converted by Dr. Tonnere. With Babu Rajinder, the relief of distress was a passion and a labour of love. His taste for medical charity was first created by his education, though short, in the Calcutta Medical College. He opened his outdoor dispensary first to distribute old school remedies, and since his conversion homœopathic medicines were given free both to the rich and the poor. Dr. Berigny's advent in 1864 stirred Babu Rajinder to fresh conquests in the domain of the three different schools, the one European and the other two Indian, Kaviraji and Yunani. Great efforts were made to stifle the infant, but it could not be done, for the social position and influence of Babu Dutt. I may mention that Dr. Tonnere was appointed health officer of Calcutta, by the influence of Sir Henry Sumner Maine, the then law member, whose medical attendant he was. While in the Municipality, he was not allowed to practice.

Homœopathy gradually gained ground in other parts of India. In 1863, Babu Loke Nath Maitra, a disciple of Babu Rajinder, went to Benaras to practise, and in 1867, under the patronage of Mr. Ironside of the Civil Service, established a hospital. Two years after, a dispensary was opened at Allahabad and placed under the charge of Babu Preonath Bose, a cousin of Babu Rajinder. In another year, another hospital was started at Agra under Babu Gobind Chunder Roy. Babu Dutt was now the leading spirit in all homœopathic propaganda. Pundit Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar, Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Dr. B. L. Bhaduri, Dr. Girish Chunder Dutt, Dr. Gopal Chunder Goswami, Dr. Gopal Chunder Lahiri were among his converts. In 1867, Dr. Leopold Salzer came to this country it is said from Alexandria, having graduated in the university of Vienna, in 1859, and is still in our midst.

The dominant school was growing bitter against the new which was not yet firmly established. The conversion, in 1867, of Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar gave it a fresh start. The old school denounced the new as the resort of amateurs. The accession of Dr. Sircar was a shock of earthquake to them. "The Supposed Uncertainty in Medicine"—his avowal of new faith—completely upset them. Dr. Sircar, being rudely treated, ceased to attend the meetings of the Bengal Branch of the British Medical Association, where the paper was read and of which society he was a Vice-President, and the Society too did not long survive his secession.

To defend the cause of homœopathy in the wordy warfare that ensued, Babu Rajinder Dutt invited Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee from his residence at Baranagore, a metropolitan suburb. The *Hindoo Patriot* thundered forth leaders from his pen. The other newspapers followed suit, not excepting the *Englishman*. It was a unanimous condemnation of the trade-union of the orthodox school. There was battle not only in the stronghold of the Goliaths but also outside it. Though the adversaries were a multitude, yet truth and justice gained, for it was a fight with bullets from the brain. The situation was critical for Dr. Sircar. The dominant school deprived him of his only means of support for six months. Dr. Sircar, however, bore it bravely, for it was on occasion of the triumph of homœopathy of which he was the new standard-bearer. If he had been captured the battle would have ended in smoke. Capture him, they could not; the adversaries wanted a surrender. But he was not the man to surrender even at discretion as advised by Dr. Fayer, his revered professor. Dr. Sircar could practise homœopathy, they had no objection, but he must not avow his faith. It was rather a surrender of the adversaries than of Dr. Sircar's. Had he not been fully conscious that this new truth was a heavenly light and ought to be revealed in its full luminosity, and he its new priest, he would have accepted the easy terms of his opponents and remained with them in the Sanhedrim of the Pedants. He had also to resist the persuasion of friends advising him to revert to the old school as a matter of cool calculation and policy. This difficulty of Dr. Sircar was somewhat smoothed down by encouragements from Babu Rajinder Dutt and Pandit Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar.

Strong in the strength of his conscience and his cause, Dr. Sircar showed a bold front. An unskilful skirmisher would have shown his back to the enemy. Homœopathy had gained ground through the exertions of volunteers but it was reserved for a regular to fight the decisive battle. Among the passed students of the Calcutta Medical College at that time, he was the most cultivated of them all, not only in science but also in the English language. For this reason, if not for any other, he was not a mean opponent and he could hold his own. A trial of strength with foreigners in their own language requires capacity and hence an equal contest can bring respect from them. National literature should no doubt be improved, but, situated as we are, the cultivation of English literature is a necessity.

An apparent calm followed the fight. The rage of the Old against the New school was visible only at the bedside of patients and in the private conversation of medical men. The reigning Philistines would not meet their reformed brothers. At this time "The Calcutta Journal of Medicine" was started. It commenced in 1868 and continues to this day with a brief intermission. "The Indian Homœopathic Review" dating after 1876, is a lilliputian aid to the cause of homœopathy in India.

In 1878, homœopathy was again brought to the front, in the unsophisticated paladium of learning in the Calcutta University. Dr. Sircar was voted a place in the Faculty of Medicine, after he had been eight years in the Faculty of Arts. There was no dissentient vote at this significant meeting, though the old school was represented. The weather was calm but it was one before a storm. The ominous cloud formed and it was

standing still. It required a trifling motion to destroy an existing structure. Dr. Charles, the president of the Sangrados, moved like Cobra Bungaris to swallow one of his own species. "The Indian Medical Gazette" began to spread venom by its hissing. The Faculty of Medicine protested against the action of the Senate. Dr. Sircar replied producing testimony in favour of homœopathy from the recognized old school authorities, as Hippocrates, Hufeland, Liston, Lauder Brunton, and others. The Senate met again and requested the faculty to reconsider their proposition with special reference to the letter of Dr. Sircar. They replied that they could not agree with him, for "homœopathy is based upon principles and methods of enquiry which are diametrically opposed to what they believe to be the true principles and methods of sound, logical, inductive reasoning and careful thorough-going research." The reply was nothing, only they avoided a definite issue by stilted phrases. They ought to have shown in what respect homœopathic proving falls short of the inductive logic.

The Senate met to decide the question finally. It was an unsanguinary battle of freedom of thought against orthodoxy. Both sides were well represented. The first attack came from the orthodox rank. The party of progress replied. Dr. Rajendra Lala Mitra's peroration clearly pointed out the obstinacy of the old school. He said "it rested with the meeting to decide whether the university should be known to the public and posterity as composed of representatives of those who condemned Galileo, or of educated Englishmen of the latter half of the 19th century; whether the Fellows should be the leaders of tradeguilds and professional jealousy, or liberal patrons of science; whether they should be men ready to ratten those who did not fall into their ways, or upholders of perfect freedom of thought and action; whether they should be the administrators of a moral Lydch law, or the protectors of honest independent enquiry into the arcana of nature; and it was earnestly to be hoped that their decision should not disappoint the public." The result of this conflict was a victory for homœopathy.

After this decision, the sinners were more sinful than before. They showed their worst intolerance. At first they were for mending matters by entreating Dr. Sircar to resign, but it was to no effect. Subsequently they all, excepting Dr. McLeod, the editor of the "Indian Medical Gazette," ended their own existence in the Faculty of Medicine. To preserve the Faculty was impossible, unless Dr. Sircar resigned. At last he was obliged to withdraw.

The third collision was a trivial one. It was a puny spite put forth in a number of the "Indian Medical Gazette" of 1882, by the editor himself. It was a feeler. He had miscalculated the strength of his adversary, Dr. McLeod pelted a tiny brickbat and received a heavy stone in answer. He never shewed himself again.

The first hospital was opened in 1851 by Dr. Tonnere. In 1861, Babu Rajinder Dutt established his charitable dispensary at 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane. It existed for a long time. Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar opened an outdoor dispensary at his residence No. 51 Sankaritola, in 1867, and it exists to this day. The average attendance of new patients is about twelve thousand a year besides the large number of the old. Since then other similar institutions have sprung up in different parts of the town. Sir Raja Saurindra Mohun Tagore's is one of them. In 1891, a hospital was opened principally by the efforts of Dr. Mazumdar, but it has a precarious existence.

One Jelowitz, M. D., was practising homœopathy in Bombay. The Rev. Augustus Muller, a Roman Catholic Missionary has his dispensary at Mangalore, Madras Presidency.

Of homœopathic schools, the less said the better.

Information respecting the past and the present state of homœopathy in the different parts of India is solicited.

H. C. R. G.

24, Mirzapore Lane, Calcutta.

## Letter to the Editor.

### AN INDIAN PASTEUR INSTITUTE.

SIR,—The appeal made to the public, through the British Indian press, for funds to establish a Pasteur Institute in India, must have been read with much surprise by a large number of the English people, who are well aware that the reputation of Pasteur's treatment for hydrophobia is rapidly declining in the Western world.

A certain section of scientific men, however, presuming on their professional prestige, have the audacity to try and impose upon the humane Hindoo people, the system of barbaric empiricism called Pasteurism.

This term conveniently conceals every kind of ruthless cruelty that human curiosity, when divested of every restraint of natural feeling or religion, can devise.

As the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Benson, has remarked, in no part of the world are there to be found greater refinements of brain than among the Hindoos.

We have confidence, therefore, that they will not readily accept or countenance this inhuman and fallacious system.

With regard to the vaunted value of Pasteur's anti-rabic inoculations, the *Standard* remarked at the time of his death, that "an important and by no means diminishing section of the medical profession both in France and elsewhere, continue stoutly to deny that Pasteur's method is anything better than scientific quackery."

Many of the most eminent physiologists including Professor Virchow, have the candour to admit the impossibility of pronouncing on the value of Pasteur's inoculations against hydrophobia.

During last autumn, patient after patient in England died of hydrophobia immediately after undergoing Pasteur's treatment.

The papers last week contained an account of a Miss Wallender who returning from treatment at the Buda Pesth Institute, having been certified by the doctors as cured, developed hydrophobia while in the train, and has since died in terrible agony. So far from saving the unfortunate sufferers bitten by rabid animals, from the risk of hydrophobia, there is strong evidence that the disease has increased in all the countries where the system is practised. In view of the growing evidence of its futility and danger afforded by the constantly increasing death-roll, it is surprising that anyone has still sufficient confidence in the system to expose themselves to its risks, as there is undeniable ground for believing that it communicates the disease it claims to prevent, in cases where the person escaped contamination by the bite.

Pasteur's treatment is based on the supposition that the disease is caused by a specific micro-organism, but this germ, it is admitted, has not been found.

It is on the strength of the same vague hypothesis of innumerable germs, that these experimentalists prophesy conquests "beyond the farthest flights of hope," to be achieved by them over cholera, enteric fever, and other zymotic diseases.

Yet the science of bacteriology becomes more and more confused as each so-called discovery is announced; and so they spend their time "in dropping buckets into empty wells, and growing old in drawing nothing up," in consequence of employing wrong methods of research.

But the true is the clear, and the more intense the intellectual light brought to bear upon truth, the more consistent does it become.

As the human mind has a strong tendency to close with truth, we are compelled to conclude that such vagaries as the pretended discoveries of legions of polymorphic and endless anti-toxins for their devitalization in the human system, are better adapted to the pages of nursery fables than to the manuals of science.

The endeavour to establish amid a people, whose religion and traditions inculcate profound reverence for life as a sacred thing, a temple of torture where animals the most sensitive are dissected

alive piecemeal, in order that pretenders to science may prepare mysterious viruses with which to inoculate and poison the public, is surely the acme of impirical presumption and scientific absurdity.

MAURICE L. JOHNSON.

Baker Street, Westminster-mare,

January 23, 1896.

## THE COTTON DUTIES DEBATE.

### THE SPEECH OF SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor said :—

"It is an extremely difficult position to have to follow in debate such a speech as we have listened to, especially in the case of one who like myself entered this room with considerable doubts as to the equity and wisdom of this measure. It would have been well, I think, had the forms of the Council permitted it, if Sir James Westland had given us this speech at the commencement of the debate when he presented the Report of the Select Committee. I should then have had the assistance of the criticisms of the commercial members and others who are more familiar with this subject than I am myself. I must confess that, listening with all my ears, I have not been able to follow clearly and completely the very rapidly read paper with which the Financial Member has favoured us. I do, however, see that he has been able to meet some of the objections that were brought forward to this measure. I think he has, to a large extent, met the objections arising from the allegation that there is a transfer of taxation from the well-to-do classes to the poorer classes. No doubt what he has said will be submitted to criticism hereafter, and the case in favour of the Bill may not in the end prove to be so strong as he has made it appear; but as well as I can judge I think he has to a large extent met that particular objection. He has not, however, dealt with what to my mind is one of the principal objections to the measure, that is, the protection and favouritism shown to one special item of our import tariff, while there are undoubtedly many other items in that tariff which have equal claims to consideration. As a free trader myself I shall rejoice to see the day when we revert to free trade altogether, but so long as our finances require us to realise duties of this kind I can see no particular reason why cotton should be more favoured than (say) woollen or other goods in the tariff. There is an inequity which comes out very clearly in the proposal to reduce the duties on cotton goods to 1½ per cent. less than the ordinary tariff rate. I am not, moreover, altogether convinced that either he, or the other Members who have to a certain extent taken his view, have fully realised the effect of the retention in the Bill of the exemption of hand-woven goods. That is a point which presses very much upon my mind and regarding which I shall have to say something by and bye, but as to the general form of the thing and treatment of the Bill I must say now that I certainly understood, when this measure was introduced a fortnight ago, that the only principle to which the Government was pledged was the principle of removing from our fiscal system not only all protection but all appearance of protection, and I thought it was quite open to the Select Committee to consider fairly and frankly the objections that were raised to the particular scheme of the Government and to put forward any better scheme which would have secured the main object in view.

"Judging from their report, however, the Select Committee appear to have felt themselves precluded from considering any scheme save that which lay within the four corners of the Bill; but I cannot see myself why it should not have been open to the Select Committee to have taken some such line as this. 'Lancashire says, that there shall be no protection. We agree, and we will tax everything alike, imported yarn, imported cloths, country-made yarn and country-made cloths'—mill-woven of course I mean, for no one has ever dreamt of taxing the domestic spindle; and then they might have gone on to say 'We shall not of course require the Indian mill-weaver to pay his duty twice over, but he shall be entitled to set off against the duty on his cloth what has been actually paid on the yarn.' I would have met the difficulty with regard to the Indian dyes, to which the Hon'ble Member referred in introducing the Bill, by saying 'Very good, here we are prepared to make a sacrifice and we will admit dyed goods at grey or white values.' It appears to me that it was possible to devise some scheme which would entirely have done away with protection, or the very appearance of it, without raising or retaining all the inherent difficulties which appear to me still to cling to this measure.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

I entirely concur with Sir Griffith Evans in all he has said about its being our duty to sympathise with and support the Government in its efforts to hold the scales evenly between Manchester and Indian interests, and I think the Government has honestly tried to do its duty; but I do regret that the Select Committee, with all the opportunities that they had of consulting gentlemen interested in the trade, were not allowed to consider whether some better scheme than that contained in the Bills might not have been devised.

"Now, as regards this question of the hand-loom trade, opinions, as the Council see, differ very considerably. I confess that I agree with those who hold that the protection will have a very serious effect upon both the Indian and import interests. It robs the measure, in my opinion, of all hope of finality. It is, I fear, the little 'pitted speck' in the 'garnered fruit' of our cotton-duties which rotting inward bids fair to 'moulder all.' I differ from those who speak of the indigenous weaving industry of India as a moribund industry. I would rather describe it as in a state of suspended animation. Nor do I think the description given us just now by the Hon'ble Sir James Westland of the condition of the weaver generally is altogether correct. The weaver does not stand so much alone as some suppose. There is no doubt that he is a very depressed member of the community at present, but he has behind him the Marwari, the native piece-goods dealer, and I have myself seen scores, nay hundreds, of villages in which the weaving classes are kept from utter extinction simply by the action of the local Marwari, who finds it to his interest to keep them under the hand. He gives them advances, little as an ordinary rule, just enough to keep them alive, but he has prepared to increase these advances whenever it suits his book; and I happen to know that there is a very real intention on the part of some big dealers here in Calcutta to act in this way and take advantage of that protection which is given to hand-loom by the present Bill. I cannot help thinking that both the mills of India and of Lancashire will feel that competition very severely, and if that is the case then I agree with Sir Griffith Evans that it is extremely unlikely that there will be any finality attaching to this measure. I have had very little time to go into the matter, but I have had the statistics of a typical weaving district in the neighbourhood of Calcutta examined. I find it is a mistake to suppose that the hand-weavers use only the coarser counts. My information is that they use very largely the very finest counts, and that they use these counts in a very large proportion, up to in fact one-third of their total yarns, and the cloth turned out by them is better liked by large classes of consumers than any imported or well-sized goods, and so long as the prices can be kept down to the level on mill-woven goods or near it, the outturn of the hand-loom weaver will be in demand. Taking the statistics of the district to which I have referred—of course I only put them forward by way of illustration—I cannot build a whole theory upon a few figures which I take out at random—I find that the exemption of coarse cottons in 1878-79 had no effect whatever upon the trade of the district. The amount of twist and yarn imported from Calcutta and the value of hand-made goods exported from the district remained practically stationary. But when the cotton-duties were altogether taken off in 1882 the quantity of yarn taken fell from 60,000 maunds in 1881-82 to 21,000 maunds in 1890-91, and the value of hand-made goods exported fell from 7½ lakhs to 1¼ lakhs, while the value of imports of European piece-goods rose year by year with the improvement of communications from 9 to 31 lakhs of rupees last year. In its best year the district exported before the repeal of the duties took effect, nearly 12 lakhs of rupees worth of hand-made goods and took exactly that same amount of imported European goods; but in 1890-91 the hand-made industry had, as I say fallen to 1¼ lakhs. Now, these figures seem to me to shew just this, that the hand-loom cannot compete with the mills on equal terms, but that they can compete when the mill goods are saddled with an excise. It may be said that the local Administration ought to view with satisfaction anything that can be done to stimulate an industry so depressed as the hand-loom industry. The salvation of the proletariat of India no doubt lies in the development of mechanical industries; but we must look to the conditions of our own day; it is to the power-loom, the steam-engine and electricity that we must look for their salvation; and therefore I do not hail the revival of this hand-loom industry with any great fervour. We are told that the Finance Minister has the prospect of a surplus and that this must go to relieve the distress of Lancashire or to stifle its complaints. My Lord, no relief that we can give will meet the case of Lancashire, involved as it is in the throes of a struggle such as Mr. Stevens has described. It is futile to spend our surpluses in such a way. These Bills will not relieve Lancashire, and any flaw in them will, as has been urged, give an opening for fresh agitation and further disturbance of trade. Then, again, I must say, in spite of all the Hon'ble Sir James Westland has said, that I do not myself feel satisfied that we ought to remit taxation at the present moment. The financial situation is in his hands, and in the womb of the future; we know nothing

about it; but on general grounds I can see any number of objects to which surpluses, if available, might, in my opinion, be more usefully applied. One great matter that occurs to me is the reform of our currency. Surely it would be wise to accumulate surpluses with a view to securing that gold reserve which is the only thing that will save us from the bugbear of a constantly fluctuating exchange; and, even if there be nothing in that, I can point to Burma across the Bay, your fine new territory, which requires development in every way, with its calls for irrigation, railways, roads and works of every description. You have the port of Calcutta hampered with crushing dues which interfere most seriously with the development of trade. You might endeavour to strengthen generally the trade of India to meet that competition which is looming upon it from the islands of the East. Not only that, but, as was suggested by Sir Griffith Evans, you have, I fear, grinning at you from behind the door of the North-Western Provinces at present the actual spectre of famine. I should have been glad, therefore, as I have said, to have seen some scheme devised which, whilst avoiding any appearance of protection, would have applied our system of taxation to all counts and all goods, and I should have preferred much not to diminish revenue, or favour unduly one special branch of trade."

### ORDERS AND ARROWS.

WHEN the captain of a ship orders some hands aloft to furl the main royal the men jump to obey, as a matter of course. A sailor can climb up on a yard without having a shilling ashore or a penny in his pocket. In fact, Jack seldom signs articles until he has used up both cash and credit.

But when a doctor—who is a sort of captain when one is laid up in the dry dock of illness—orders a patient to go abroad for the benefit of his health, it is quite another thing. A trip and sojourn away from home is an expensive prescription, and most of us can't afford it. If the doctor says it is a choice between that and the graveyard we shall have to settle on the graveyard; it is handy by, and easy to get to. But are we really so hard pushed? That is, as often as the doctors say we are? Let's turn the matter over in our minds for a minute.

Here is a case that is pat to the purpose. It concerns Mr. Arthur Whiddon Melliush, of 3, Regent's Terrace, Polsloe Road, Exeter; and for the details we are indebted to a letter written by him, dated March 7th 1893. He mentions that, in obedience to the orders of his doctors, he went to Cannes, in the South of France, in November, 1890, and spent the winter there. He also spent the following winter at the same place. He felt the better for the change; we will tell you why presently. But he obtained no radical benefit, which also we will explain later on.

It appears that this gentleman had been weak and ailing nearly all his life; not exactly ill, not wholly well—a condition that calls for constant caution. In March, 1890, he had a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs.

Now I want the reader to honour me with his best attention, as I must say in a few words what ought properly to take many. Shoot an arrow into the air—as straight up as you can. You can't tell where it will fall. It may fall on a neighbour's head, on your own, or on a child's, or on the pavement. Everybody's blood contains more or less poisonous elements. These are arrows, but unlike your wooden arrow they always strike on the weakest spot, or spots, in the body. If they hit the muscles and joints we call it rheumatism and gout; if they hit the liver we call it liver complaint or biliousness; if they hit the kidneys we call it Bright's disease; if they hit the nerves we call it nervous prostration, epilepsy, or any of fifty other names; if they hit the bronchial tubes we call it bronchitis &c.; if they hit the air cells we call it inflammation of the lungs, or by-and-by, consumption. And inasmuch as these poisoned arrows pass through the delicate meshes of the lungs a thousand times every day it would be odd if they didn't hit them—wouldn't it?

Now, wait a bit; it follows that all the various so-called diseases above named are *not diseases at all in and of themselves*, but merely symptoms of one only disease—namely, *that disease which produces the poison*! Good. We will get on to the end of the story.

After the attack of lung inflammation Mr. Melliush suffered from loss of appetite, pain in the chest, sides, and stomach, and dangerous constipation. He could eat only liquid food and had to take to his bed. For weeks he was so feeble and he could not rise in bed. He consulted one physician after another, obtaining no more than temporary relief from medicine. Then he was ordered abroad as we have related.

His letter concludes in these words: "Whilst at Cannes I consulted a doctor, who said my ailment was weak digestion, and that I need not trouble about my lungs. But I never gained any real ground until November, 1891, when I began to take Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. This helped me in one week, and by continuing with it I got stronger and stronger, and am now in fair good health. This, after my relatives thought I should never recover. (Signed) Arthur Whiddon Melliush."

To sum up: This gentleman's real ailment was indigestion and dyspepsia, from which the blood poison comes that causes nearly all disorders and pains. The air of Southern France helped him temporarily, because it is milder than ours; it did not remove the poison. By care and the use of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup he would have done better at home, as the result shows.

So we see that it isn't the climate that kills or saves; it is the condition of the digestion. If therefore your doctor orders you abroad for your health, tell him you will first try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup.





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to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J.C.,  
to Atkinson the late Mr. E.F.T., C.S.,  
to Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.  
to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.  
to Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.  
to Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
to Graham, Mr. W.  
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.  
from Guha, Babu Saroda Kant.  
to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.  
from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
to Jenkins, Mr. Edward.  
to Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.  
to Knight, Mr. Paul.  
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.  
to Law, Kumar Kristodas.  
to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
to Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
to Mallik, Mr. H. C.  
to Marston, Miss Ann.  
from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.  
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakshinaranjan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
from Nayaratra, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.  
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.  
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.  
to Rao, the late Sir T. Madhava.  
to Rattigan, Sir William H.  
from Rosebery, Earl of.  
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.  
from Russell, Sir W. H.  
to Row, Mr. G. Syamala.  
to Satri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.  
to Soha, Babu Brahmananda.  
from Sagar, Dr. Mahendralal.  
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.  
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
to Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
to Vencataramaniah, Mr. G.  
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to Wood-Mason, the late Prof. J.  
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Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
Banerjee, Babu Manmathanath.  
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Shib Chunder.  
Barth, M. A.  
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## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October, 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corfi, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plam-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 713.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

FROM HAFIZ.

BY JAMES HUTCHINSON.

Again, on earth, the vernal showers  
Descend, and make all nature glad ;  
Again, the brown Savannahs wide,  
Are decked, in green, and gayest flowers,  
And joyful, now, the Bulbul sad,  
Hears tidings of his blushing bride.

How softly, now, the zephyr blows !  
Ah ! wanderer, if thou comest again,  
To hear the sweets, by nature given,  
Then gently woo the blushing rose,  
And from the gloomy cypress, drain  
The odours, which they waft to heaven.

My heart is chill, my locks are hoar,  
And hope but points, beyond the tomb ;  
Then beauty cease, with cunning art,  
To wake the throb, that beats no more,  
To tear me, from my hallowed gloom,  
And, from my God, distract my heart.

There are, who veiled, in look severe,  
Contemptions, smile, upon the bowl,  
And all the joys, which wine inspire ;  
That hypocrite, too oft, I fear,  
To midnight shrines resigns his soul,  
That burn not, with chaste Vesta's fire.

All hail Religion ! maid divine,  
Blest be thy servants, evermore ;  
Remember youth her mighty sway,  
When Noah's Ark, upon the brine,  
Amid conflicting billows roar,  
Unharm'd, pursued its trackless way.

Cease, to court the inconstant world,  
Nor boast of fortune's favours won,  
'Tis all a chance ; to-morrow's noon  
May see thy house, in ruin hurled ;  
That state of splendour past, and gone,  
Thou could'st not deem, would fade so soon.

Mine be the draughts, my Magian Boy !  
Of spirit, which the spirit heal ;  
And when they're quaffed, those stores of thine  
I'll search, in quest of other joys,  
Greedy, their choicest treasures steal,  
And, only, drain the cup divine.

That helpless, restless insect, man,  
Ceaseless, alike mid joy, or woe,  
Pursues his little schemes of gain,  
With care, matures each worldly plan  
One thought, too busy, to bestow,  
Upon that bourne, beyond his ken.

In vain, he sees his palace rise ;  
In vain, he sees his gardens bloom ;  
In vain, he sees his coffers fill ;  
Behold the spot ! where last he lies ;  
Alas ! how narrow is the tomb,  
How dark, that dwelling, and how still.

Come, tell me, why thy jetty hair,  
Which, now, so softly, shades thy brow,  
In many a musk-diffusing fold,  
That fairer, shows thy face, so fair,  
Thou hidest, sweetest ! tell me now,  
What costly treasure, does it hold.

In purple robes, thy limbs array,  
My moon of Canaan ! and arise,\*  
And, for a palace, leave thy cell ;  
Low humbled, when proud Pharaoh lay,  
His wisest then, how vainly wise !  
Did Joseph, in his prison, dwell ?

Can monarchs, by the sword, obtain  
Contentment sweet, that boon of heaven ?  
Can tyrants, with their armies vast,  
Acquire proud Freedom's mountain reign ?  
Those bulwarks were, by Nature, given ;  
To guard that blessing, to the last.

Then, Hafiz, quaff the ruby tide ;  
Bid Woman crown thee, with her smiles ;  
Be gay,—forget the frowns of age,  
And let thy days, in rapture, glide ;  
To sophists leave their subtle wiles ;  
But scorn not thou, the sacred page.

If Sheeraz' Beauty would receive  
My heart, and bid my arms enfold  
Her lily neck ; oh ! then believe,  
More dear, her dimpled smile I'd hold,  
Than Samarcand's, Bokhara's gold.

\* Under the name of the moon of Canaan, I believe, the Mohammedans characterise the Patriarch Joseph. In the present instance, it is supposed, I believe, that the poet, under this simile or device, addresses the remainder of the wine, in the flask, before him ; this of course appears singular to us who are comparatively unacquainted, with the allegorical style of writing, not uncommon however, among the poets of the East. The Song of Solomon is probably an illustration of this style of composition, and is of course familiar to all.

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A stream so clear, with banks so fair,  
As Rocknabad, can Eden show ;  
Or, can its sweetest bowers compare  
With rosy Mosellay's ? Ah no !  
Then, bring yon antidote to woe.

Yes ! talk of singers, talk of wine,  
Of the fair forms, that graceful flow,  
Amid the dance's mazy twine ;  
Nor, on the future, care bestow,  
Which sages know not,—nor can know.

Alas ! those fair, those thoughtless dames ;  
That, thro' Sheeraz, so wanton stray,  
Poor Hafiz' heart have wrapt, in flames ;  
Remorseless, stolen his peace away,  
As Tartars seize their helpless prey.

And sure, those darlings have no need  
Of trophies, to enhance their charms ;  
Why cruel then, make hearts to bleed ;  
Could aught improve those snowy arms,  
The conscious blush, their cheek, that warms ?

Oh ! I can fancy, how the soul  
Of soft Zuleika, then was toss'd, \*  
Amid conflicting passions roll ;  
When shame, and all she prized the most,  
For Jacob's darling Boy, were lost.

Suspicious Maiden ! yield thy mind,  
To borrow, from experience ' store ;  
Believe me, Sweet ! the young will find  
Truth, in the hoary sage's lore,  
And, with their years, will love it more.

That breath, which sweet smells of the South,  
The roses, which its dew have wet,  
Do bitter words become ? that mouth  
Should shed but sweets—And must I yet,  
Forgive thee ? would I could forget.

Hafiz ! that power, alone, is thine,  
Like orient pearls, thy notes to string,  
That, like the Pleiads, sweetly shine,  
So clearly beautiful, they bring  
The heart's response, on willing wing.

#### WEEKLYANA.

IN reply to a remark of a contemporary, we are requested by the writer of Dr. Mookerjee's life to say, that the reason why copies of the book were not ladled out to editors right and left was that it was published for the benefit of Dr. Mookerjee's family, and that Mr. Skrine regarded it as a sacred obligation to reserve as many copies for sale as possible.

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THE Czar and the Czarina will make their ceremonious entry into Moscow on May 6, and the coronation comes off in the Uss-penski Sabor, the famous Cathedral of the Assumption, on the 12th of the same month.

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THE Lazereff Institute for Oriental Languages, Moscow, have decided to award the prize, valued at 700 roubles (£80), founded by the late D. G. Kananoff, for an essay treating of "The Armenians at Byzantium to the period of the Crusades," from Byzantine sources. The essays may be in Russian, Armenian, French or German and to be sent in by December 1897. Such enquiries are ominous. They cannot bode good to the Sultan.

\* Zuleika is the name given, in the Koran, to Potiphar's wife. Her love for Joseph is recorded, at considerable length, in that work, and forms the subject of several beautiful poems, by different Eastern writers.

M. MICHELIN, the Radical deputy for Paris' Bill presented to Parliament, proposes a tax varying between 50frs. and 1,000 frs. a year, on the possessors of the various grades in the Legion of Honour, and another of 25 frs. to 50 frs. on the holders of decorations of the Order of Agricultural Merit. The owners of foreign decorations are put down for sums ranging from 20 frs. to 400 frs. Soldiers decorated with the Cross of the Legion of Honour, and all civilians to whom it may have been awarded for bravery on the battlefield are exempted. Here is an unobjectionable source of revenue, and we commend it to Sir James Westland. If an impost were levied on every title conferred in this country, it would yield an income certainly larger than the duty on fishnaws and sharkfins.

IN connection with the Panama scandals, *La France* having published the names of one hundred and four members of Parliament said to have received bribes from the Panama Company, M. Liabussiere brought a libel action against seven persons connected with that newspaper. Only one of them appeared and was sentenced to eight days' imprisonment and a fine of one hundred francs. The absent six defendants were ordered three to six months' imprisonment and a fine each of six thousand francs. The present is only one of a series of information laid against the offending journal. If all the 104 members went to law and the order of court were the same in every case, the fines would amount to about four million francs. France is a country of wonderful resources. She surprised the world by prompt payment of her enormous war debt to Germany. Her representative in the press may be enabled to rise to the dignity of the pictured situation.

READ this :—

"A law case which has lasted 300 years has again come on for hearing in a Bavarian Court. It is waged between the market community of Burginn, at Unterhanken, in Bavaria, and the Lords of Thüngen. The case was commenced on June 21, 1595, when the legal advisers of this community appeared before the legal tribunal which then held its sitting in Speier, against the Lords of Thüngen, for a sum of 2,000,000 marks, as owners of a forest of noble oaks and beech trees. Century by century death thinned the ranks on each side, but others took up the cause, and when the case came on for trial the other day matters seemed as fresh as ever. It is hoped, however, that June 21, 1896, will see the last of this venerable suit."

THE old order changeth giving place to new. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has modified or rather slackened the order of Sir Charles Elliott about tours of inspection. While "quite concurring with Sir Charles Elliott as to the importance of personal supervision and communication between the Heads of Departments and the Chief Executive Officers of the Administration and their subordinates, and of the value of local inspections by Divisional, District, and Sub-divisional Officers," the present Lieutenant-Governor is not for the hard and fast rules obtaining on the subject. "The essential point," he thinks, "is that the Commissioners, District Officers and Sub-divisional Officers should be personally acquainted with all parts of their respective jurisdictions, and should inspect, with reasonable frequency, all public institutions therein situated, and should make from time to time, in person, such local enquiries as may be necessary to enable them to conduct their duties with satisfaction to themselves and Government or supply any information specially required by Government." Commissioners, who may be expected to understand their duties, are allowed the liberty "to exercise a sound discretion in arranging the length and character of their own tour programme," and "will in future be under no obligation to give up more important duties in order to visit yearly 'every sub-divisional office, registration office, subsidiary jail or lock-up.'" As regards District officers, Commissioners will decide annually the duration of each of such officer's tour, which should be spread over the year. The inspection by the Magistrate-Collectors of their own offices, though very important, must not be too constant to over-turn the office as a whole to the detriment of current work. It will be enough if there is one detailed inspection of the work in all departments annually by the District officer, and another similarly thorough one by the Commissioner. The programme of Sub-divisional officers is to be laid down by the Magistrate-Collector, subject to the approval of the Commissioner. The best part of the resolution is the conclusion which we quote entire:—

"The great difficulty in connection with the touring of District and Sub-divisional Officers is the disposal of case work. Commissioners must see that proper arrangements are in all cases made for



this. If a District Officer's tour is designed to last for some time, it is desirable that he should fix in his programme dates and places for the hearing of cases, and arrange to dispose of them accordingly, after due notice to the parties concerned. Convenient centres for the disposal of case work should be selected, notified and adhered to, the District Officer's camp being kept stationary until the files are cleared. Periodical visits to head-quarters should always be provided for in the case of the more extended tours. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that a Sub-divisional Officer can generally, except when visiting the least accessible portion of his charge, arrange to spend two or three days a week at head-quarters. It is during these periods of re-visiting his head-quarters that criminal cases should ordinarily be tried and special care should be taken that parties are not harassed by being forced to accompany the Sub-divisional Officer from place to place. The main point to be kept in view is to reduce to a minimum the inconvenience and trouble which the tour of a Sub-divisional Officer must unavoidably occasion to parties, witnesses and pleaders."

The order, if strictly carried out, will remove a cause of much unnecessary annoyance, if it can not correct the Magistrates bent on mischief, or fond of *hairnning* and *pareshaning*.

YUSUF UDDIN'S application has been rejected by the Punjab Chief Court, who decided thus :—

(1) the District Magistrate of Simla acted under Section 191 (c) and not on complaint; (2) the objection of inadequate description in the warrant is untenable, because Yusuf Uddin was expressly identified by a policeman from Simla, and admitted his visit to Simla at the time in question, and never denied that he was intended; (3) The Magistrate had full jurisdiction to issue the warrant for execution in the Hyderabad railway lands. The Code of Criminal Procedure was extended thereto, and the purport and effect of such extension is exactly the same as if this addition had been made to the Code itself. It involved the extension of Sections 1 and 82 (4) The full jurisdiction ceded by the Nizam covers his subjects when within the railway lands: just as much as they are liable to British jurisdiction when at Simla. (5) The informal issue of a warrant to the Resident of Hyderabad was immaterial and was covered by Section 537. He was merely a channel through which the warrant reached the Railway Magistrate, to whom it should have been addressed.

*The Mahratta*, we are afraid, is treading dangerous ground :—

"Take an oath, a holy oath, by the love you bear to India, by the noble memory of your heroic Aryan ancestors, that as long as great Britain does not wipe off the disgraceful spot of dark injustice that disfigures her name, that as long as India is made the shuttle-cock of party politics in England, that as long as the people of this country are not treated as men who have every right to all that an Englishman delights in as subjects of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, India will have nothing to do with cloth which has been produced and stained by selfishness. Resolve rather to die than touch one inch of Manchester cloth. Let every one that buys one yard of British cloth be branded a traitor to his country—to be shunned as a veritable monster. Bring not forth the stock argument that Indian cloth is too costly. If it be, make for yourself a bed of hay and lie in that rather than pollute your frame and the name of Aryan by falling a victim to the seductions of Lancashire."

#### NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

&  
THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH  
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

DETACHMENTS of British, American and French Marines have arrived at Seoul, and the Foreign Ambassadors are now conferring regarding the situation in Corea and the steps to be taken. The *Times* in a telegram from Kobe states that the Russian action in Corea points to a protectorate, and has caused a bitter feeling in Japan. A detachment of British Marines has been landed at Seoul for the protection of the Legation. Japan is indignant at Russian action in Corea. In the House of Commons Mr. Curzon, replying to a question, said that he was unable to state the duration of the Russian occupation in Corea, because he had no reason to believe that such occupation actually exists. No representations, he added, had been made to Russia on the subject. To another question, he replied that Government considers the Russian pledge not to occupy any part of Corea as still binding.

THE British Consul at Archangel telegraphs that the explorer Nansen is returning, having reached the North Pole.

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THE American House of Representatives has rejected by a large majority the Free Silver Bill which the Senate substituted for the Bond Bill.

IN the House of Commons, Mr. Chamberlain, replying to Mr. Brownrigg, said that he would not lose sight of the question of the status of British Indians in South Africa.

HER Majesty has addressed a letter to the nation in which she thanks them for their sympathy in her own sorrow and that of her daughter Princess Beatrice.

MR. Dillon has been elected leader of the Irish party by thirty-eight against twenty-one votes.

THE House of Commons has voted the Address in reply to the Queen's Speech. An amendment by Mr. L. Atherley-Jones in favour of arbitration with Venezuela was withdrawn at the urgent instance of Mr. Balfour, who said that any discussion of the subject at present would not facilitate a satisfactory and honourable settlement. An amendment of Mr. Wedderburn regretting the policy of Government in regard to Chitral was rejected by 192 against 79 votes.

THE deaths are announced of Sir Charles Aitchison and General James Walker.

SIR Edward Clarke, assisted by Messrs. Lockwood, Gill and Carson will defend Dr. Jameson.

THE Sultan has sanctioned a loan of three millions sterling with the Ottoman Bank.

A TERRIBLE explosion, due to exposure to the sun, of 22 tons of dynamite occurred at Vierlendorf, a suburb of Johannesburg. Hundreds of houses are in ruins, one hundred persons were killed and several hundred wounded.

ALL the Powers have now assented to recognise Prince Ferdinand.

SIR John Millais has been elected President of the Royal Academy.

THE *Times'* correspondent at Constantinople states that the Sultan has instructed the Turkish Ambassador in London to invite Great Britain to regulate the situation in Egypt with the Sizerain power on the basis that it guarantees the security of communications between India and England.

GOVERNMENT has approved of the nomination of Earl Grey as the Administrator of Rhodesia in conjunction with Mr. Cecil Rhodes.

IN the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour, replying to a question, said that Germany had not approached Great Britain on the subject of a monetary agreement, but the Government was willing to consider with the Indian Government the question of re-opening the Mints, if such a measure could form part of a satisfactory scheme of currency reform.

MR. Balfour, in moving the new rules devoting Friday to supply and limiting the debate on the annual estimates to 21 days, explained that it was not intended to curtail the privileges of private members, which would rather be increased by the proposed change.

"MARK TWAIN" wrote from Darjeeling to the author of "An Indian Journalist":—

"Dear Mr. Skrine,—I have read with great interest and pleasure your book about that fine character, Mukerjee, and I hold myself your debtor for that opportunity."

SIR Alexander Mackenzie seems to have set apart Fridays for native amusements—entertainments in native houses. Last week, he was present at the house of Raja Binay Krishna of Shovabazar, who, foremost to give the retiring Governor a farewell entertainment, was not slow to welcome the new. This week the British Indian Association had a conversazione in honour of the Lieutenant-Governor.

MR. Justice Pigot has resigned and goes away on the 6th of March, when Mr. Justice O'Kinealy is expected back from leave. The retirement of Mr. Justice Pigot is a distinct loss to the High Court.

THE rolling stone in the High Court that gathers moss, Mr. Justice Gordon, now officiating for Mr. Justice O'Kinealy, will, when Mr. Justice O'Kinealy rejoins the High Court, act for the Hon'ble Sir H. T. Prinsep whose leave has yet to run.

MR. Griffiths has a high sense of honour. The syndicate having passed a vote of disapproval upon him, he has resigned the Registrarship of the Calcutta University. It would appear that, on the 27th of January, an elder son of Mr. A. M. Bose, one of the perpetual syndics, escorted his younger brother, a candidate at the Entrance Examination, to the Senate House where he had his seat. While there Bose the elder, who probably trespassed into forbidden ground, was opposed by a *Chaprassae*. The son took it as an insult and filed a complaint through the father. Mr. Griffiths being written to, replied that the *Chaprassae* ought to be rewarded rather than punished for his devotion to duty. Mr. Bose thereupon moved the syndicate, and that select body disapproved of the action of the Registrar, who then resigned. The syndicate further refused to re-open the question or to withdraw the resolution. They say that their vote is not one of censure, at any rate it was not meant so. This ought to have explained and made up all differences. But there seems to be a feeling to make the present an occasion for reform of the syndicate.

What might y contests rise from trivial things!

THE Calcutta Corporation has accepted, for its Chairman, Mr. H. C. Williams on his own terms,—full pay Rs. 3,000, house rent Rs. 500.

MR. T. Hart Davies, District Judge of Kurrachi, has solved the difficulty, which exercised the Government of India for a time, about imprisonment of wives for refusal to go back to their husbands. Rukia sued Vali for cancellation of marriage, in that it had not her lawful guardian's consent, and that she had the right to repudiate it under Mahomedan law on arriving at years of discretion. The suit was decreed *ex parte*. With that decree in her favour and believing it to be a dissolution of marriage, she took a second husband. After this marriage, the first husband revived the old suit. It was tried, and then dismissed, on the ground that the Court had no jurisdiction, the parties being domiciled in a foreign State, where the marriage was performed. On appeal to the Sudder Court this decision was upset, and the case remanded to be tried on its merits. It was then held that the marriage was legal and could not be repudiated by the wife. Then Vali sued Rukia for restitution of conjugal rights, and obtained a decree. On his applying to enforce the order, arose his difficulty. The Judge refused the application. We will let the Judge state his own reasons for his decision.

"It was, indeed, impossible to contest it (the decree) as the marriage with the plaintiff had been declared by the Court to be legal. Now the husband seeks to enforce his claim by the wife's imprisonment, and she appears in Court, and states that she absolutely refuses to go to her legal husband, and would rather go to jail than do so. So the case is a hard one. She is a bigamist, indeed, in the eye of the law, but an innocent bigamist; she married her present husband under the impression, which was indeed correct then, that the Court had annulled her previous marriage. She has had a son by her new husband, and it is natural that she should view the prospect of leaving him, and going to a man whom she does not know at all, with extreme distaste. The surprising thing is that the lawful first husband should care to have her to live with him when she has already borne a child to another man, and the fact of his previous marriage would not prevent him from getting another bride he wished. The question of imprisonment in default of obeying a decree of a Court for the restitution of conjugal rights has been much discussed lately, and a bill to enable the Court to use its discretion in such matters which the Hon. Mr. Mehta introduced, was not passed. There is something extremely repugnant to one's ideas of propriety, indeed, of mere decency, to insist on a woman returning to a man whom she hates, and of imprisoning her like a criminal if she does not go back to him in accordance with the Court's decree, and in the famous case of Rukmabai, though a decree was given to her husband, I do not think that matters were ever pushed as far as imprisoning her for disobedience to the decree. But on this point, I am not quite sure. In England, at all events, as Sargent C. J. observed in the case of Rukmabai,—'Legislation following on the case of Weldon v. Weldon has recognized in 47 and 40 Victoria, Chapter 68, the propriety, or at any rate the advisability of abolishing the practice of enforcing a decree for conjugal rights by imprisonment,' and I think

the same tendency should be encouraged in India. Here, indeed, it is more than doubtful whether the penalty of imprisonment in default of obedience to a decree in a conjugal suit is not a penalty purely invented by English Law. There appears nothing in Hindu Law to justify it, and both among Hindus and Mussulmans it seems probable that marital duties were some of that very numerous class which could only be enforced by religious sanction. But however this may be, no doubt, under Section 260, C. P. C., the decree in a conjugal suit may be enforced by the imprisonment of the party who disobeys it. Now the Hon. Sir A. Miller, when introducing his amendment of the Civil Procedure Code in July, 1894, to give the Courts discretion in such matters, stated that the Bombay High Court had held in Rukmabai's case that if the defendant refused to comply with the decree in a conjugal suit, the Court had no option but to sentence her to imprisonment. I presume that the conclusion was arrived at in the course of the execution proceedings, which have not been reported, and I am unable to say on what grounds their Lordships arrived at this conclusion. But the words of the Code are, I think, plain. The decree 'may' be enforced, and I fail to see how this can be interpreted as 'must.' At all events in a case of this sort, where all the equities and proprieties are clearly on the side of the defendant, I am not inclined to strain the interpretation of the law against her, and I must decline to pass an order for her committal to the Civil Jail."

If it is surprising that the first husband should claim the wife after she had borne a son to another husband, it is no less a wonder that a court would allow the re-opening of a cause to raise no end of difficulties all which it is not competent to meet. We must say that the Judge has done well to disallow the application. It would have been better not to decree the suit for restitution of conjugal rights. Better still if the old suit were not revived.

IN India saints, prophets and incarnations have in all ages been plentiful. The cry is—still they come. The business requires neither learning nor capital, and, while unattended by any kind of risk, has far greater attractions than any secular profession. When successful, it brings not only wealth and honour, without any kind of drudgery or humiliation, but everything else that the most depraved of human beings can have a craving for. The English schools and colleges set up in the country in recent years, and the honest careers opened to men of education under British rule, threatened at one time to make the prophet a *rara avis*. But the public services and the liberal professions being now overcrowded, the spectacle of English-speaking natives playing the roll of prophets is becoming common enough. It is an indigenous profession, and, there being a large number of models for imitation, affords a far better resort for the unsuccessful graduates and under-graduates than even patriotism.

The lives of these men are indeed worth studying, and it is a pity that no one has yet come forward to entertain or warn the public with biographical sketches of these living saints. One of the most famous of these has made the classic soil of Nadia his head-quarters and is struggling hard to pass as another Chaitanya. It is said that he was a student of a school in the Eastern districts, and that upon being turned out of his *alma mater*, he determined to spoil the students of the English schools of the country by teaching them to hate the study of the English language and literature. He has in fact the curious power of making boys neglect their education and become devoted to him like slaves. He is always surrounded by a number of little urchins who patrol the streets of Nadia with banners and music in the usual style of Sankirtans. He is not known to receive visits from grown up boys not likely to pay him a pecuniary fee for the honour. Young ladies, specially rich widows, are always welcome to his hermitage. It is said he has a regular staff of diplomatic officers (of course of the softer sex). To convince his followers as to his godhead, he professes to have the power of performing every kind of feat, possible and impossible. The British Government itself is in existence by his sufferance, and, if so inclined, he can upset it at any moment. He is said to be a handsome young man. It is very seldom that he appears in public in the day time. When he comes out at all he has always a veil over his face. Considering the nature of his movements, we think he should be the observed of others than his immediate followers.

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*REIS & RAYYET.**Saturday, February 22, 1896.***JHALAWAR.**

WE resume our account of this State. For some years previous to 1838, there had been strained relations between Maha Rao Ram Sing and the hereditary administrator Raj Rana Muddon Sing, grandson of Zalim Sing, mostly from the latter's personal arrogance and the former's natural irritation at being a nonentity in his own dominions. The greatest enemy of Zalim Sing and of his son Madho Sing, could not accuse them of want of tact and discourteous treatment of the reigning Prince, even during the bitter days of war, ending with the battle of Mangrole, brought about by Maha Rao Kishore Sing's ungrateful treatment of the old minister. The Maha Rana wanted to break through the hereditary administratorship, which the Paramount Power had recognised by treaty, as a reward for his faithful and distinguished services, both to his own chief and to that Power. Otherwise Zalim Sing was not the person to go to war with his own liege lord, a war in which, by the way, a small British force commanded by European officers co-operated, some of whose graves may still be seen in a state of good preservation at Mangrole, the headquarters of a Tahsil, in Kotah territory. In Kotah, the Jhalas have yet a large following of their admirers, whose talk is always of their administrative ability to the detriment of the members of the reigning family, their want of intellectual qualities, &c. An anecdote is still told by old men with relish of the great political sagacity of Zalim. On the breaking out of hostilities between master and servant, when Maharao Kishore Sing bolted from Kotah, first to Goburdhun and then to Nathdwarra, the famous shrine in Mewar territory, the old man, with great piety and devotion, placed Kishore Sing's embroidered slippers on the Guddi, saying that, though his royal master was absent, the slippers, which had encased his feet, would remain in the place of honour. Some even say that he reverently placed them first on his breast, as a token of his humble devotion.

But Raj Rana Muddon Sing unfortunately was made of different stuff. For fear of personal insult, he went about with a large armed following, even in his visits to temples. To prove the uselessness of the precaution, Maha Rao Ram Sing once hid himself in Muthureshjee's temple, which has a large endowment from the State. When Muddon Sing entered the sanctum, where armed followers have no access, Ram Sing appeared before him and, taking hold of his hands, asked jocosely of what use were his armed retainers? Then of course Muddon Sing tried to get out of the situation in the best way he could. But it was only a temporary reconciliation. The breach again appeared and began to widen. The culminating point was reached on the last day of a Dusserah, on the evening of which the chief goes, in great pomp and state, to Kishorepura, a suburb of the city, where, amid the booming of guns, the religious as well as the ceremonial portion of the big annual Durbar, is terminated. Though the Jhalla minister had been independent, since the time of Kishore Sing, he had to perform one menial service to the Maharao, namely, to put his Cumurband, a long richly embroidered cloth, on the waist. This the minister had to adjust with his own hands. But on this particular Dusserah,

Ram Sing waited long for the Cummerband service of the minister, and, in the end, was obliged to go out, rather late, without it, on hearing that Muddan Sing had gone to the Dusserah encampment, in advance of him. This was the last straw to break the camel's back. Muddon Sing's neglect of the service which his father and grandfather had always loyally performed, led to the severance of his connection with Kotah and the creation of the principality of Jhallawar for him with an income of some 20 lakhs. With his thorough knowledge of the whole territory, he selected the most fertile Pergunas, the Maharao having only agreed to alienation of a third of his territory. Even that consent was extorted. Zalim Sing's heirs were justly entitled only to Shahabad, originally acquired by him, and the Chowmehala or 4 Malwa Pergunas of Holkar, offered, as a reward to him, by the British Government and at his instance transferred to Kotah. Kotah was shorn of much of its splendour by the exodus of the Jhala family, as half the town population accompanied Muddon Sing to his new capital, and the Maharao had to consent to the emigration. The treaty also gave him the right to a portion of the army of all branches—foot, horse and artillery. Innumerable roofless houses, near the base of the inner city walls, still testify to the glory of Kotah under the Jhala regime, besides their palatial houses, one within the Palace yard, a 2nd near the Surujpole gate, a third in the chowni and a fourth with extensive gardens at Nauta, on the other side of the Chumbul river.

Maharaj Rana Muddon Sing reigned about 8 years in his new Principality. On his death, his Rani, a lady of the Bhati clan Rajputs of Jesulmere, accompanied her lord's dead body to the funeral pile and became a Sati, previously advising the young heir to marry a niece of hers, as there was no likelihood of his getting children by his wife, a daughter of the house of Chomu in Jaipur. The prediction was strangely fulfilled, as all the children the late Prithi Sing of Jhalawar ever had were from a Bhati wife—a son who died young and a daughter afterwards married to Maharao Raja Sheodan Sing of Ulwar, though she did not live to old age. But there was literally no issue by the Chomu Rani, called Nathawutji. Though only 16 years old, Prithi Sing was allowed to assume the reins of government without any restriction or even a council—that panacea for all evils in the present age. His father had, by applying the screw, raised the annual revenue to about 24 lakhs, but that hard settlement could not always be maintained, so the income came down to its original figure. Addicted to pleasure, he spent no small sum on his amusements. Cock-fighting alone cost about 3 lakhs a year, to say nothing of the expenses on numerous musicians, male and female. Nevertheless, he gave a moderate portion of his time to state affairs which he superintended personally through a Kamdar and other departmental heads, and was always accessible. He always kept the main policy of the Jhala family prominently in view, for his guidance, that "of invariably trying to secure the favour of the British Government and of its officers on the spot," as the founder of the family had inculcated and been greatly benefited by it.

Prithi Sing reigned for about 29 years and died in 1875, in his 45th year, a victim to the vicious life he had led. As the 3rd article of the Jhalawar Treaty of 1838 limited the succession to the descend-

ants of Zalim Sing and as there was no one else to succeed him, he had always endeavoured to obtain sanction to adopt a son. Lord Canning's general Sunnud, after the munities, conceding the right of adoption to all the reigning Princes of India greatly favoured Prithi Sing's ambition. Colonel Brooke, when A. G. G. in Rajputana, facilitated the actual adoption, though after Prithi Sing's death in 1815, Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly was doubtful of its strict legality. The Supreme Government, however, rejected Kotah's claim to the reversion of its old territory under the 3rd article of the Treaty, and accorded sanction to the adopted son being placed on the Gadi, who was proclaimed under the name of Maharaj Rana Zalim Sing, according to the custom prevailing among Rajput families of assuming the name of the 4th ancestor in the ascending degree.

#### THE INVIOLEATE POLICE.

THE order of the late Lieutenant-Governor prohibiting Judicial officers from commenting on the conduct of Police officers, was a surprise to those competent to form a correct opinion on the subject. Those familiar with that official literature know how this order originated in a wrong conception of the duties of a Judge. An attempt was made to make out a case in favour of the Police officers. Magistrates and Judges were blamed for their open remarks in violation of the principle that no public servant should be publicly censured. It was ruled that any remarks suggested during a trial should be quietly and secretly communicated to the superior officers of the Police. The result, as was expected if not desired, was that all Judicial officers closed their eyes to the misconduct of the Police.

This, however, is no new order. It has practically been in force, in some form or other, since a long time past, and during the last *regime* it was given its present shape or strictly enforced. The Magistrate's register with a column for remarks on the Police was withdrawn. The trial registrar has no such column. Seeing the temper and tendencies of the late Lieutenant-Governor, even veteran Deputy Magistrates had given up making remarks. They found the uselessness of such observations and felt their unpleasant consequences. For all their pains, they earned only the bitterness of the District Superintendent and the censure of the Magistrate.

Is the Government or the Inspector General of Police aware of the uncalled for, annoying and insulting remarks which some of the District Superintendents and their young assistants are in the habit of making against the Deputy Magistrates and their judicial proceedings? Latterly, some of the Police Inspectors were encouraged by the District Superintendents and young Magistrates to the same unseemly course. In all fairness to the judicial officers, some such instances should have been brought to the notice of Government. If a Deputy Magistrate is bold enough to resent, he is snubbed by the District Magistrate. Magistrates have been known to openly avow that they could not displease the District Superintendent or lower their prestige with their own subordinates or the people in general. For this deplorable state of things the last administration is wholly responsible.

Who can deny that there are many dishonest officers in the lower ranks of the Police force? Some of them are most unscrupulous and notorious in their districts. They are a great public misfortune. But they may purchase properties in

their districts, make their little fortunes, live in a better style than their superiors, without, on that account, being least suspected, if they can only please the District Superintendent which is also the way to the good opinion of the District Magistrate. The scandal is not confined to one district; it is spreading. Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Judges cannot ordinarily remain in one district beyond a limited time. Police officers are bound by no such regulations and are allowed to stay in one district for 5, 6 and 7 years. The more the public and the press demand their removal, the greater their claim to continue in the old place, for the prestige of the police and Government.

It is difficult to understand how a Magistrate or a Judge can overlook the doings of the Police in the course of a judicial proceeding. If it deserves praise, he is not to withhold it. Censure he must reserve for secret report. When a Police officer perjures himself, will he not be called a perjurer? When he suppresses a crime and spoils a case, or tampers with witnesses or manufactures evidence, will not the trying Magistrate criticise such conduct, or give reasons for his conclusion? Or will he, in obedience to the order for secret report, overlook the misconduct, keep his judgment incomplete, and invite censure for himself from the District Judge and the High Court? It will not satisfy any conscience nor meet the ends of justice of an open court, to say that this officer has been reported to his superiors. In some districts where there are police officers of the class above described, they have virtually become professional witnesses, as it is impossible to decide Police cases without their evidence. They intentionally mix themselves up with them, and the fate of a prosecution moves in the scale of their evidence. The Deputy is called upon to explain when there are large acquittals and his attention is always directed to the well known maxim "no conviction, no promotion." No notice, however, is taken of the agency which makes and unmakes cases, which secures convictions and regulates acquittals. Almost all riot cases or cases under some other sections, such as 107 and 145 and 147, Criminal Procedure Code, in which high Zamindars and wealthy persons are concerned, are pre-arranged in every detail and worked out accordingly. There are very few District Superintendents who thoroughly know their subordinates.

#### THE ECONOMICAL RESOURCES OF BRITISH INDIA.\*

THE subject is a big one, and is, or ought to be, of perennial interest, not only to artisans, traders and merchants, but also to every one who feels concerned at the growing poverty of India. Unfortunately, there is hardly a single book on the subject which, in a handy form, deals with it correctly and exhaustively. The existing literature consists chiefly of Reports and Blue-books replete with the most puzzling tables, and giving, on some of the most important points, the most distorted views. The memorandum by Dr. Watt is no exception to the rule. It contains a deal of valuable information within a small compass. But it is far from exhaustive, and the views propounded and sought to be uphold cannot be accepted by those who know anything about the real condition of the country. The Doctor does not actually say that the country is overflowing with milk and honey. But he goes a great way to suggest that the people have a plentiful supply of good and wholesome food, and that

\* *Memorandum on the Resources of British India* by George Watt, M.B., C.M., C.I.E., Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India. Government of India Central Printing Office.



their normal condition is not one of semi-starvation as it is believed to be by many competent authorities. The learned economist says :—

"The contentment of the people, the growth of luxurious demands, and the expansion of foreign trade, must be admitted as prognostications of prosperity."

The apparent contentment of the people, and the growth of luxurious demands do not necessarily prove prosperity ; while the expansion of what is called India's foreign commerce, but which, to a great extent, is sheer spoliation, proves that the country is becoming poorer and poorer.

The people of India are naturally averse from doing anything that might amount to a confession of extreme poverty involving want of means to keep body and soul together. A poor labourer who is unable to feed himself or his family, will silently starve in his hut. He will, if compelled by necessity, enter one of those religious sects that ennoble beggary. He may, in extreme cases, join a gang of thieves. But the spectacle of a large number of men in a state of semi-starvation clubbing together for bullying the officials or breaking the windows of the rich, has never been seen in India even during the direst famines. The peasants do not know much about the real causes of their poverty, and our British rulers do not come in for a share of their abuse to the same extent as the village landlord or the village banker. But if the Governors and Councillors could ever, with their own ears, hear the curses that the weavers daily pronounce on them, their self complacency would be sure to abate very materially. They might not be led by fear of Heaven's wrath to change their policy as a God-fearing Hindu and Mussalman ruler would be under similar circumstances. But they might be less prone to talk glibly about the contentment of the people, or the necessity of an excise tax on the handloom weavers for completing their ruin and for benefiting Manchester to the fullest extent possible.

Dr. Watt speaks of the growth of luxurious demands as indication No. 2 of the country's prosperity. But who are the men that create the demand for English boots, broadcloth and velvet? Are they not mostly the men who, as merchants, brokers, Government officials or Railway employees, are in reality so many assistants in the work of draining the life-blood of India? We at least have never seen a peasant with Dawson's boots or a velvet cap. To say nothing of such luxuries, it is rare to meet with a rayyet having a broadcloth coat, or even a decent longcloth jacket in mid winter.

As to the inference drawn by Dr. Watt from the expansion of what is called India's foreign commerce, the fallacy is so obvious, and has been exposed in these columns so many times, that we feel much reluctance to revert to it. From the figures supplied by the Doctor himself, it appears that the average exports of India now amount to about 108 crores of rupees per annum, and that the value of her imports is about 66 crores. It is, therefore, evident that India is now giving 42 crores of rupees every year gratis to England. Does Dr. Watt mean to say that India's material prosperity is increasing by having to give this enormous amount to England without any tangible return?

It would perhaps be said that a considerable part of this amount represents the interests and the dividends that India has to pay to her British mahajans. But India's liability to the English capitalists is almost as unreal as were the debts of the Nawab of Arcot to the officers of the East India Company. In the case of India, the money was no doubt advanced by the capitalists. But a careful study of the trade statistics of the last 100 years would show that not a pice of that money ever reached India. The whole was spent in England, and yet India was saddled with the liability. Within the last 100 years, India has given to England at least 1,000 crores, and at the same time her liability to English capitalists has amounted to about another 1,000 crores in various shapes. Can such a state of things be regarded either as a cause,

or as an indication of India's prosperity? To us it seems that the facts and figures given by Dr. Watt prove only the growing poverty of the country. The picture is alarming indeed, however glowing the colours in which it is painted.

There are, however, a few rays of light that tend to cheer the heart amidst the gloom. We read :

"The Bengal Iron Company at Barakhar is progressing very satisfactorily and the success of the enterprise seems assured. The Company produce a yearly increasing quantity of pig iron, which finds a ready sale. The quantity turned out during the year 1892 was said to have been 19,486 tons."

This is good news indeed so far as it goes. But the railways being the chief consumers of iron and the principal railways of India being practically in the hands of Government, the iron industry of the country cannot be expected to flourish unless Government be determined to encourage Indian industries even at the risk of offending Manchester and Birmingham.

The salt industry of India seems to be on a yet more hopeful footing.

"The total quantity of salt produced in India during the year 1892-93, was 898,909 tons, valued at Rs. 5,382,845."

"The home product is slowly but steadily taking the place of the imported."

### THE POETICAL WORKS OF BABU NOBIN CHANDRA DAS, M. A.

This volume of Bengali poems consists mainly of a metrical translation of Kali Das's "Raghuvansa" with a few detached original pieces. The translation, though wanting in the grandeur of the original, reflects credit on Mr. Das. He displays considerable ability in handling some of the difficult passages in the great work of the greatest of Sanskrit poets. The arduousness of his labour can be appreciated by only those that have ever undertaken a similar task. Although the Bengali language is only a modern form of the ancient Sanskrit, yet the difficulty of translating a Sanskrit work into any of the vernaculars is quite as great as that of translating any English work into Bengali. To begin with, the Sanskrit works abound in long compounds which cannot possibly be retained intact in a Bengali dress. Then again there are peculiar modes of expression in Sanskrit which have no corresponding forms in Bengali. Take for instance the following verse in the original

"Tadgunaih Karuamagtya Chapalaya Prachoditah."—canto I. v. 9. To the translator the latter part of this verse must, at first sight, appear to be very nearly unmanageable. To make it intelligible in Bengali, Babu Nobin has been necessarily obliged to add a few words of his own. But his periphrasis is neat, and gives the exact sense of the original without marring its beauty.

To make his translation both intelligible and interesting, Mr. Das has added a good many notes containing much valuable information. In almost all his works, Kalidas displays a knowledge of geography which in a man of his age must appear quite

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210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

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PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., on Tuesday, the 25th Inst., at 4-15 P. M. Subject: Organic Acids (continued).

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MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

February 22, 1896.

marvellous. The fourth canto of the "Raghuvansa" where the poet gives an account of the conquests made by Raghu, teems with geographical references which, but for the notes by the translator, would be unintelligible. In some cases these might have been made fuller. For instance, with regard to the country called Komboj in the original, the translator contents himself by saying that it is to the north of India. A little enquiry might have enabled Mr. Das to give more precise information. He is also silent on some points of antiquarian interest requiring elucidation. Upon the whole, however, the present translation is a valuable addition to our vernacular literature.

We may mention here that Babu Nobin Chandra is a younger brother of Rai Bahadar Sarat Chandra Das, C. I. E., who has attained a high reputation as a Thibetan scholar.

### JOURNALISM IN INDIA.

Mr. F. H. Skrine, c.s., has earned the thanks of the Bengali public by bringing out an excellent edition of the letters and correspondence of Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, prefaced by a very readable summary of his life-story. The volume is named "An Indian Journalist." It has set us thinking about the conditions of journalistic work in India.

What we most mark in the subject of this memoir is the essential loneliness of his position. This is a fault of the time and country rather than that of any individual. The Indian weekly papers are mere criticisms on events already known. The importance of any such paper depends entirely on the personality of its Editor. The Editor generally is a Grand Turk with no younger brother and no vizier to whom he may delegate his authority. Everything must bear the impress of his own hand or it would not pass current. Each weekly is known as the paper of this man or of that man. So much is this so, that the editor can have no holiday. Sambhu Chunder, whether racked by disease and wishing for a change of climate, or invited to see the Madras Congress, cannot move out of Calcutta lest his paper should sink into obscurity in his absence.

In such a state of things there can be no continuity of journalistic effort. No editor leaves a heritage to his successor. Each has to create an influence anew. I cannot therefore hold with Mr. Skrine that Sambhu Chunder found his best work in journalism. All journalistic work is ephemeral as Mr. Skrine admits. But it is doubly ephemeral in India. The good will of an Indian weekly is not worth taking as a gift after its Editor's death. An Indian Editor's work is therefore of a peculiarly hopeless character. In England, an Editor is the exponent of a great party in the realm. He is cheered by the hope that his work would be carried on after his retirement by men as great as he. But in Indian politics, there are only two great parties--the Government and the people. The people have yet to learn organisation and combined work. The majority of them are ignorant and unthinking. An Editor here must create a party and not merely educate it. He cannot, unless he descends very low indeed, be the exponent of any existing party. He is a pioneer. His work is that of an original genius. Genius is childless, and therefore, as I said before, there can be no continuity of journalistic work in the India of this age.

Mr. Skrine has not sufficiently noticed the effect of his isolated position on Sambhu Chunder's character. It is vice which Sambhu Chunder shared with every other Indian man of learning. In Europe, there are learned societies. A scholar there is thrown among his peers. He quickly finds out his relative position. The angularities of his character are soon rubbed off.

But in India, the corrective influence of living among one's peers is entirely absent. Every scholar here lives by himself. He is often surrounded by a coterie of admiring mediocrities to whom he is an oracle. By listening to their unmixed applause, the odd traits of his character are more clearly brought out. Individuality degenerates into perversity. The life's energy is spent in dreaming out grand plans of works which the world will not willingly let die. But the actual achievement of such a life comes to be only a number of ephemeral fragmentary efforts. The glorious "Might be--someday" is never realised, and the nation remains as poor as before.

Another circumstance, too, has a very demoralising effect on Indian Journalism. The State, here, has an absolute monopoly of information. Those papers only which become the apologists of the men in office can get intelligence. The body of officials is the most, indeed the only, powerful party in this country. A paper is valued by the people in proportion to the influence which its Editor is supposed to have in private with the powers that be. No paper seems to have a value of its own.

It is whispered that Kristodas Pal has great influence with Lord Ripon. Immediately the circulation of his paper goes up. It is seen that Lord Dufferin looks kindly upon Sambhu C. Mookerjee, soon the *Reis and Rayyet* comes to be read far and

wide. The Viceroy goes away. His successor has other personal likes and dislikes, and the paper at once loses its political importance. Within his own circle, Sambhu Chunder was flattered to the top of his bent. He came to imagine himself a Bengal Samuel Johnson. He made too much of the worthless title of Doctor given to him by a worthless American University only because it enabled him to call himself Doctor as Johnson were called. Violent personalities and hard Philistine hits did not appear unbecoming in his judgment, for, was not Dr. Johnson famous for them? Who would snub snobs and unmask the ignorance of pretenders to learning if it was not the Johnson of Bengal? He argued himself into the belief that he was the "dictator of the English Language" in India, and the sole repository of the latest and best English literature. This explains the affectation of learning and the love of quaint obsolete phrases which marked his editorials. His opposition to the Congress does not imply that he thought the movement to be wrong; for, his good wishes were often secured by something other than intellectual conviction. The Congress leaders could certainly have got him on their side if they had used a little tact in handling him. They should have appealed to his emotional nature and humoured his queer fancies.

--*The Indian Nation.*

JADUNATH SARKAR, M.A.

### JURY TRIAL IN INDIA.

#### CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE, 1882, AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Miller moved that the Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Woodburn, the Hon'ble Babu Mohiny Mohun Roy, the Hon'ble P. Ananda Charlu Bahadur, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans, the Hon'ble Mr. Cadell, the Hon'ble Mr. Rees and the Mover. He said:--"This Bill has been the subject of circulation for opinion, and a very large number of opinions have been received in respect of it, of a character which renders it necessary that in making this motion I should say a few words, mainly in respect to the third section of the Bill. The remainder of the Bill, though I cannot describe it as altogether non-controversial, is practically approved by all the opinions we have received, subject probably to some further alterations, such as are always found necessary in every draft--I should be surprised indeed to find a draft of any importance which when it came to be considered did not require some alteration, greater or less. In fact, I remember one of the most skilled draftsmen I ever had the pleasure of knowing was fond of quoting as a maxim *nihil simul factum est, et perfectum*.

"But as regards the third section of the Bill, which deals with section 303 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the opinions are very much more varied, and I may say by way of general remark that I think one of the great advantages of the system of legislation which prevails in this country is that we are not obliged, as some other Government of which we know something practically are, to stick to every proposal which we make, right or wrong, from an instinct of self-preservation; but that we have the opportunity and freely use it, of discovering, after we have put our proposals into the form that *prima facie* recommends itself to ourselves, what the opinions of persons who are capable of giving advice in the matter from the outside are, and are able and willing to accept the advice we receive from outside persons and bodies so far as it commends itself to our judgment. I know it will be said--I know it has been said--that that is a weak thing; that having made up your mind you ought to stick to it, right or wrong. I confess that my opinion (and I am glad to feel that it is the opinion of my colleagues in the Government of India) is very contrary, and that obstinacy of the kind described is a sign of weakness, not of strength, and that it is a proof of strength after having asked for opinions to be able to accept them so far as they seem to be well-founded. I say this because I am about to propose a very material modification in the Section in question, a modification founded mainly on the opinions we have received from the responsible bodies whose opinions we have asked, and because we feel that whatever may have been the view which led originally to the proposal in question, it is one which ought to be modified in the manner in which I am about to describe in consequence of the concurrent opinions which we have received upon the point.

"But before I go into the details of the clause in question I desire to point out what the existing law and practice on the subject of verdicts is, because I think that that is not altogether understood. First of all, everywhere, as far as I know, where the principle of trial by Judge and jury--because it is not strictly trial by jury--prevails, there is a marked line of demarcation between the functions of the Judge and the function of the jury. It is the business of the jury to determine all questions of fact; it is the business of the Judge to lay down all points of law. The only exception I know to that anywhere is in the trials in England for libel in which under Mr. Fox's Libel Act the jury have, to a

certain extent, the power of entering into questions of law. That distinction is very strongly brought forward in sections 298 and 299 of the Indian Penal Code, and there is no doubt that in India, as in England, it is the duty of the jury to take the law from the Judge in every case, even if they disagree with the law as he lays it down. In fact, the meaning of a 'perverse verdict' is not one which is opposed to the justice of the case, but one where the jury have refused to accept the Judge's ruling as to the law. A verdict may be erroneous without being perverse; such verdicts are to be met with every day and everywhere, but what is a more exceptional case is that a verdict may be perverse without being erroneous. Now, the present law in India is that the jury shall return a verdict on each of the charges on which the accused is tried and the Judge shall so direct them, and that, if the Judge has any doubt as to the meaning of the verdict returned by the jury, he may ask such questions as may be necessary to ascertain what their verdict is, and that every such question and answer shall be recorded. That is the law as it stands in section 303 of the Indian Penal Code. In the proposed section we break that up into five sub-sections, three of which, with a very slight modification, accurately represent the existing law and practice. The other two, on which I shall have to comment, are new.

"The first provides, almost in the terms of the existing law, that the jury shall be at liberty to return a verdict on each of the charges on which the accused is tried, and the Judge shall so direct them. Then sub-section (2) propose to do that which is the common practice both in England and in India, but which is not expressly provided for by law in either country, namely, it enables the Judge to require the jury to give a verdict as to their belief or disbelief on any specified issues of fact and to deduce from the findings of fact the result of the trial. I say that is not at this moment expressly the law in either country, but it is the practice in both. At present it is perfectly true that a jury may—I suppose in India, certainly in England—if requested by the Judge to find a special verdict on the facts laid before them, refuse to do so, and bring in a general verdict of guilty or not guilty; but I have never heard of an instance in practice in which any jury has done so. On the contrary, I suppose there is not an assizes in any country in England in which it does not happen at least once that a jury is either requested to state its opinion on the various points of fact which arise in the case and does so, or does so voluntarily of their own accord, and I happen to know that the same thing occurs, if not frequently, at least sometimes, in India also.

"I do not wish to detain the Council at any great length on this point, but I will give two illustrations, one from my own personal knowledge and the other which I came across the other day. In the very first criminal case—a case in which a man was charged with burglary—in which I ever was concerned myself—and the fact has fixed it in my memory—the jury returned the following verdict:—'That the prisoner was found in possession of the stolen articles which he knew did not belong to him, but that there was no evidence as to whether he had taken them out of the house or had found them in the wood where they were found in his possession' That was distinctly a special verdict: and on that Mr. Baron Platt directed a verdict of 'not guilty' to be recorded. The other day I came across in the course of my reading—I did not take down the reference and I cannot now specify where, but I can easily find the case, if necessary—a case where a jury in this country found that the accused had killed the deceased not in self defence and without provocation, but that, inasmuch as there was no evidence of a previous quarrel or motive, they declined to find him guilty of murder: and on that the High Court of Calcutta ordered a verdict of guilty of murder to be entered.\* Both of these are instances of special verdicts in which the Judge had entered a verdict in accordance with the facts found by the jury, disregarding any opinion on questions of law given by them. Therefore, I say that sections 1, 2 and 5 of the proposed Bill accurately represent the existing practice. They only vary from the existing law in this: that sub-section (2), if carried, would enable a Judge to require that to be done which in practice constantly is done without his being able to enforce it. At the same time I am bound to say that the variation between the proposal and the existing law is so slight that no very great harm will be done if the Select Committee should prefer to preserve the existing law unaltered, and neither I as an individual, nor as carrying out the views of the Government, would feel bound in the least to interfere with the discretion of the Select Committee if that should be the form which their discretion would take.

"Sub-section (5), however, has at present a very important addition attached to it, which is no part of the existing law of India, and that is, that a Judge shall not in any case enquire of the jury

their reasons for any verdict, nor whether they have believed or disbelieved any particular witness.

"That proviso was added to sub-section (5) because it was feared that, if the general power of the Judge to require verdicts on questions of fact were extended as proposed by sub-section (2), he might amongst other questions of fact ask these particular questions, and it was thought not desirable that the minds of the jury should be investigated as to how they arrived at the facts, the only object being to discover what conclusions of fact they had in effect arrived at.

"If, however, sub-section (2) is not passed by the Select Committee, it will not be necessary to introduce the proviso in sub-section (5), and in that case the law may remain as it stands at this moment in the Code.

"Sub-section (4) is really a portion of the same question as sub-section (5); that is to say, the object of sub-section (4) is, if it is not clear what the verdict is, to enable such questions to be asked as will show what that verdict really is. That is, as I say, a part of the existing law, and although it is considerably elaborated in the sub-section in order to make the process perfectly clear, it does not vary from the existing law in any respect, and I shall leave it to stand or fall with sub-section (2) according to the judgment of the Select Committee.

"There only remains sub-section (3). Sub-section (3) is the sub-section which provides that after a general verdict of guilty or not guilty has been given, if the Judge is dissatisfied, he may then require a special verdict on any question or questions of fact. This sub-section, as the Council will probably recollect I explained when introducing the Bill, is one which, if passed at all, would require to be safeguarded very carefully in order to prevent it from degenerating into a cross-examination of the jury. It is one which I stated the Government of India had put forward tentatively and for opinion, rather in deference to the high authorities who advocated its introduction,—and I may as well state at once that the persons to whom I am alluding are not now directly connected with the Government—in fact, I do not think any of them is even resident in India at this moment; I say it was put forward rather in deference to high authorities who considered that this would be a useful addition to the law than because they had themselves made up their minds upon the question as to how such a sub-section would work. We have found however that, varying as the opinions have been in other respects, the opinions of the responsible officers in the country, Local Governments and others, are almost unanimous against the introduction of any power of requiring a further verdict after a general verdict; and I am authorised to state that, if this Bill goes into Select Committee, I will in Select Committee move for the omission from the provision in question of that particular sub-section. I do so without the slightest hesitation and without feeling that in so doing the Government of India are in any way retreating from the position which they took up in introducing this Bill. Their sole object from first to last has been to improve the operation of the jury system as a means of the administration of justice. I admit that in my own personal opinion that instrument for the administration of justice is so very faulty that it can never be made quite satisfactory; but my desire has been to make it as useful and efficient as it is capable of being made, and, being satisfied that the particular provision in question is not apt for that purpose, we withdraw it without hesitation and without regret."

The Hon'ble Mr. Bhaskute said:—"My Lord, the Bill now referred to the Select Committee is, from a different point of view, even more important than the Cotton Duties Bill passed a few days ago. There never was till now a discussion of the principle of the Bill itself. I certainly agree to the present motion on the supposition that this discussion is reserved."

The Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans said:—"After the statement made by the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Miller it is evident that the Bill must go into Select Committee. There is no objection to the Bill going into Select Committee, and I feel that it would be worse than useless at present to discuss the matters raised by the Bill. The statement made by Sir Alexander Miller requires very careful attention. The whole matter will have to be discussed in Select Committee, and it is quite possible that when the Bill emerges from the Select Committee it will contain little or no disputable matter with regard to which there will be any acrimonious feeling."

The Hon'ble Ananda Charlu, Rai Bahadur, agreed with the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans that the Bill should go into Select Committee after the excellent observations which had fallen from the lips of the Hon'ble Mover. He should like some explanation to be given with regard to certain other parts of the Bill, but, as the Bill would be before the Select Committee, and as he happened to be upon the Committee also and would have an opportunity of advancing his views, he thought it was undesirable to take up the time of the Council at present.

The Hon'ble Babu Mohiny Mohun Roy said:—"May it please Your Excellency,—I crave permission to offer a few observations upon this Bill, I had no opportunity of stating my views at its introduction, which took place at Simla. The Bill is now being re-

\* On further reference to the case I find that, though the statement in the speech is substantially accurate, it is not perfectly so. The Judge refused to receive such a verdict and directed the jury to reconsider it: they then, by his direction, found a verdict of guilty of murder: and the High Court held that the Judge was right in his action, and refused to disturb the second verdict.

ferred to a Select Committee. This seems to be an appropriate time for making a statement.

"The Bill seeks to introduce three important changes in the law—

*First*, empowering Sessions Judges to require the jury to return a special verdict and a further special verdict (clauses (3) and (4) of section 3 of the Bill);

*Second*, enlarging the power of the High Court to deal with cases where the Sessions Judge, disagreeing with the verdict of the jury, makes a reference to the High Court (section 4 of the Bill);

*Third*, formation of a special jury for the trial of offences which may be specified by the Local Government (section 6 of the Bill).

"There is nothing objectionable in the second item of change. The Bengal Government approves of it. The Calcutta High Court likewise approves of it and shows it is necessary in that 'it settles the law expressed in section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, about which the judgments of the different High Court have been somewhat contradictory.' The Bombay High Court is against it, but the Bombay Government is not so adverse. It says, 'any' modification of section 307 of the Code is unnecessary. The proposed amendment, however, does not appear to be open to objection.' The Madras Government and the Madras High Court express no opinion upon this point. Reason and balance of authority are certainly in favour of the proposed amendment. The people of the country have more confidence in the High Court than in the Sessions Court and will not grudge an enlargement of the power of the High Court in cases of difference between the Sessions Judge and the jury. The Asansol outrage case is still fresh in their memory.

"The formation of a special jury in districts where practicable seems to be equally unobjectionable. But the proviso that the inclusion of the name of any person in the special jury list shall not exempt him from liability to serve as an ordinary juror is open to very serious objection. Mr. Stevens, Judicial Commissioner of the Central Provinces, says:

'At best the number of special jurors would be but small, and as presumably they would be called upon to act in those classes of cases which are most serious, most difficult and most complicated, they would apparently have a great deal more than their fair share of work, as compared with the common jurors.'

"The Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces has expressed his general concurrence with the views of the Judicial Commissioner. I would humbly submit, for the consideration of Your Excellency and Council, that the proviso would be very unfair to special jurors. Without it they would have 'more than their fair share of work.' It would serve no useful purpose to make the special jury service a work of hard labour and an object of dislike to jurors.

"Now I come to the first item of change. The hon'ble and learned mover of the Bill candidly stated when introducing it.

'No doubt there are very grave considerations as regards such a process which might very well be perverted into a kind of browbeating or cross-examination of the jury, a practice which was prevalent in England in the days of the Tudors but has not been known their since then.'

"Jurors are now, as they ought to be, treated with more consideration. They are not starved into unanimity. Nor ought they to be heckled or browbeaten into a surrender of their independence. The clauses of section 3 of the Bill referred to above will greatly lower the status of jurors and render the entire jury service extremely distasteful. I would always deprecate any change in the law which might lead to such a result. The High Courts of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay are all against such change. The Bengal Government 'considers that this section might be so safeguarded as to be unobjectionable; but, in view of the feeling of the educated Native community in regard to it, it is clearly of opinion that it is not worth while to press the proposal.' The Bombay Government thinks there is no objection to the Judge asking the jury in some cases 'what their verdict is on each essential point for determination.' But His Excellency the Governor of Bombay dissents from his Council on this point. The Government of Madras has expressed no opinion upon it. The further statement which the Hon'ble Mover has made to-day renders it unnecessary that this matter should be discussed at any length.

"In this connection I would draw the attention of the Council to section 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and to section 5 of the Bill and point out that under the present law (section 319) 'all male persons between the ages of 21 and 60' are, with certain exceptions, 'liable to serve as jurors or assessors at any trial held within the district where they reside'. Now a district is a large area, and the sadr station, where sessions trials are held, is often two or three days' journey from remote parts of the district. It would clearly be a great hardship to persons residing in such remote parts to have to come up to the sadr station to serve as jurors or assessors. The area of liability to such service may justly be circumscribed to a radius of short and easy distance

from the sadr station so that the liability might not entail any great hardship or unreasonable sacrifice of time and money upon the persons subject to it. If there is railway communication, that circumstance may be taken into consideration in fixing the distance. The Madras Government is of opinion that 'the practical difficulty in working the law would probably be met by a provision that only persons resident within five miles of the District Court should be included in the list of special jurors.' There is no reason why a different rule should obtain in regard to common jurors and assessors. In framing or amending any law regarding the jury system, to paramount interests ought always to be kept in view, namely, the interests of criminal justice and the interests of justice to jurors."

The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Miller said:—"It is scarcely necessary that I should, considering the explanation I have already given, say anything further by way of reply again, but I wish to take advantage of my right of reply merely to mention that I originally intended and promised to insert the name of the Maharaja of Durbhanga on the Select Committee and have been in communication with him on the subject, but I have not put on his name on account of his recent illness which would have made it merely an empty compliment to have done so."

The motion was put and agreed to.

### ORDERS AND ARROWS.

WHEN the captain of a ship orders some hands aloft to furl the main troyal the men jump to obey, as a matter of course. A sailor can climb up on a yard without having a shilling ashore or a penny in his pocket. In fact, Jack seldom signs articles until he has used up both cash and credit.

But when a doctor—who is a sort of captain when one is laid up in the dry dock of illness—orders a patient to go abroad for the benefit of his health, it is quite another thing. A trip and sojourn away from home is an expensive prescription, and most of us can't afford it. If the doctor says it is a choice between that and the graveyard we shall have to settle on the graveyard; it is handy by, and easy to get to. But are we really so hard pushed? That is, as often as the doctors say we are? Let's turn the matter over in our minds for a minute.

Here is a case that is pat to the purpose. It concerns Mr. Arthur Whiddon Melluish, of 3, Regent's Terrace, Polsloe Road, Exeter; and for the details we are indebted to a letter written by him, dated March 7th 1893. He mentions that, in obedience to the orders of his doctors, he went to Cannes, in the South of France, in November, 1890, and spent the winter there. He also spent the following winter at the same place. He felt the better for the change; we will tell you why presently. But he obtained no *radical* benefit, which also we will explain later on.

It appears that this gentleman had been weak and ailing nearly all his life; not exactly ill, not wholly well—a condition that calls for constant caution. In March, 1890, he had a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs.

Now I want the reader to honour me with his best attention, as I must say in a few words what ought properly to take many. Shoot an arrow into the air—as straight up as you can. You can't tell where it will fall. It may fall on a neighbour's head, on your own, or on a child's, or on the pavement. Everybody's blood contains more or less poisonous elements. These are arrows, but unlike your wooden arrow they always strike on the weakest spot, or spots, in the body. If they hit the muscles and joints we call it rheumatism and gout; if they hit the liver we call it liver complaint or biliousness; if they hit the kidneys we call it Bright's disease; if they hit the nerves we call it nervous prostration, epilepsy, or any of fifty other names; if they hit the bronchial tubes we call it bronchitis &c.; if they hit the air cells we call it inflammation of the lungs, or by-and-by, consumption. And inasmuch as these poisoned arrows pass through the delicate meshes of the lungs a thousand times every day it would be odd if they didn't hit them—wouldn't it?

Now, wait a bit; it follows that all the various so-called diseases above named are *not diseases at all in and of themselves*, but merely symptoms of one only disease—namely, *that disease which produces the poison*! Good. We will get on to the end of the story.

After the attack of lung inflammation Mr. Melluish suffered from loss of appetite, pain in the chest, sides, and stomach, and dangerous constipation. He could eat only liquid food and had to take to his bed. For weeks he was so feeble and he could not rise in bed. He consulted one physician after another, obtaining no more than temporary relief from medicine. Then he was ordered abroad as we have related.

His letter concludes in these words: "Whilst at Cannes I consulted a doctor, who said my ailment was weak digestion, and that I need not trouble about my lungs. But I never gained any real ground until November, 1891, when I began to take Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. This helped me in one week, and by continuing with it I got stronger and stronger, and am now in fair good health. This, after my relatives thought I should never recover. (Signed) Arthur Whiddon Melluish."

To sum up: This gentleman's real ailment was indigestion and dyspepsia, from which the blood poison comes that causes nearly all disorders and pains. The air of Southern France helped him temporarily, because it is milder than ours; it did not remove the poison. By care and the use of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup he would have done better at home, as the result shows.

So we see that it isn't the climate that kills or saves; it is the condition of the digestion. If therefore your doctor orders you abroad for your health, tell him you will first try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup.



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to, Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to, Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
to, Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to, Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to, Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S. E. J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H. P.  
to, Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.  
to, Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.  
to, Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
to, Graham, Mr. W.  
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.  
from Guha, Babu Saroda Kunt.  
to, Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.  
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to, Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.  
to, Knight, Mr. Paul.  
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.  
to, Law, Kumar Kristodas.  
to, Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
to, Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
to, Mallik, Mr. H. C.  
to, Marston, Miss Ann.  
from Mehta, Mr. R. D.  
to, Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralal.  
to, Mookerjee, late Raja Dakhinrajjan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
from Nayaratna, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.  
from Oshorn, the late Colonel Robert D.  
to, Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.  
to, Rao, the late Sir T. Madhava.  
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to, from Routledge, Mr. James.  
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to, Row, Mr. G. Syamala.  
to, Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.  
to, Sinha, Babu Brahmananda.  
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.  
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.  
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
to, Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
to, Vencataramanah, Mr. G.  
to, Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to, Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.  
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Ameer Hossein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.  
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## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of  
a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith,  
Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October,  
1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer,  
and there is a breezy freshness and originality  
about his correspondence which make it  
very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corfi,  
K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,  
26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing  
official duties an English Civilian can find  
either time or opportunity to pay so graceful  
a tribute to the memory of a native personality  
as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of  
the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the  
well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta:  
Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many  
who are more worthy of being thus honoured  
than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr.  
Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with  
all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with  
lessons for those who desire to know the real  
India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not  
even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmyest days  
under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of in-  
fluence in any way approaching that which was  
soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualiti-  
es, his death from pneumonia in the early  
spring of the last year was a distinct and  
heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was  
an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put  
his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times*  
of India, (Bomday) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journal-  
ist becomes worthy of publication; it is more  
rarely still that such a life comes to be written  
by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the  
Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to  
pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus,  
the life of at least one man among Indian  
journalists has been considered worthy of  
being written by an Englishman.—*The*  
*Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30,  
1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a  
profound student and an accomplished writer,  
who has left his mark on Indian journalism.  
In that he has found a Civilian like Mr.  
Skrine to record the story of his life he is  
more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal  
himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2,  
1895.

For much of the biographical matter that  
issues so freely from the press an apology is  
needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee,  
the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an  
explanation would have been looked for. A man  
of his remarkable personality, who was easily  
first among native Indian journalists, and in  
many respects occupied a higher plane than  
they did, and looked at public affairs from a  
different point of view from theirs, could not  
be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmans—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unimpaired by ostentation and earnestness unspiced by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his confidence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 214.

## WEEKLYANA.

IN an article headed "Saxons and Latins" in *Le Matin*, Robert Mitchell says:—"I admire, above all, this vigorous Anglo-Saxon race, which knows, without a tutor, how to develop itself without the protection of any one, imperturbably confident in their own force, always ready to encounter the unknown, before which we others, poor Latins, timorously retire. Jameson is a filibuster, but he has pushed with an irresistible enterprise the right of the Anglo-Saxon, striking in our sad century the last loud echo of the heroic times."

Again:—

"The English proceed in their own fashion and I believe in the firm superiority of their method. First, the missionaries test the soil, and so they have a moral hold on the metropolis of the country which they try to attach to the immense English Empire. Then come the merchants. India was conquered by merchants. A company of merchants and furriers created the Dominion of Canada."

The poet laureate of England sings the glory of

### JAMESON'S RIDE.

The following poem appeared in the *Times*. It was afterwards recited at the Alhambra Theatre by Mr. E. H. Vanderfelt, accounted as a trooper of the Chartered Company's service, and was listened to in intense silence. Enthusiastic cheers were given for Dr. Jameson at its close, and the cheering was renewed when the National Anthem was played.

#### I.

"Wrong! Is it wrong? Well, may be;  
But I'm going, boys, all the same.  
Do they think me a Burgher's baby,  
To be scared by a scolding name?  
They may argue, and prate, and order;  
Go, tell them to save their breath:  
Then over the Transvaal border,  
And gallop for life or death!"

#### II.

"There are girls in the gold-reef city,  
There are mothers and children too!  
And they cry, 'Hurry up! for pity!'  
So what can a brave man do?  
If even we win, they'll blame us:  
If we fail, they will howl and hiss.  
But there's many a man lives famous  
For daring a wrong like this!"

#### III.

"Let lawyers and statesmen addle  
Their pates over points of law:  
If sound be our sword, and saddle,  
And gun-gear, who cares one straw?  
When men of our own blood pray us  
To ride to their kinsfolk's aid,  
Not Heaven itself should stay us  
From the rescue they'll call a raid."

#### IV.

"So we forded and galloped forward,  
As hard as our beasts could pelt,  
First eastward, then tending norward,  
Right over the rolling veldt;  
Till we came on the Burghers lying  
In a hollow with hills behind,  
And their bullets came whizzing, flying,  
Like hail on an Arctic wind!"

#### V.

"O, sweet 'tis the markman's rattle,  
And sweeter the cannon's roar,  
But 'tis cruelly hard to battle,  
Beleaguered, but one to four,  
I can tell you, it wasn't a trifle  
To swarm over Krugersdorp glen,  
As they plied us, with round and rifle,  
And ploughed us, again—and again."

#### VI.

"Then we made for the gold reef city,  
Retreating, but not in rout.  
They had called to us 'Quick! for pity!'  
And He said, 'They will sally out.'  
They will hear us and come. Who doubts it?  
But how if they don't, what then?  
'Well, worry no more about it.  
But fight to the death, like men.'"

#### VII.

"Not a soul had or supped or slumbered  
Since the Borderland stream was cleft;  
But we fought, ever more outnumbered,  
Till we had not a cartridge left.  
We're not very soft or tender,  
Or given to weep for woe,  
But it breaks a man's heart to render  
His sword to the strongest foe."

#### VIII.

"I suppose we were wrong, were madmen,  
But I think at the Judgment Day,  
When God sifts the good from the bad men,  
There'll be something more to say.  
We were wrong, but we aren't half sorry,  
And, as one of the baffled band,  
I would rather have had that foray  
Than the crushings of all the Rand."

ALFRED AUSTIN.

Swinford Old Manor, Jan. 9.

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certified copy of the decree of a Court of competent jurisdiction declaring the existence and extent of such charge;

Provided that, notwithstanding such registration, no such charge shall be valid as against a *bond fide* transferee for value of the property who shall prove to the satisfaction of the Court that at the time when he parted with his purchase-money he was in fact ignorant of the existence of the charge and could not by reasonable diligence have discovered its existence.

*Explanation.*—In the construction of this section 'purchase-money' shall include any valuable consideration given for the transfer of the property in question."

\*\*\*

THE Ceylon correspondent of the *Travancore Times* reports:—

"The Superintendent of an estate prosecuted a Tamil labourer for wilful disobedience of orders in that the accused refused to yoke a pair of bullocks to a cart and work them on the 14th January last, alleging that that being the 'Mittu Pongal' day, it was a sin to work them. The accused was found guilty, the Police Magistrate stating that, though there is evidence that it is a sin, according to the Hindu religion to work bullocks on the 'Mittu Pongal', yet exceptions must be made in emergencies. Eleven rupees due to the accused as wages was forfeited."

The magistrate admits that the carter had good grounds for refusal of the work. Yet he punishes him. The poor man pays heavily for his religious scruples.

•••

THE Neyyattinkara correspondent of the same paper describes the development of an omnipotent god in flesh:—

"On the banks of the Neyyattinkara River at Aroovipuram, a couple of miles from the town, a small Siva temple was built about six years ago by the efforts of one Nannan Aschan, a native of Sherayankel Dist., as the Elovahs had no temple of their own up to this in this Taluq. Till very lately, very few people only from this and the neighbouring districts were resorting to it for worship. But during the late Sivarathri, people were invited from distant places as Thuvellah and they came in, in numbers. The crowd was so great that there was hardly sufficient place for the people to stand on. To attract people the cunning man and his adherents had made the necessary arrangements to feed all those who would resort to the place. Besides, his adherents and friends were giving out the news from the commencement of the establishment of the temple, that the Aschan was possessed of divine power to heal the sick and make barren women fruitful. On account of which also, lots of invalids and childless women come for his divine blessing with the full hope of attaining their object but to be disappointed at last. Almost all the people who had no objection to eat were fed sumptuously and those who would not touch the food prepared by them, were given provisions and vessels to make their own meals. But even among the high caste people, the invalids and barren women ate greedily the plantain fruits and milk that were given by the Aschan after biting and drinking as they supposed that divine power was instilled into them by him through these agencies and bore fruit. I am very sorry to find now, that it is the Aschan who is worshipped instead of the deity. In one sense, the people are right in worshipping the teacher as he is able to see and talk to the people whereas the deity that is placed in the temple is not able to do either. Sensible men of the place are afraid that the disciple of Siva (the Aschan) would in course of time replace the deity in worship as was done in so many other places as at Thuvracolum in Agasteeswarum where Moothuachetty is the presiding deity now."

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Vienna Press commenting on the report that the Sultan was seeking to reopen the Egyptian question, agree in condemning the attempt and urge Lord Salisbury to flatly refuse all discussion on the subject. The *Times*' correspondent at Constantinople telegraphs that, in reply to the Sultan's invitation to regularize the situation in Egypt, Lord Salisbury has stated that the suggestions of the Turkish Ambassador are too vague. The Sultan has therefore appointed a Commission to formulate concrete proposals. The French press eagerly discuss the question and urge a Franco-English understanding to effect a settlement based upon the British evacuation of Egypt. The Foreign Office and the Turkish Ambassador in London alike deny the statements of the *Times*' correspondent. It transpires, however, that negotiations in regard to Egypt are proceeding between Great Britain and France. In the House of Commons, Mr. Curzon, replying to a question, said that no foreign Government had made proposals recently involving the early evacuation of Egypt by the British.

IN the French Chamber of Deputies, on Feb. 24, a discussion took place on the Siam Treaty. M. Berthelot said that the negotiations

with England had been conducted in a spirit of conciliation, and he hoped that the same spirit would lead to an arrangement in other questions.

IT is declared at St. Petersburg that Russia does not intend to occupy Corea, but is entitled to guarantee its complete autonomy. Mr. Curzon, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that the occupation of Seoul or any other place in Corea by the Russians had not occurred, and was not apprehended. He believed that five vessels had been added to the Russian squadron in Chinese waters during the past year.

IN the House of Lords, on Feb. 24, Lord Salisbury denied that he had ever argued in favour of protection, and said that he did not believe that protective duties on articles of first necessity would ever be adopted by Great Britain.

DR. Jameson and his officers were secretly landed at Portlisset on Feb. 25, and conveyed by a circuitous route to Bow Street Police Station, where they were charged with undertaking a military expedition against a friendly State. They were each bailed for two thousand pounds, and the case was adjourned for a fortnight. Sir John Bridge sternly rebuked the cheering in Court, which he said would bring England into contempt. He emphasized the extreme gravity of the case, and warned the prisoners to be discreet in their behaviour during the adjournment. The Law Officers will prosecute.

MANY arrests have been made at Constantinople, it is reported, in connection with a plot on the life of the Sultan.

IN the Cortes Government was asked whether a German subject who had obtained a concession of land opposite Delagoa Bay, had offered to transfer it to the German Government. In reply the Government stated that it was examining the question and would seek to settle it diplomatically or otherwise.

MR. Goschen, in a speech made at Leves, said that the relations between Great Britain and Germany were now excellent. He hoped that recent events had removed the fallacy abroad that Great Britain could only defend her home interests. English isolation was self-imposed, and he believed that in the event of a struggle for life England would not be found alone.

IT is announced that Mr. Le Marchant succeeds Mr. Currie on the India Council.

THE House of Commons had passed Mr. Balfour's amendment for the reform in the procedure. As regards the Committee of Supply the limit is extended to twenty-five days for the debate on the annual Estimates, and it is agreed that the change shall only apply to the present session, and that if found workable it will become permanent.

THERE will be an Evening Party at Government House on Thursday next. Owing to the heat of the weather, the Viceroy has been pleased to prescribe for the occasion mess for full dress for gentlemen. Successive Viceroys or their advisers felt the inconvenience of a full dress in hot weather. Lord Elgin has the courage to introduce the innovation.

SIR Charles Bradley Pritchard, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., having resigned, and no person provisionally appointed to succeed being present on the spot, the Governor-General in Council appointed the Hon'ble Mr. Alan Cullen, C.S.I., a temporary ordinary member of Council who, on the 24th February, took upon himself, under the usual salute, the execution of the office of Public Works Minister.

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OWING to the prevalence of cholera among coolies on the steamer emigration route from Gualundo to Assam, the emigration of all natives of India from the districts of Bengal to Assam, has been prohibited.

IN the Bombay High Court, Tukiram Santon was tried twice for murder of a little girl for her ornament. At the first trial, the jury were not unanimous—seven declaring the accused not guilty and two, guilty. Mr. Justice Candy, who was no sugar, not agreeing with the verdict of the majority, discharged the jury and directed a new trial. At this trial, the special jury unanimously found Santon guilty who was then sentenced to death.

THE following Editorial Note is from the *People's Friend* of Madras :—

"Mr. P. Ramasawmy Chetty's further retention in the Municipality is objected to by many people on public grounds. We too think he would do well to retire. At the same time, we have no hesitation in saying that he is one of our best men in many important respects. He is public-spirited, incorruptible, conscientious and liberal minded, and to him it is we owe the two Indian Competition wallahs in the Madras Civil Service that we have hitherto been able to produce, namely, his own deceased son Rathnaveln Chetty, and Mr. V. Vennigopaul Chetty of the Christian college, now serving in Kurnool we believe. We wish we had a few more men imbued with the spirit and virtues of Mr. P. Ramasawmy Chetty."

Mr. Rathnaveln Chetty was the first Native Civilian of the Madras Presidency. His end was miserable. He is supposed to have shot himself because a European lady had called him a crow. He had also a rebuff from the Governor. The Duke of Buckingham refused to admit him to Government House, because of his European costume. When, however, he was afterwards received in his native dress, the first thing the Duke asked him was what he meant by giving up his national dress in order to adopt what he imagined better?

AT the Civil Service Examination to be held in London, commencing on August 3 1896, sixty-one candidates will be selected, if so many shall be found duly qualified, namely, for the Lower Provinces of Bengal (including Assam), 19; for the Upper Provinces of Bengal (the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the Punjab, and the Central Provinces), 24; for Burma, 4; for Madras, 7; for Bombay, 7.

It is notified that no deduction will be made from the marks assigned to candidates in mathematics or English composition.

ONLY the other day, a native member of the Civil Service of India, in charge of a Sub-division, made a lamentable exhibition of his knowledge of the English language. On a Wednesday, the District Magistrate informed by wire the Sub-divisional Officer that he could not come the next day for a particular case in his own court which he wanted to try in the Sub-divisional Court, and asked him to "summon witnesses for Friday next." When on Thursday the parties appeared with their counsel and witnesses, the Sub-divisional Officer informed them that the Magistrate had postponed the case to Friday week, and enjoined the witnesses to be present that day. He further bound them down to appear nine days after. After he had thus dismissed the parties and was satisfied in his mind that he had carried out to the full the order of the District Magistrate, he passed on the telegram which he had hitherto kept to himself to the office to be made a part of the record in the case. The untravelled head clerk who, before filing, read the telegram, now ran up to his Chief and, in faltering accents, mumbled suspicion as to the correctness of the order based on the District Magisterial message. The Sub-divisional Officer for the first time felt a hesitation. Yet he doubted that he could be wrong—he who dressed himself as an Englishman, who mixed himself in European society as one of them, who kept no harem and observed no purdah and had learnt his English on the banks of the Thames and not the Hoogly. The head clerk, in all submission, still believed that next day was meant and not Friday, next week. There was suspension of the ordinary work of the Sub-divisional Court, the chief business being the discovery of the intention of the District Magistrate as disclosed in the telegram received overnight. There were no experts who could be consulted. The *amba*, none of whom had seen Europe and the world, could not possibly be of any material assistance in a matter in which their knowing Chief found himself at sea. There was no library that could be ransacked. In this dire difficulty he decided to consult the Magistrate himself. An urgent state message by wire was despatched immediately which brought back the in-

formation that the District Magistrate would be coming the next day. Horror of horrors! What was to be done? The parties had left Court and dispersed. How to bring them together the next morning? Notices, hurriedly and unintelligibly written, with the seal of the Court were issued, free of cost, and served at night on such as could be found, peremptorily ordering their attendance the next morning. The day dawned, the Magistrate, true to his two telegrams, entered appearance. The principal party on whom the notice could be served also shewed himself. But the case could not be proceeded with, for counsel and witnesses were absent. The Magistrate, finding how his assistant had prepared the way for the *fiasco*, was glad to avail himself of the opportunity afforded by a petition for postponement, adjourned the hearing, and left for his own place, a wiser man as regards his particular conduit pipe.

In the *Crescent* of February 3, under "Dates of Events interesting to Muslims during the month of February," we read :—

"Feb'y 22—Order of the Star of India instituted, 1854"

It would have been well if this item were omitted altogether. There is no reason why the information should be specially acceptable to Muslims, unless the Order were founded for them. On the contrary, there is very good reason why it ought not to give rise to any agreeable emotion in them, for the Star contains a likeness, though of the sovereign. The feeling of true Mussulmans was represented by the late ruler of the Nizam's dominions, Nawab Afzaluddowla—one of the first of the Native Princes admitted to the Order. When the insignia was presented to him, he treated it with what was believed to be scant courtesy. There was a howl of indignation against the Prince for not shewing it proper respect. It was reserved for the late Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee to set the Nizam right with the public. He pointed out that, as a good Mussulman, Nawab Afzaluddowla could not do more than what he did. It was a blunder to introduce the likeness in a decoration intended, among others, for Mussulmans. Those days are certainly gone by. The present Nizam and his Mussulman ministers and other Native Mahomedan Princes have been too eager to be members of the Order. Still the initial objection remains. Our Liverpool contemporary also makes a mistake about the date of the Order. It was instituted after the mutinies—in 1861.

WE read in the *Englishman* that the Amir's conquest of Kafiristan has been done into verse by General Golam Haider's chief Munshi. The book is being printed. It narrates the events leading up to the recent expedition, including accounts of the Durand Mission and Golam Haider's march. It also describes the country, celebrates the victory of Afghan troops, and gives a catalogue of the influential Kafirs who are said to have submitted to the Amir of their own accord.

ON Monday, the 17th of February, the non-official members of the N.-W. P. Legislative Council met, in the Chatter Manzil, to elect their representative in the Supreme Legislative Council. Pandit Bishamber Nath proposed Syed Mahomed for the chair. The Syed, while thankful for the compliment, proposed Maharaj Kumar Aditya Narayan Singh as president of the meeting. When the Kumar, duly elected, had taken the chair, Raja Rampal Singh moved that Pandit Bishamber Nath be elected for the Supreme Council. Before the Pandit's name was seconded, Syed Mahmud, by way of an amendment, suggested that of the Maharaja Sir Pratap Narain Singh of Ayodhia. As soon as the late Judge of the Allahabad High Court had ceased relating the virtues of the successor of Maharaja Man Singh, Baboo Sri Ram informed the meeting that he had the authority of the Maharaja to say that he would decline the honour if elected. Then the Syed seconded the proposition of the Pandit and was all admiration for his nominee, who, as he said, but for his advanced age, would have been occupying a seat on the Allahabad High Court bench, and had the confidence of both Hindus and Mahomedans. Mr. Cooper then, as a second amendment, proposed the name of Syed Mahmud and the Pandit seconded, taking the opportunity to pay back the compliment lavished on him by his Mahomedan friend. This amendment, being put to the vote, was lost, when Mr. Cooper put forward Baboo Sri Ram as the best representative. The second amendment of Mr. Cooper, seconded by Sett Raghber Dyal, had the support of the proposer, the seconder, the proposed, and the chairman, or the majority of the members present. The result being reported to the Chief Secretary, he declared the election infructuous.

as there was no absolute majority of the non-official members of the Council. He suggested a second deliberation, but the Pandit, the Syed and Mr. Couper would not agree to the re-opening of the matter.

THE town of Ranaghat is in mourning on account of the death of Baboo Surendra Nath Pal Chowdry, the son of the late Baboo Sri-gopal and the great-great-grandson of Kisto Panthi, the founder of the Pal Chowdries of the place. Who has not heard of Kisto Panthi? He made himself famous by his unprecedented rise from poverty into the founder of one of the great houses in Bengal, and the second in the Nadia District. His probity was widely known and his charity was unstinted. Prosperity did not turn his head. He was not ashamed of his poor humble birth and gratefully acknowledged ever after the benefits received and remembered his benefactors with respect. Ranaghat was of his making. An unlettered man, with instinct for trade in which he made his fortune, when he began to acquire zamindaris, he was greatly assisted by his brother Simbbu Chunder, from whom Surendranath was lineally descended, through Bikuantonath, Nilcomul and Srigopal. The last was a model of a gentleman. The liberality and hospitality of the house knew no bounds. There is hardly a family of note in the Nadia District next to the Rijas of Krishnaghar which does not acknowledge the superiority of the Ranaghat Pal Chowdries in many respects. Litigation, the curse of Bengal, has played havoc with that family and still in its declining days, Baboo Surendranath tried to maintain the traditions of the house as best he could. Viceroy and Governors could not pass through the railway station at Ranaghat without being entertained by Surendranath. The humility of the founder of the house was a family trait in the principal members and was observable in Surendranath. If he welcomed all who came to him, he felt no hesitation in visiting those beneath him in rank and status. This quality endeared him to all. He took to Government service and was a Deputy Magistrate for four years, when he was obliged to leave it, to look after what still remained of the large estate and to make arrangements to pay off the debts of the family due to lengthened litigation. There are still senior members of the house founded by Kisto Panthi, but it was reserved for Surendranath, after his father's death, to keep alive the old memory. He interested himself in all the public movements and institutions at Ranaghat. Since the days of Lord Ripon, the era of local self-government, he had been, almost uninterruptedly the Chairman of the local municipality. An Honorary Magistrate, he was entrusted with first class powers and empowered to sit singly. His management of the Municipality was acknowledged on all hands as satisfactory. He died at the post of his choice. We are afraid the late Ranaghat petroleum prosecution, in which, against his will, he was forced to take an undignified part, told heavily on him. He was down with apoplexy from which he did not recover. We think it proper to make known that the proprietor of the petroleum depot who had served notice of suit for damages, to which Baboo Surendranath had replied repudiating his liability, was anxious to withdraw the notice if it could possibly hasten the recovery of the Chairman. But before he could do so, the final end came and Baboo Surendranath ceased to breathe. The shops at Ranaghat were closed the day after his death.

WHILE the Chairman of the Ranaghat Municipality, Babu Surendra Nath Pal Chowdry, was still ailing and his condition causing alarm to his relatives and friends, the business of the Municipality threatened to come to a stand-still. On February 21, the Vice-Chairman having reported that cheques drawn and signed by him were refused by the Sub-Treasury officer, the Commissioners resolved that the matter be referred to the Commissioner of the Division through the District Magistrate for an expression of his opinion.

The Sub-divisional officer, who is the Treasury officer would not make any payment unless the Chairman signed the cheques. Now that he is dead, the payment must stand over.

LAST week, Khin Bibadur A. K. M. Abdus Subhan, the Sub-divisional Officer of Jahanabad, in the Hoogly District, has had a nasty fall from his horse. Early on the morning on the 20th February, he was riding along the Old Nigore Road, bound for a village on the borders of the Midnapore District for a local enquiry, when the stirrup leather of the saddle gave way, and the rider fell heavily

on his head, when the horse was galloping fast. The Moulvi was unconscious for a while. He had to be carried back to his camp at Badimganj, 3 miles distant, where he was attended to by two of the local medical practitioners. No better medical aid could be obtained. It was then found that he had a cut and bruise on the head, and a bad sprain on his right side and back.

Badimganj is on the borders of the three Districts of Hoogly, Midnapore, and Bankura, and is 16 miles west of Jahanabad. It is far away from any of the railway stations, or from any of the important towns, where the services of an Assistant Surgeon could be had. Luckily, the injuries could be fairly attended to by the local doctors. Medicines had, however, to be sent for from the village of Ranjivapore, in the Midnapore District, from a distance of 8 miles.

The Moulvi was confined to his camp for 3 days, when he was brought back to the Head-quarters of his Sub-division, in a Palkee. He is still confined to his room, though able to attend to urgent official work.

OUR contemporary of the extreme South—the *Travancore Times* is wroth because we ventured to put in a word for the unfortunate Sultan. Our appeal for fairness it calls "cynical sneer." It takes for granted that the Sultan is "blood-thirsty" and he "stands condemned before the united tribunal of all the world." The *Travancore Times* has implicit faith in its own self and has no charity for others. In the same issue it condemns a Christian Association, because of its Roman Catholic origin. It thinks the Society worse than "Hell Fire Club" or "Society for the suppression of virtue." These, at any rate, do not sul under false colours. Why should the Catholics call themselves Christians? That is a false pretence, our contemporary seems to say.

IN reply to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers" at the banquet of the Nonconformist Association, the Marquess of Salisbury, referring to Turkey and the Armenians, is reported to have said:—

"The other observation he wished to make concerning foreign politics he made rather in defence of the traditions of the Foreign Office, because so many of the communications which he received were received from religious congregations, and especially from Nonconformist religious congregations. He held it morally to be a very high honour to the religious people of this country that they had taken so deep an interest in the fate of the Armenians. The more he felt sympathy with those feelings, and the more he honoured the motives from which they followed, the more he wished to have the opportunity of correcting a mistake which very naturally would modify their judgment of the other people connected with the Armenians. He had seen a statement made that Her Majesty's Government had bound themselves in honour to succour the Armenians even to the extent of going to war with the Sultan to force him to govern the Armenians well. As a matter of fact, however, all that was contained in the articles of the Berlin Treaty was that the Powers agreed that if the Sultan promulgated certain reforms they would watch over their development. In the Cyprus Convention, too, which he drew up himself, and of which he had therefore a very intimate knowledge, nothing was mentioned of such a thing, nor would anything have induced him to pledge his country to an undertaking so desperate as that of forcing the Sultan by force of arms to govern well a country which otherwise he was not disposed to govern well. Such an undertaking would not have been possible. The people of this country had mistaken the real nature of the terrible crisis to which, during the months of November and December last, the Armenians had been exposed. The reforms that were proposed—and he could speak of them fairly because they were proposed by the late Government—were very good reforms, and the Sultan accepted them. But no reforms, however good, would immediately produce good government where good government did not exist before. They required time. What the proposed reforms did do at once, unfortunately, was this: Owing to a feeling which spread among Mohammedans, they imagined that their domination was threatened and that those who were formerly beneath them were to be placed above them."

Turning to the massacres, he remarked:

"The result of that belief was the perpetration of the horrors which Europe had witnessed. His opinion was that the Sultan's Government was weak, wretched, impotent, powerless; but it was a dream to imagine that the Sultan deliberately ordered all those outrages. There was no ground, in his judgment, to imagine so. It was race hatred that brought down upon the poor Armenians their terrible sufferings. They would ask, no doubt, why did not Europe interfere? He could only answer for England. (Applause.) When they were dealing with the rising of a whole fanatical population against another population against which they had a hatred, they were deceiving themselves if they thought that the arm of England, acting against men gathered in a mountainous district, could have done anything to mitigate the sorrows of the oppressed. Mr. Gladstone had said that this country could cope with five or six Sultans of Turkey. That was a most rash and ill-judged statement. If the Sultan would come out to meet them on the open sea, he had no doubt they could cope with five or six Sultans. (Cheers.) But under the circumstances the question was not worth arguing."

The Powers of Europe take a different view of the massacre from our contemporary the *Travancore Times* who would rush to war following

the poetic lead of Mr. William Watson. Continuing, the Prime Minister said:—

"Perhaps, however, they would ask why Europe did not interfere. He thought he knew what were the feelings of the Great European Powers. He spoke it with all hesitation, and he trusted he did not misrepresent them, but their opinion was—and none of them wished to occupy that country—their opinion was that there was only one Power in that country left—evil as it was—and that was the prestige of the Sultan's name—that with patience, and allowing the storm of fanaticism to pass away, could to some extent re-establish order and allow to industry and commerce their usual and secure course. That was the view of the Great Powers—that the Sultan should be given time. They believed in his goodwill, and they believed that in that direction, more than any other, was to be found relief for the suffering endured by the Christians of Asia Minor. It was not for him to pass judgment upon that view. It might be right or it might be wrong. At any rate he believed it was sincerely entertained, and there was no doubt that no other means of attaining that end had been suggested."

The evidence of the Prime Minister of England as to the non-bloodthirstiness of the Sultan may be an evidence of Turkey's guilt because of the place where the Premier spoke. It is too much perhaps to expect from our Christian contemporary any toleration for Nonconformists when it has nothing but condemnation for Catholics. Catholicity is a crime with our contemporary. But, but for it, the Southern Thunderer would be nowhere in a Hindu State. It is not the Premier alone that does not fall foul of the Sultan. The European press eulogize the moderation of the Premier.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, February 29, 1896.

### RADHANPORE.

RADHANPORE is dead. Radhanpore has been installed. Nawab Bismillah Khan Bahadur Babi died on the 19th of December last, at the age of 53, and his eldest son, aged 10 years, by his wife Revor Rani—*a Rajput Princess*—otherwise known as Zinat Mahal—was put on the *takht* as Nawab Mahomed Sher Khanji on January 30. In proclaiming him the Nawab of Radhanpore, Colonel Jackson, the Political Superintendent of Palanpur, deputed for the purpose, abstained from announcing the arrangement made or to be made for administration of the State during the minority of the Chief. He contented himself by saying—"During the minority the administration of the State will be provided for by the Paramount Power in accordance with the principle which is always adhered to in like cases." He could only be positive that "whatever the exact form of government may be, I feel confident that from this time forth a new life of greater activity and reality is commencing for Radhanpore." Hereby hangs a tale. The late Chief, who was in failing health, made a will by which he appointed what was called the Radhanpore Council of Administration, which was to conduct the affairs of the State, both during his illness and the minority of his son and successor. The will, in Gujrati, is dated the 12th of December, 1895. The day after it was executed, a copy of it with a letter from the Chief was sent to the Political Superintendent, Palanpur. We may here state that Radhanpore is a first class chiefship under the Palanpur Agency, paying no tribute to the British Government and possessing full civil and criminal jurisdiction over all but British subjects. The council consist of a President and four members, any vacancy during the Nawab's life time to be filled, with his consent, by the remaining councillors, and after his death by that of the Revor Rani. There is a further provision that in important matters, the Hon'ble Javerilal Umiya Shankur Yajnik, the Bombay agent of the State, is to be consulted. The will begins, after the preliminary recitation about its necessity, thus:—"The absolute authority relating to every matter connected with

the royal family I give to my royal wife Revor Rani. Therefore the expenditure of the royal palace shall remain under her supervision, and the business relating to this matter shall be conducted according to her will. Further, as to whatever settlement of villages and jagirs has been made for her, the same shall continue. And her dignity in all respects shall be maintained like myself. And as to whatever moneys and jewels I have up to this time given her, and whatever else I have given to her, the same shall continue in her possession. Therein no one shall interfere or question her. As to that I have given assurance to my royal wife Revor Rani. And in proof thereof I have made mention of it here."

We quote this part of the will to show in what estimation the Rani was held by the late Chief. It has been construed in some quarters as evidence of undue influence exercised over her expiring lord by the wife of a different religion. It would appear from a representation made by the Rani to the Governor of Bombay that the late Dewan Syed Bowamia was opposed to the interests of the Rani, that he was removed by the late Nawab, that he has turned a spy on the State, and that the present troubles of the State are due to him.

On the news of the death of the late Nawab, Colonel Jackson deputed his Assistant, Lieutenant Beale, to take charge of the State. When he arrived at Radhanpore on the 21st of December, the Dewan, Mr. Ardeshir Jamshedji Kamdin, the President of the Council constituted by the late Chief, refused, without a written authority, to make over the State. Lieutenant Beale then wrote to the Dewan, that he had directions to assume charge pending the orders of his Government "You will, therefore, be good enough to make over charge of the State to me. I write this to you as you asked for a written authority." The same day the Dewan replied "The Council is of opinion that unless an authoritative order is passed by Government to set aside and declare the said will as null and void, the Council does not feel itself justified, nor does it consider that it has the power to make over charge of the State, and in this manner free themselves from the trust and responsibility reposed on them by H. H. the Nawab Sahib. But at the same time, the Council would have no objection to submit to the general supervision of the Agency."

This protest elicited the reply of the Assistant Political Superintendent in these words. "As long as the alleged will of the late Nawab is not accepted by Government, it is, you will understand, the duty of the Political Superintendent to guard the interests of the State and all concerned, and so long as the orders of the Political Superintendent, which have already been reported to Government are not countermanded, I am bound to carry them out, and I hope you will assist me in so doing."

This letter is dated December 22. The same day, the Political issued the office order that "Khan Bahadur Ardesir Jamsetji, having, under the orders of the Political Superintendent, Palanpur, made over charge of the office of Dewan, he is placed under the orders of the undersigned until further orders for rendering assistance in the administration of the State and carrying on the work of reducing the system of State accounts to order and regularity."

Lieutenant Beale not only thus assumed charge of the State and took possession of the Durbar property, but also laid hands on the personal effects of the



Rani and "called upon her to give up all her private property and put it under attachment."

We are reminded of the action of the Commissioner of the Patna Division in the Bengal Presidency, on the death of the Maharaja Radhaprasad Sing of Dumraon. During his last hours, the Maharaja was removed to Benares to die. When the party that had accompanied him, returned to Dumraon, they found the Commissioner of the Patna Division, the Magistrate of Shahabad, a Deputy Collector, the Nazir of the Shahabad Magistrate's Court and a dozen mounted police ready to take possession of the palace, the treasury and otherwise to take over the estate for the Court of Wards. The Dewan Jai Prakash Lal, who had just arrived by another down train from Benares, went over to the garden house where the official party had gathered. They all then went over to the Rajbari, and, without a word of condolence to the Maharani, the officials proceeded to lock up the rooms and place guards and take down the statement of the Maharani—that is, what she had to say about the management of the estate. In reply, she produced a will of the late Maharaja appointing her executrix and the Dewan Jai Prakash Lal executor. The will was executed while Sir Stuart Bayley was Lieutenant-Governor and with his knowledge. The witnesses, among others, were Sir John Edgar, Chief Secretary, and Mr. P. Nolan, then Revenue Secretary to the Bengal Government. The will was signed at the house of Mr. Nolan when the Maharaja came to Calcutta to be invested with the title of K.C.I.E., and registered then and there in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor. The officials who had invaded the palace were taken by surprise. Without proceeding further in the execution of their errand, they returned to the place whence they had started. At dusk they revisited the Maharani. The Dewan was offered the managementship of the estate under the Court of Wards. He replied that he could not betray the trust reposed on him by the Maharaja. The Maharani repeated what she had said before and hinted that they had no business there. Before the officials returned, they put separate padlocks on the khas toshakhana of the Maharaja. The Dewan was next ordered by the Commissioner to furnish an account shewing the collections of the estate during the last three years. Next morning, the invading party dispersed to their respective head-quarters.

### Letter to the Editor.

#### THE INDIAN NATION ON "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST."

SIR,—Mr. Marshman, the editor of the *Friend of India*, used to say that an occasional correspondent must not question the motives of an Editor, if he wants his correspondence to be published. As I am going to question the motives of the *Indian Nation*, I think my letter has no chance of being published in that paper. I, therefore, send you the following lines, in the hope that, for the sake of the subject, you will kindly make room for it.

In a recent issue of the *Indian Nation*, the Editor has devoted two leaderettes to Mr. Skrine's *Indian Journalist*. So long he had been waiting for a fit opportunity, it would seem, for indulging in some billingsgate at Mr. Skrine's expense. The letter of Mr. J. N. Sarkar, which the *Nation* has published and which has been made a peg for hanging its diatribe on, is characterised by it as original, independent, suggestive and what not. I, for my part, see nothing like independence, originality, or suggestiveness. The Editor has scarcely succeeded in disguising his wrath,—a

wrath that is shared by the Philistines of Babudom for Mr. Skrine's not having honoured them with presentation copies. The publication of the life of the Bengali Journalist by an English Civilian,—a Civilian, again, of Mr. Skrine's abilities and reputation,—has caused a severe heart-burning in many high quarters. The word has, accordingly, been passed to the Babu Editors of Bengal to ignore, if possible, the book itself, and with it, the name and fame of the departed Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

"Scarcely a Bengali Editor," the *Nation* remarks, "has been favoured with a presentation copy of a work, &c., &c." The *Nation* is not well-informed. I am in a position to say that many native Editors have been honoured with presentation copies. Babu-Editors, however, with the exception of a very few, do not know how to review a book or a pamphlet. Those amongst them who have received it, have not noticed the book. Such is the magnanimity of Bengali journalists towards a brother of the same profession. To present books to every editor in Bengal, whose number is nearly 100, is simply impossible. In the case of Mr. Skrine's book, it means a loss of Rs. 500. The *Nation* is not unaware of the fact that, after paying the expenses of the publication, the profits will be placed at the disposal of the bereaved family of the late lamented Doctor. The gentleman who does the small thunder of the *Nation* ought to be ashamed to complain of not having received a presentation copy at the expense of the Doctor's family. The Editor of the *Nation* is not a poor man. It is true, he is a barrister without a barrister's income. Yet as a school-master and maker of "keys," he makes a fair income. As such he ought to be able to buy a copy of the book and to notice it in his journal.

The Editor of the *Nation* complains of the price of the book as high. If he can charge Rs. 2/4, if I remember aright, for his brochure called "A study of K. D. Pal," no blame can attach to Mr. Skrine for pricing his book at Rs. 5. Mr. Skrine's book is three times as big as Mr. N. N. Ghose's "Study." There is nothing like a reading public in India, and to lower the price of a book is to injure the prestige of the author. The productions of Indian authors generally sell by weight as the Editor of the *Nation* cannot be ignorant.

In his paper "Journalism in India," the writer, referring to what he calls the loneliness of Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's position, says that "This is a fault of the time and country rather than that of any individual." Neither country nor individual, however, is responsible for the same. It is the system of education, in which the Calcutta University delights in that is much to blame. It is a sort of education, which is extremely unsuited to the intellect or original genius of the Asiatics. The education of the Calcutta University consists in the presentation of foreign models to young men for their admiration. Every person cannot acquire a thorough conversance with a foreign tongue and the treasures enshrined in it. Unless the system be thoroughly changed the condition of a native of India of superior Western culture, will remain unaltered. The sort of isolation the writer notices cannot but be inevitable. Let us now take an instance. The *Hindu Patriot* was first edited by Babu Grish Chandra Ghosh; he was succeeded by Hurish Chandra Mookerjee, Hurish by Sambhu Chunder, and Sambhu Chunder by Kristodas Pal, and lastly Kristodas by Dr. Rajendra-lala Mitra in the name of another. All these were pre-University men, and, therefore, succeeded in keeping up the reputation of the *Patriot* in tact. With the death of Dr. Mitra, the *Patriot* passes into the hands of a Calcutta University graduate, with what effect I need not say. The same is the case with many other journals. If Dr. Mookerjee was lonely, his predecessors and successors were also lonely. But is it true that Dr. Mookerjee's position was so very lonely? I think it was not. Many young men, of undoubted ability, used to surround him and appreciate his learning and wisdom. None of them are mediocrities. Some of them are men of solid literary reputation. If they are so, it is Dr. Mookerjee who made them so. I wish to conclude with the following remarks

on the last paragraph of Mr. Sarkar's article, which seems to me to be a fair index of his culture and penetration.

Mr. Sirkar says :—"He made too much of the worthless title of Doctor given to him by a worthless American University, &c., &c." May I ask Mr. Sarkar why he is so much anxious to tail himself with his university title? Is it not a worthless title, whatever he may think of it? Who are the examiners of the Calcutta University that have passed him? How many questions did he answer? Besides, he sought the title, worthless though it is, and burnt many maunds of midnight oil for acquiring it, and he is so fond of it that he cannot think of writing a simple letter, intended for publication in a journal without airing it in capitals. Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee was far worthier of the title that was conferred upon him without the slightest solicitation.

Mr. Sarkar further writes,—"He argued himself into the belief that he was the dictator of the English language in India." Yes! Dr. Mookerjee was the 'dictator of the English language' in India." A writer like the late Mr. Robert Knight freely admitted that Dr. Mookerjee, though a foreigner, wrote English much better than most writers in India. Men like Professor Vámbéry have thought fit to say that as a journalist Dr. Mookerjee had not a superior in all Europe. If there was any man in India, who could be said to know the English language, it was Dr. Sambhu Chunder. If there was any voracious reader of English literature in India, it was Dr. Sambhu Chunder. If there was any man in India who could speak and write English correctly, it was Dr. Sambhu Chunder. If there was any man in India whose conversation could be listened to with rapt attention, it was Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee. Mr. Sarkar will do well not to speak of things he does not know. Let him not sit in judgment over one who was immeasurably his and his countrymen's superior. Dr. Mookerjee was a man who, while he lived, was revered by men better than Mr. Sarkar, and whose memory all sons of India, young and old, educated and uneducated, rich and poor, good and true, should cherish with equal reverence.

ALPHA.

### BACTERIOLOGY; AND THE IMPERIAL BACTERIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF INDIA.

(From the *Calcutta Journal of Medicine*, Jan. 1896.)

The study of microscopic organisms has resulted in a branch of biology which has revolutionized medicine. This new branch has received the name of Bacteriology, from a Greek word which means a small stick, staff, or rod, from the fact that most of the organisms under notice are stick or rod shaped. With the progress of investigation, organisms had to be recognised, from the modes of their origin, development and function, as coming under this class, though their shapes were not strictly rod-like.

The science may be said to date from the time, now upwards of two-hundred years ago, when Leeuwenhoek first detected with his rude microscope, minute organisms in the saliva and putrid water. For a long time, from the fact of most of these organisms possessing the power of locomotion they were regarded as animalcules or microscopic organisms belonging to the animal kingdom, and Erhenberg and Dujardin included them among Infusoria under the name of *Vibronia*. But though it was soon discovered that not only locomotion was not the monopoly of animals but that some animals were as fixed as the higher members of the vegetable kingdom, there was another fact which contributed to the continuance of the mistake which referred them to animals. This was the mode of their deriving nourishment, which was fundamentally the same as that of animals. Like animals they were found to feed on the products of decomposition of plants and animals, and incapable of feeding on the carbonic anhydride and other inorganic substances contained in the surrounding medium.

It was Cohn who in 1853 showed that in point of morphology and development they own a kinship to plants. He referred them to the *Algæ*, though he thought that the absence of chlorophyll brought them nearer to *Fungi*. Nageli in 1857 definitely classed them with the latter, and from the fact of their multiplying chiefly by transverse fission, called them *Schizomycetes*; but as they also multiply by the formation of spores, the name is not strictly correct. "The belief," according to Crookshank, "is rapidly gaining ground that the lowest forms of vegetable life

cannot be divided by a hard and fast line into a series with chlorophyll (*Algæ*) and a series without it (*Fungi*), and the tendency now is to solve the difference of opinion between Cohn and Nageli by following the example of Sachs, and amalgamating the two series into one group, the *Thallophytes*."

The most remarkable fact regarding micro-organisms is that in one form or another they are found to be present almost everywhere—"in air, water, and soil; in the mouths of men as well as on the walls of their houses; on the hair of the head and the toes of the feet; in chalk and coal; in food and drink; but especially where there is disease, death, and decomposition." The bard of the Seasons uttered no exaggeration when, under inspiration, no doubt, from the crude science of his day, he said:

Full nature swarms with life; one wondrous mass  
Of animals, or atoms organised,  
Waiting the vital breath, when Parent-Heaven  
Shall bid his spirit blow. The hoary fen  
In putrid streams, emits the living cloud  
Of pestilence. Through subterranean cells,  
Where searching sunbeams scarce can find a way,  
Earth animated heaves. The flowery leaf  
Wants not its soft inhabitants. Secure,  
Within its winding citadel, the stone  
Holds multitudes. But chief the forest-boughs,  
That dance unnumbered to the playful breeze,  
The downy orchard, and the melting pulp  
Of mellow fruit, the nameless nations feed  
Of evanescent insects. Where the pool  
Stands mantled over with green, invisible  
Amid the floating verdure millions stray.  
Each liquid too, whether it pierces, soothes,  
Inflames, refreshes, or exalts the taste,  
With various forms abounds. Nor is the stream  
Of purest crystal, nor the lucid air,  
Though one transparent vacancy it seems,  
Void of their unseen people.

But while science has thus revealed a state of things which the mind cannot contemplate without a sense of insecurity and dread, she has at the same time made the consolatory discovery that all microscopic organisms are not our secret foes, that many of them are our true friends being the foes of our foes, and that on the vital activity of a large number of them, the maintenance of our health and many of the comforts of life depend, so that if, under her guidance, we take the proper precautions, we need not "from cates ambrosial, and the nectar'd bowl abhorrent turn," nor be afraid of enjoying life in the fullest measure. The precautionary measures, as regards a large number of infectious and miasmatic diseases, have been already formulated, but many more have yet to be discovered, and many errors have to be corrected before we can be said to be absolutely forewarned and forearmed.

The association of micro-organisms with disease has naturally invested their study with peculiar importance. The first suspicion of this association was suggested by the discovery that a class of fermentations depends upon the presence of specific micro-organisms in the fermentible liquids. Putrefaction was very properly looked upon as a sort of fermentation, and microscopists were led to be on the look out for the presence of some micro-organisms in the putrefying and putrefied bodies. Fuchs in 1848 announced that he had discovered bacteria in animals that had died of septicæmia. River and others in 1850 announced that that they had found bacilli in animals that had died of anthrax. The climax of discovery was reached when Davaine in 1863 succeeded in inducing the disease in healthy animals by inoculation with a small quantity of the suspected organism, and thus the foundation was laid of the germ-theory of disease.

But in order that the causal relationship of a certain micro-organism with a certain disease may be established with certainty certain conditions must be fulfilled which, having been first formulated by Koch, are known as Koch's postulates. These are—(1) That the organism must be demonstrated in the circulation or tissues, fluids or solids, or both, of the diseased animal; (2) the organism so demonstrated, must be capable of artificial cultivation in suitable media outside the body of the animal, and successive generations of pure cultivation obtained; (3) such pure cultivation must, when introduced into the body of a healthy and susceptible animal, produce the given disease; (4) the organism must again be found in the circulation or tissues of the inoculated animal.

It is by the application of these tests that pathogenic micro-organisms are being distinguished from non-pathogenic ones, and the specific micro-organisms or germs of infectious diseases are being discovered. It requires considerable practical acquaintance with bacteriology to recognize the difficulty of applying these tests. There are so many fallacies which may attend these investigations, that it is absolutely necessary to exercise the greatest caution in order to avoid them, and to raise the probability into the certainty of a particular organism being the cause of a particular disease.

It must not be forgotten that bacteriology, though it has made rapid strides in the course of the last few, scarcely over twenty, years, is still an infant science in which credulity, born of anxiety and ambition to be the author of new and original discoveries, may overpower the sober scientific spirit and the critical faculty and thus land not only the young enthusiast but even tried veterans into mistakes which may prove disastrous to whole communities who may implicitly rely upon their fancied discoveries. We would cite as a most noteworthy instance the so-called positive discovery of the true micro-organism of cholera, the comma-bacillus, by Dr. Robert Koch of Berlin. "Had the diagnosis of cholera in Hamburg last summer not been delayed until 85 cases and 36 deaths had occurred because of the belief that the disease must be accompanied by Koch's comma-bacillus," writes Dr. Cunningham in his masterly paper on *The Results of continued Study of various Forms of Comma-bacilli occurring in Calcutta*, "the epidemic might never have attained the appalling magnitude which it ultimately did, and had the medical profession in Berlin not been possessed by a blind faith in the theory, we might have been spared the curious spectacle which they furnished by their refusal to admit that any cases of the disease, however otherwise indistinguishable in symptoms and mortality they might be, were of a truly choleraic nature, unless they conformed to Koch's dicta."

There are other problems than the discovery of specific germs of specific diseases which bacteriology has yet to solve. It has to do much yet as regards the origin, distribution, and mode of action of these germs. The last is the most important of all the problems which should engage the earnest attention and tax all the skill of the bacteriologist. For upon the answers to the questions, whether these germs prove deleterious by their action as mechanical irritants, or by robbing the organism of their host of some material essential to its nutrition and development, or by elaborating or secreting some toxic products, or by all these processes combined,—upon the answers to these questions will depend the true theory of the etiology of a vast number of diseases and the suggestions of the proper remedial and preventive measures against them.

The fact of immunity which a first attack of some infectious diseases confers upon the animal attacked against a second attack has raised the question of the possibility of artificial immunization which bacteriologists have taken up with the zeal and earnestness which its importance demands. We do not think, however, that the question has yet been satisfactorily solved, as regards even vaccination against small-pox, far less as regards anti-rabic and anti-choleraic vaccination. Here is another problem, most important from a prophylactic and therapeutic point of view, which bacteriology has to solve, and which can only be satisfactorily solved by long-continued and varied experiments. Here again ambition to make a discovery has led to over-zeal and undue haste which, in the best interests of science and humanity, cannot be too strongly deprecated.

The next problem, which bacteriology has to solve with more definiteness than it has done, is the problem of antiseptics. "The work hitherto done," says Dr. Klein, "has been enormous, but, I fear, of less utility than at first sight appears, for in most of it the point most prominent in the mind of the worker was to ascertain whether the particular antiseptic, mixed with the nourishing medium in a solution of definite strength, has or has not the power of inhibiting the growth of the micro-organisms. This point no doubt is of some interest, and perhaps of great interest, but whether a particular substance is an antiseptic in the proper sense of the word, i. e., whether on exposing the organisms to this substance in a solution of definite strength and for a definite period, the organisms become afterwards incapable from growing or multiplying; or still more, whether or not the substance is a germicide, i. e., capable of altogether annihilating the life of the organisms; these are questions which require special attention, and represent a wide and rich field of inquiry; but, as far as I can see, it has received only in very few instances due attention."

Such is the importance of bacteriological research, and such are the problems that are awaiting solution. While such research is being actively prosecuted in Europe and America, while their municipalities and governments have established and are multiplying bacteriological laboratories in almost every town and medical school, in India nothing up to this moment has been done by either Government or the municipalities, except what Dr. D. D. Cunningham has been doing for some time past at Calcutta, with the niggardly monthly grant of Rs. 300 for bacteriological and other investigations in his capacity as Special Assistant to the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, and what Mr. Hankin is recently doing at Agra as Chemical Examiner and Bacteriologist to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The Calcutta Municipality has been giving for over two years an annual grant of Rs. 7,500 for the Haffkine inoculations, but whether any bacteriological work is being done in connection with this, we cannot say.

One good fruit, which the Indian Medical Congress has borne, is the awakening of the Government of India to the importance of bacteriological research. But the way in which that Government has proposed to encourage and carry on such research is hardly worthy of an imperial Government, and is not one which might have been expected from a Government which is so lavish in its expenditure on military expeditions of questionable advantage and which can afford to throw away more than half a crore of rupees annually without the slightest compunction of conscience. In its anxiety to afford greater facilities, than at present exist, for the prosecution of bacteriological studies, the Government has resolved to establish an Imperial Bacteriological Laboratory, not at Calcutta but at Agra, which will be "not of purely local interest but one at which investigations relating to the whole of India may be undertaken." By a masterly exercise of financial skill the advisers of the Government have enabled it to achieve the feat of establishing the laboratory which is intended to serve for all India "without incurring additional expenditure!" Our readers will, perhaps, be curious to know how this has been done. The process has been simple enough. The Deputy Commissionership of the Panjab has been knocked on the head, and the small grant to Dr. Cunningham has been proposed to be discontinued! Mr. Hankin will be relieved of Chemical Analyst's work, and will be placed at the head of the Bacteriological Laboratory.

This supersession of a man who is not merely a highly trained expert in bacteriology of long standing but is a physician and a physiologist of the first rank, is on the face of it so preposterous that it is no wonder that it should have evoked the surprise and indignation of the whole medical profession in India. The reason assigned by the Government for the choice is far from satisfactory. "It has been established," its Resolution says, "by the testimony both of Dr. Cunningham, at Calcutta, and of Mr. Hankin, at Agra, that bacteriological investigations can be carried on in the plains of India in the hot weather, and the latter is of opinion that the dry climate of Agra is better adapted for the work than that of Lower Bengal." The results already achieved by Mr. Hankin and the energy and enthusiasm with which he has pursued his investigations, combined with the searching and practical character of his enquiries, eminently fit him, in the opinion of the Government of India, for the charge of such a laboratory and for the work of training the officers who may be attached to it." The italics in the above quotations are ours, and the sentence so marked suggests the question whether Dr. Cunningham's opinion was taken as to whether the climate of the plains of Bengal and of Calcutta in particular was ill adapted for bacteriological work. Dr. Cunningham, who has had special training under the most eminent masters of the subject, and who is carrying on bacteriological work all his life, is not qualified for the post, because he has too much of the sober spirit and caution of the true investigator to permit him to welcome and blindly adopt any innovation that may be advanced by any enthusiast.

The *British Medical Journal*, the organ of Mr. Ernest Hart, has come forward in its issue of the 11th inst., as an advocate of Mr. Hankin in a manner which, to say the least, is unfair to Dr. Cunningham in the extreme. Referring to some article in some Indian newspaper, not mentioned by name, but evidently meaning the *Pioneer*, (which has two articles, instead of one, on the subject, one on the 10th and another on the 28th Nov. last) the writer says "some absurd and highly retrogressive proposals are being put forward on the subject of the proposed development of the bacteriological institute at Agra." He finds fault with "the main object of the article" which is "to recommend the substitution of Dr. Cunningham for Mr. Hankin as the head of the institute in its imperial development," and loses his head so far as to say, "there could not possibly be a proposal more likely to destroy the utility of the institute or to frustrate the main object in view." In support of Mr. Hankin's claims we are told that he had "distinguished himself in Europe by quite remarkable skill and inventiveness in bacteriological research and had a most efficient training and a brilliant career before he was induced to take up the Indian appointment;" that during his short tenure of office he has far more than justified his appointment by singular ability and indefatigable energy, of which "the brilliant results of his investigations of the outbreaks of cholera at Cawnpur and Lucknow, and of his study of the well waters of India as local sources of cholera," are cited as examples. Then we have flourish of certificates from Prof. Michael Foster and Dr. Haffkine in support of what the writer is pleased to call "his pre-eminence in claims and fitness for the appointment."

The certificate of M. Haffkine is significant as showing the reasons which actuated the Government or rather its advisers to prefer Mr. Hankin to Dr. Cunningham. M. Haffkine writes as follows: "With regard to the scheme of appointing Mr. Hankin from Agra as Imperial Bacteriologist for India, allow me to recall the following incident: When three years ago I landed in India, a letter from Hankin was awaiting my arrival in Bombay, advising me to come and start my work in Agra. I did not stop in Bombay and missed his letter. In Calcutta a few days after my

arrival, a telegram with several letters from Hankin were handed to me, in which he repeatedly invited me to come to Agra, putting at my disposal all bacteriological accommodations he possessed, and offering to do all in his power to induce the European residents and the natives of Agra to undergo the inoculation. It is known from my publications that it was, in fact, in Agra that the first inoculations against cholera were done in India, and that subsequently they were extended over the North-West Provinces and Oudh, the Punjab, etc. This is an instance to show how keen Mr. Hankin is in regard to everything new which may find application in the country he is serving, and the decision of the Government will be greeted as that most appropriate to the needs of India."

It is well known that Dr. Cunningham was compelled by his own researches to believe "that the comma-bacilli which occur in the intestinal tract in cases of cholera are not essentially concerned in the manufacture of the poison which induces the primary choleraic condition, so that there are no scientific grounds for regarding the procedure (Haffkine's inoculation) as calculated, in any way to affect the prevalence of the latter," though with characteristic candour he has admitted the possibility of its affecting the mortality from the disease. Mr. Haffkine, however, is so possessed with the efficacy of his inoculations that it would be superhuman in him to brook any difference with his views. He is, therefore, not to blame if he hails with satisfaction the appointment as imperial bacteriologist of one from whom he had received and from whom he expects to receive much aid in furtherance of those views.

We are quite willing to admit that what the writer in the *British Medical Journal* has said in favour of Mr. Hankin is fully deserved. But how could we ignore or overlook the superior and more pre-eminent claims of Dr. Cunningham, we cannot understand, unless it be that he is totally ignorant of the solid scientific work he has already done. For the information of those who are, like the writer, unacquainted with Dr. Cunningham's researches, we give below a list of his publications from which it will be seen that he has been incessantly at work since 1871 with some of the deepest problems which can engage the attention of the practical physician and the sanitarian.

The following publications, embodying joint researches with the late Dr. T. R. Lewis, appeared as appendices to the Annual Reports of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India:

1. 1872. A Report of Microscopical and Physiological Researches into the nature of the Agents, or Agents, producing Cholera.
  2. 1874. Do. Second Series.
  3. 1875. The Soil in its relation to Disease.
  4. 1875. The Fungus Disease of India.
  5. 1876. The Oriental Sore as observed in India.
  6. 1877. Leprosy in India.
  7. 1878. Cholera in its relation to certain Physical Phenomena.
- Of the following independent publications Nos. 1-5 appeared as appendices to the Annual Sanitary Reports, Nos. 6-20 appeared in the Scientific Memoirs by the Medical Officers of the Army of India, Nos. 21 and 22 came out in the Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, and No. 23 in the Annals of the Botanical Garden of Calcutta.
1. 1871. Report on Cholera in Southern India.
  2. 1873. Microscopic Examinations of Air.
  3. 1875. Microscopical notes regarding the Fungi present in Opium Slight.
  4. 1879. On certain effects of Starvation on Animal and Vegetable tissues.
  5. 1880. On the Development of certain Microscopic Organisms occurring in the Intestinal Canal.
  6. 1884. On the relation of Cholera to Schizomycete Organisms.
  7. " On the presence of peculiar Parasitic organisms in the tissue of a specimen of Delhi-Boil.
  8. 1886. On the effects sometimes following injection of Choleraic Comma-bacilli into the subcutaneous tissues of guinea pigs.
  9. " On the Phenomena of gaseous evolution from the flowers of *Ocellularia* alismoides.
  10. " Notes from the Biological Laboratory attached to the Office of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.
  11. 1887. Note regarding the subsoil of Calcutta.
  12. " On a new Genus of the Family Ustilaginæ.
  13. " On an Epiphytic Alga occurring in the leaves of *Lumnathemum Indicum*.
  14. " On the Phenomena of Propagation of Movements in *Mimosa pudica*.
  15. " Do Comma-Bacilli, even assuming that they are the immediate cause of choleraic symptoms, really determine epidemic diffusion of cholera?
  16. 1889. On *Ravenelia scissilis* and *R. stricta*.
  17. 1890. On Milk as a medium for Choleraic Comma-Bacilli.
  18. 1891. On some species of Choleraic Comma-Bacilli occurring in Calcutta.

19. 1894. The results of continued study of various forms of Comma-Bacilli occurring in Calcutta.

20. " The Physiological action of Snake-venom.

21. 1880. On the occurrence of conidial fructification in *Chonaneophora*.

22. " On a new genus of Parasitic Algae.

23. 1889. On the phenomena of Fertilization in *Ficus Roxburghii*.

Here we have a veteran who has done an amount of physiological, pathological, and bacteriological work which has given him a European reputation and obtained for him the approbation of the highest scientific society in the world, the Royal Society of London, and quite recently the Stewart prize, the award of the British Medical Association itself; and yet we have the strange spectacle of the Government of India ignoring his claims in favour of one comparatively much his junior. We trust the Government will yet see fit to modify its Resolution of the 31st October last, and establish the Imperial Laboratory at Calcutta under the superintendence of Dr. Cunningham, the only man in India worthy to fill the post. As one laboratory cannot possibly meet the requirements of all India, separate laboratories should be established at least at Agra, Bombay, and Madras.

### ORDERS AND ARROWS.

WHEN the captain of a ship orders some hands aloft to furl the main royal the men jump to obey, as a matter of course. A sailor can climb up on a yard without having a shilling ashore or a penny in his pocket. In fact, Jack seldom signs articles until he has used up both cash and credit.

But when a doctor—who is a sort of captain when one is laid up in the dry dock of illness—orders a patient to go abroad for the benefit of his health, it is quite another thing. A trip and sojourn away from home is an expensive prescription, and most of us can't afford it. If the doctor says it is a choice between that and the graveyard we shall have to settle on the graveyard; it is handy by, and easy to get to. But are we really so hard pushed? That is, as often as the doctors say we are? Let's turn the matter over in our minds for a minute.

Here is a case that is put to the purpose. It concerns Mr. Arthur Wheldon Mellish, of 3, Regent's Terrace, Poole Road, Exeter; and for the details we are indebted to a letter written by him, dated March 7th 1893. He mentions that, in obedience to the orders of his doctors, he went to Cannes, in the South of France, in November, 1890, and spent the winter there. He also spent the following winter at the same place. He felt the better for the change; we will tell you why presently. But he obtained no radical benefit, which also we will explain later on.

It appears that this gentleman had been weak and ailing nearly all his life; not exactly ill, not wholly well—a condition that calls for constant caution. In March, 1890, he had a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs.

Now I want the reader to honour me with his best attention, as I must say in a few words what ought properly to be kept many. Shoot an arrow into the air—as straight in as you can. You can't tell where it will fall. It may fall on a neighbor's head, on your own, or on a child's, or on the pavement. Everybody's blood can aim more or less poisonous elements. These are arrows, but unlike your wooden arrow they always strike on the weakest spot, or spots, in the body. If they hit the muscles and joints we call it rheumatism and gout; if they hit the liver we call it liver complaint or biliousness; if they hit the kidneys we call it Bright's disease; if they hit the nerves we call it nervous prostration, epilepsy, or any of fifty other names; if they hit the bronchial tubes we call it bronchitis &c.; if they hit the air cells we call it inflammation of the lungs, or by-and-by, consumption. And inasmuch as these poisoned arrows pass through the delicate meshes of the lungs a thousand times every day it would be odd if they didn't hit them—wouldn't it?

Now, wait a bit; It follows that all the various so-called diseases above named are *not diseases at all in and of themselves*, but merely symptoms of one only disease—namely, *that disease which produces the poison!* Good. We will get on to the end of the story.

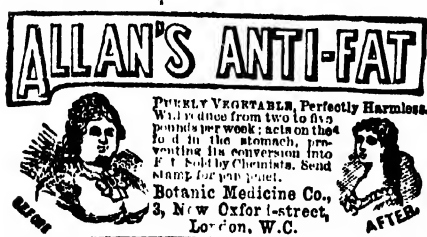
After the attack of lung inflammation Mr. Mellish suffered from loss of appetite, pain in the chest, sides, and stomach, and dangerous constipation. He could eat only liquid food and had to take to his bed. For weeks he was so feeble and he could not rise in bed. He consulted one physician after another, obtaining no more than temporary relief from medicine. Then he was ordered abroad as we have related.

His letter concludes in these words: "Whilst at Cannes I consulted a doctor, who said my ailment was weak digestion, and that I need not trouble about my lungs. But I never gained any real ground until November, 1891, when I began to take Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. This helped me in one week, and by continuing with it I got stronger and stronger, and am now in fair good health. This, after my relatives thought I should never recover. (Signed) Arthur Wheldon Mellish."

To sum up: This gentleman's real ailment was indigestion and dyspepsia, from which the blood poison comes that causes nearly all disorders and pains. The air of Southern France helped him temporarily, because it is milder than ours; it did not remove the poison. By care and the use of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup he would have done better at home, as the result shows.

So we see that it isn't the climate that kills or saves; it is the condition of the digestion. If therefore your doctor orders you abroad for your health, tell him you will first try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup.





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## AN INDIAN JOURNALIST:

Life, Letters and Correspondence

OF

Dr. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,

late Editor of "Reis and Rayyet,"

BY

F. H. SKRINE, I.C.S.,  
(Collector of Customs, Calcutta.)

The volume, uniform with Mookerjee's  
*Travels and Voyages in Bengal*, consists of  
more than 500 pages and contains

PORTRAIT OF THE DOCTOR.

DEDICATION (To Sir W. W. Hunter.)

HIS LIFE STORY.

CORRESPONDENCE OF DR. S. C. MOOKERJEE.

LETTERS

to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J. C.  
to, from Arkinson the late Mr. E. E. T. C.S.  
to, from Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to, from Banerjee, Babu Surodiprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of  
to, from Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to, from Chilo, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to, from Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S. J.  
from, to, Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Gifford H. P.  
to, from Ganguli, Babu Kisan Mohan.  
to, from Ghose, Babu Ncho Kissen.  
to, from Ghosh, Babu Kahi Prasanna.  
to, from Graham, Mr. W.  
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.  
from Guha, Babu Suroda Kant.  
to, from Hall, Dr. Fuz Edward.  
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.  
from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
to, from Jenkins, Mr. Edward.  
to, from Jung, the late Nawab Sir Sitar.  
to, from Knight, Mr. Paul.  
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.  
to, from Loo, Kunu Kustodas.  
to, from Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
to, from Mahomed, Maulvi Syed.  
to, from Malik, Mr. H. C.  
to, from Marston, Miss Ann.  
from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
to, from Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.  
to, from Mookerjee, the Raja Dikhanarajan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco)  
to, from Marshudabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
from Nayanama, Mithamaphadhy M. C.  
from Osborn, the Lieut Colonel Robert D.  
to, from Rao, Mr. G. V. Akota Appa.  
to, from Rao, the late Sir F. Mohiva.  
to, from Rutigan, Sir William H.  
from Rosebery, Earl of.  
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.  
from Russell, Sir W. H.  
to, from Row, Mr. G. Svamala.  
to, from Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashuah.  
to, from Sinha, Babu Brahmanmunda.  
from Sutar, Dr. Mahendralal.  
from Stacey, Lord, of Alderley.  
from, to, Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
to, from Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vanabéry, Professor Arminius.  
to, from Vencataramanah, Mr. G.  
to, from Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to, from Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS (&amp; TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCES, from

Abdus Subhan, Maulvi A. K. M.  
Ameer Hossein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.  
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
Banerjee, Babu Manmahanath.  
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Shib Chunder.  
Barth, M. A.  
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Dutt, Babu Prosaddoss.  
Elgin, Lord.  
Ghose, Babu Narendra K.

Ghosh, Babu Kahi Prasanna.  
Graham, Mr. William.  
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Haridas Vihandis Desai, the late Dewan.  
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Mahomed, Maulvi Syed.  
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Mitter, Babu Sudheshur.  
Mookerjee, Raja Penny Mohan.  
Mookerjee, Babu Surendra Nath.  
Munshabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
Routledge, Mr. James.  
Roy, Babu E. C.  
Roy, Babu Sarat Chunder.  
Sanyal, Babu Dinabundho.  
Sivari Laloy.  
Tippura, the Bara Thakur of.  
Vimbéry, Professor Arminius.  
Vizianagram, the Maharaja of.

POSTSCRIPT.

After paying the expenses of the publication, the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal of the family of the deceased man of letters.

Orders to be made to the Business Manager, "An Indian Journalist," at the Bee Press, 1, Utkoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Coft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We in my at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindu Patriot*, in its palmest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring of the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) November 30, 1895.

It is clearly that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Indian Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahmin of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that was nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another one as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit untried by ostentation and earnestness unspiced by harshness. —*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed. —*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth in sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but presents the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1857. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality. —*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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# Reis. and Rayyet

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

WHOLE NO. 715.

**WHO WOULD NOT DIE FOR ENGLAND !**

February 1896.

Through centuries of Glory handed down  
By storied vault in monumental fane,  
And homeless grave in lone barbaric lands,  
Homeless but not forgotten, so can thrill  
With its imperious call the hearts of men,  
That suddenly from dwarf ignoble lives  
They rise to heights of nobleness, and spurn  
The languid couch of safety, to embrace  
Duty and Death that evermore were twin.

Who at the holiest of all English hearths,  
The holiest and the highest, had been given  
A seat, an English Princess for his bride,—  
Now by that hearth weeping her widowed tears,  
Bitter and barren as the winter rain,—  
“It is not meet that I, whom this famed Isle,  
This generous, mighty, and majestic Land,  
Ennobled as her son, should not repay  
Her splendid gift of kinship. Let me go,  
Go, where they go, her world-researching race,  
That slumber pillowed on the half-drawn sword,  
And wake, at whisper of her will, to greet  
Duty and Death that evermore were twin.”

He dies, who, whether in the fateful fight,  
Or in the marish jungle, where She bids,  
Far from encircling fondness, far from kiss  
Of clinging babes, hushes his human heart,  
And, stern to every voice but Hers, obeys  
Duty and death that evermore were twin.

Who would not die for England, that can give  
A sepulture like this ! mid hamlet crofts,  
And comely cottages with old-world flowers,  
And rustic seats for labour-palsied limbs,  
The pensioners of Peace ! I linger here,  
Pondering the dark inexplicable Night,  
Here by this silent grave-girt sanctuary  
Whose vanished walls were reared anew by Him,  
Of Princes the most princely, if it be  
That Wisdom, Love, and Virtue more adorn  
Sarcophagus of Kings than dripping spears,  
Than wailing hearths and hecatombs of slain.  
And He too died for England, He who lived  
Scorning all joy save that great joy of all,  
The love of one true woman, She a Queen,  
Empress and Queen, yet not the more revered,  
Not the more loved, for those resounding names,  
Than for the lowlier titles, Gracious, Good,  
The Worthiest of Women ever crowned.

Sweetest Consort, sagest, Prince ;  
Snows on snows have melted since  
England lost you—late to learn  
Worth that never can return ;  
Learned to know you as you were,  
Known till then, alone to Her !  
Luminous as sun at noon,  
Tender as the midnight moon,  
Stedfast as the steered-by star,  
Wise as Time and Patience are ;  
Deaf to each belittling lie,  
Deaf to gibing jealousy ;  
Brooding only on the goal,  
And, like every lofty soul,  
Scanning with a far-off smile  
The revilings of the vile.      \*

Yes, He too died for England ! thence withdrawn  
Dim to that undiscoverable Land  
Where our loved lost ones dwell, with wistful eyes,  
And lips that look, but speak not.

And from these soft-whispering waves that make  
A dulcet dirge around the new-delved grave,  
To bluff East-Anglia, where on wind-swept lawns,  
The sanguine crocus peeps from underground  
To feel the sun and only finds the snow ;  
And, whinnying on the norland blast, the surge  
Leaps against iron coast with iron hoof,  
As though the hosts of Denmark foamed afresh,  
Caparisoned for ravin ! And I see  
A cradle, not a coffin, and therein  
Another Child to England ; and, veiled Fate  
O'er it bent with deep-divining eyes,  
And with oracular lips, like nurse inspired,  
Foretelling the fair Future.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.*

"Another Albert shalt Thou be, so known,  
So known, so honoured, and His name shall stand  
The sponsor to your sportlessness until  
Dawns the full day when, conscious of your soul,  
Your soul, your self, and that high mission laid  
On all of such begetting, you can seize  
The sceptre of your will, and, thuswise armed  
Against the sirens of disloyal sense,  
Like to your pure progenitor abide  
In God's stern presence, and surrender never  
That last prerogative of all your race,  
To live and die for England!"

ALFRED AUSTIN.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE season closes at Calcutta on March 27, when the Viceroy starts on his journey for the summer capital. He does not run up at once. The first halt will be made at Allahabad. The dates thereafter will be Bareilly, March 31 and April 1; Hurdwar April 2; Saharanpur, the 3rd; Dehra, the 4th to 7th; Saharanpur again on the 8th. The Vice-regal party reach Simla on April 9.

THE Librarian of the Bengal Library and Keeper of the Catalogue of Books under Section XVIII of Act XXV of 1867, notices Mr. Skrine's "An Indian Journalist" in these words:—

"An appreciative biography of Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, late editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, by F. H. Skrine, Collector of Customs, Calcutta. The book is a reprint of the articles contributed by the writer to the columns of the *National Magazine*. The publication of Dr. Mookerjee's letters and correspondence has greatly added to the interest and value of the work."

AT Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, on the 18th of February last, Sir John Ardagh led to the altar Susan Lady Malmesbury, widow of the late Lord Malmesbury.

MR. Krishna Govinda Gupta, Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, is gazetted to act temporarily as Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue in addition to his own duties, with effect from the date of his taking charge of the office. It seems that there need not be any impropriety in the fusion of offices of different ranks, as in the conferment of titles. A promotion in office has recently been held to mean a lowering of pay. A Rai Bahadurship has just been conferred on a Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.

MR. A. P. Handley, Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, takes six months' furlough from April next. Mr. E. W. Ormond, Second Judge, on leave, has been appointed as the acting Chief Judge.

THE Currency Office Establishment in Calcutta have been exempted from service as jurors or assessors in criminal trials in places beyond the ordinary original jurisdiction of the High Court.

IN the Cortes in Lisbon a Bill has been introduced for the repression of Anarchism. It provides a penalty of from three to six months' imprisonment for the slightest disturbance of social order, followed by expulsion or transportation to Africa. The publication of newspaper intelligence regarding Anarchist attempts is prohibited, and the Lisbon police are to be augmented by 300 men.

IT is reported from Fifeshire that Miss Helen Thomson, aged twenty-five, the daughter of a retired millwright, went for a walk about five o'clock in the evening, and was not seen afterwards alive. Next morning her lifeless body with marks of violence was found by her father in the brushwood in Balgowie Quarry Park. It is suspected that she had been dragged from the highway over a five-foot stone wall into the wood and outraged, and her death was probably hastened by exposure during the night. The police arrested a young shepherd belonging to Aberdeenshire who was employed by a local farmer to watch the sheep in a field adjoining the wood where the body was found. He was brought up before the sheriff-substitute, at Cupar, charged with murder, and remanded.

BARON Ferdinand Rothschild, M.P., has been elected a trustee of the British Museum.

THE English Home Secretary has appointed a departmental committee to inquire into and report upon the system of education and moral instruction of prisoners in local and convict prisons.

LORD George Hamilton, speaking on Feb. 12 at the annual meeting of the Acton Conservative Association, said:—

"The present Government exhibited as much unanimity of opinion upon the various questions which came before them as any of which he had been a member. He himself took office with the determination to do his very best to obtain perfect equality of treatment between the inhabitants of this island and those of India, and he was specially desirous of being able to apply that principle to certain taxation which had been imposed by the late Government upon the import of cotton goods into India. There were no questions which were more dangerous to the continued unity of the empire than trade disputes. The duties imposed by the late Government were in the opinion of Lancashire and the cotton spinners of this country unjust to them. The Indian cotton spinners had a shrewd perception that the duties somewhat favoured them, and strongly supported the duties on the principle upon which they had been imposed. Now, the cotton trade in Great Britain was the largest of our industries; it employed millions of people. The cotton industry in India was growing. They thus had two great industries arrayed one against the other within the limits of the British Empire. The controversy had been getting more and more bitter and violent, and the controversialists more extravagant in their denunciations. He was therefore glad to have seen effected an arrangement which put absolutely beyond suspicion the two interests on the principle of perfect equality. He belonged to a party whose boast was that they were Unionists in everything, whether in connection with race, religion, or trade, which tended towards the closer cohesion of the unity of the empire and was a distinct gain to the great cause under which they massed themselves. (Cheers.) He might also allude to the satisfactory arrangement with France as regarded the delimitation of the boundaries of India on the extreme east and with Russia in reference to the delimitation of Indian boundaries on the north. (Cheers.) He took those two arrangements as a satisfactory omen of the future, and as an indication of the lines upon which they should go to work hereafter. He was not one of those who viewed every movement or advance of the Russian Empire with suspicion. For the past ten or fifteen years the relations of the two countries had been most friendly. Russia had most honourably and most loyally fulfilled all engagements into which she had entered with this country. With regard to Armenia the Government had been charged with neglecting their duties. But they had gone as far as diplomacy allowed. Lord Salisbury had used his unparalleled influence, and put the utmost pressure he could upon the Porte for the purpose of securing reforms in their country, and taking precautions against the recurrence of outrages. The only other step they could have taken was to have adopted acts which would have amounted to a declaration of war. But he would have been no party to sending out their fleet with the knowledge that if any disaster occurred they might have lit a European conflagration and have endangered that supremacy upon the sea upon which their national existence depended. (Cheers.)"

MICHAEL DAVITT, the ex-Fenian and ex-convict, who now sits for two Irish parliamentary constituencies, writes a letter to the *Times* in which the following passages occur:—

"Why is England at the present moment without a single friend or ally among the civilised nations of the world, if we may except the threadbare and miserable Italian State? Because of that very spirit of braggart insolence towards opponents which is voiced to-day from the stages of London music-halls up to the latest deliverance of England's Premier. Because England is a merciless bully towards the weak, and a sneak and a coward when it is a question of meeting her equals. Look at the action of the Boers at Krugersdorp and the English at Coomassie. The troops of the Transvaal met and defeated the chartered brigands of the Chartered Company. How were the vanquished treated by the victorious burghers? Did Lord Salisbury say a word in commendation of President Kruger's magnanimity towards those who attempted to steal a march upon the little Republic? Not a syllable. He found it more to his taste to indirectly defend the freebooting Uitlanders and to offer gratuitous insult to Irishmen. But how did the Salisbury expedition to Coomassie act in a similar situation? Has it not been recorded in your own columns how a Mr. Maxwell, the English Governor of the Gold Coast, compelled King Prempeh to kneel down and literally kiss his boots? Were not the Ansahs arrested 'and handcuffed' as prisoners on the same occasion, though not a single shot was fired on the English troops nor a single life lost on the part of the successful invaders?"

This is the record of your latest triumph over a 'savage' foe. How do you stand in connection with the quarrel with America, your equal, over the Venezuela question?"

Your braggart threats of a month ago were estimated at their proper value on the other side of the Atlantic. They know you of old. They remember Lord John Russell's despatch over the San Juan Island question, and the insulting defiance with which Senator Sumner's demands on the *Alabama* claims difficulty were received by English papers, notably by the *Times*. You ate the Yankee leek on both these occasions, and everybody knows you will do it again—just to oblige your 'Anglo-Saxon cousins' in the States, don't you know? The now universal English clamour for arbitration deceives no one. If you were not afraid of a war with the United States, you would not arbi-



trate, you would march an army to Caracas as you have done to Coomassie, and the brutal treatment you have meted out to a defenceless foe would be repeated towards the people of Venezuela. You have shown your teeth, but you dare not bite; and this is another reason why you are at this moment the object of hatred, not unmixed with contempt, in the eyes of France, Germany, and Russia; and this is why a leading Senator of the United States spoke of you as follows, in reply to English threats about fleets that could shell New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. 'We divide,' said Senator J. K. Ingalls, 'on protection, on silver, on the ratio question, but in our hatred of England we are unanimous. The sloppy diplomatic twaddle about kindred blood and common language deceives nobody. We feel that England is our only enemy now among the great Powers of the earth. At every crisis in our affairs we have encountered the secret or open hostility of England, and the tone of her Press has been always cynical, sneering, and contemptuous. But there will be no war. England never fights her equals.' There are over 15,000 newspapers in the United States, and it is safe to assert that nineteen-twentieths of them voice the opinions of Senator Ingalls."

\*\*

MR. Laurence Jenkins, Barrister, succeeds Mr. Justice Pigot.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&amp;

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Washington Senate passed a resolution by sixty-four against six votes that the United States Government should recognise the Cuban insurgents as belligerents, and requesting President Cleveland to invite Spain to recognise the autonomy of Cuba. Several leading Senators denounced in violent language the barbarism of the Spaniards and termed General Weyler, commanding the forces in Cuba, "a butcher." The Spaniards are furious at the resolution and the abuse. President Cleveland is, however, not disposed to act, inasmuch as the Consular reports show that Congress has been misled regarding the facts in Cuba. There is great popular excitement at Madrid. The American Legation is guarded, and the Government has forbidden any demonstrations. The Spanish papers are discussing the probabilities of war with America and the advisability of arming privateers. In the meantime, a fresh expedition of twenty-five thousand men has been ordered to be ready to sail for Cuba, and the training squadron has also been ordered to be in readiness.

The House of Representatives have passed a resolution in regard to Cuba, similar to the one passed by the Senate.

The Senate have passed a Bill for an increase of one thousand men in the Navy and, if necessary, to enlist the services of the Naval Militia and to charter transports.

SYSTEMATIC agitation has commenced in Germany for a large increase in the Navy.

NOTHING has yet been settled regarding President Kruger's proposed visit to England and the negotiations continue. The *Times* states that President Kruger asks that the Convention of 1894 be abrogated, and a treaty of commerce and amity be substituted. Great Britain would be recognized as the paramount Power, and a guarantee be given for the autonomy of the Transvaal, whilst the pre-emption of Delagoa Bay would be conceded to the Transvaal. President Kruger in the meantime is purchasing arms and importing Germans.

Sir John Willoughby has published letters which were exchanged on the battlefield at Krugersdorp, from which it appears that he demanded a safe conduct for the whole force on condition that he surrendered the Boer commander. The latter agreed to spare the lives of the entire force if the expenses incurred by the calling out of the Boers were paid, and the force yielded up all arms.

Mr. Chamberlain, in the House of Commons, in reviewing a series of despatches concerning Sir John Willoughby and letters showing that President Kruger was ignorant of them, declared that the imputation that the President Kruger acted in bad faith in afterwards coercing the Rand with threats to shoot Dr. Jameson, were groundless.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

IN the House of Commons, on March 2, Mr. Goschen brought forward his Navy estimates, which provide for an increase of 5,000 men, five battleships, thirteen cruisers and twenty-eight torpedo-destroyers, all to be completed by 1899 at a cost of ten millions sterling, which will be spread over three years.

The age of entry of Naval cadets into the service is to be raised one year, and training on board the *Britannia* will henceforth be abolished, and be replaced by training at a naval college ashore.

Mr. Goschen asks for £850,000 for guns and ammunition.

Three new docks are to be built at Gibraltar at a cost of two and a quarter millions. The total outlay is put down at fourteen millions sterling, to which this year's surplus will be applied.

Mr. Goschen said that the estimates were not intended to be provocative but self-defensive. He also stated that it was not intended at present to ask Parliament to vote money for a dock at Mauritius and Sunnontown, but merely to ask for money for preliminary surveys. It was useless, he said, to propose the new docks in question until these surveys had been concluded.

Sir William Harcourt said that he was bound to accept the assurance of the Government that the gravity of the situation required the increased expenditure on the Navy.

KING Menelik's army has repulsed a combined attack of the Italian forces. The fight was a desperate one, and the Italians had to beat a retreat. The Italian losses were between three and five thousand men. It is believed that General Baratieri had desired to strike a decisive blow on Menelik's force before being superseded by General Baldissera. Later advices state that fifteen Italian battalions were engaged, and that General Baratieri was commanding. The Shoans completely outmanoeuvred the Italians and finally charged amid their ranks, firing on the officers point-blank. The retreat which then took place ended in an utter rout. The total losses are not yet stated, but the whole brigade under General Dabormida is missing. Anti-Government demonstrations are taking place at Venice, Milan, Verona and Rovigo. Serious demonstrations, some of them of Republican tendency, and all against the continuing of the operations in Abyssinia, have been renewed in the chief cities of Italy. Signor Crispi and General Baratieri are both bitterly denounced. There is a report that the Italians have abandoned their guns.

MOST intense excitement prevails at Rome over the disaster to the Italians in Abyssinia. The garrison is confined to barracks. The Italians have lost sixty guns. Three Generals are missing and one General wounded. General Baratieri is reported to have committed suicide. Italian journals of all shades blame General Baratieri for the disaster. The Italian Government has called out the reserves of 1872, and ordered the reinforcement of six batteries of artillery and ten thousand men to be despatched to Abyssinia. General Baldissera has assumed command of the forces in Erythrea.

SIGNOR Crispi and his Cabinet have resigned. Stormy scenes took place at the opening of the Italian Parliament on March 5. The Opposition demands the impeachment of Signor Crispi. Demonstrations took place in the streets. Windows were smashed and many arrests made.

It is generally believed that the Italian defeat in Abyssinia will weaken the Triple Alliance, and lead to a regrouping of the Powers.

THE rumour regarding the proposed exchange by the Italians of Kassala for Zaila is declared to be untrue.

THE *Times'* correspondent at Cairo says that the evacuation of Egypt by the British is openly discussed there and is affecting trade. The opinion of the leading Natives is almost unanimous against any change. The Khedive is also very friendly to the British. Reuter's Constantinople correspondent says that it is believed there that the discussion on the Egyptian question will not be resumed for the present.

LORD Rosebery, speaking at the South Australian dinner, said that Federation had not advanced, but the essence thereof was the union of sympathy and interest which had been attained. He emphasized the necessity of the Navy being predominant.

AN Army Order has been issued directing that all officers elected for Parliament in future are to be placed on half pay.

ALL is up with the rule of Maharaj Rana Zulim Singh of Jhallawar. Final orders have been passed. He must leave Jhallawar and end his days in the service of his god at Benares or elsewhere. Mr. Crosthwaite, the Governor-General's Agent, Rajputana, has addressed the following letter to the Maharaja Rana. He also held a Durbar where he announced the deposition and exhorted the assembled Sardars to loyalty and obedience to the British Government.

"I am instructed by the Government of India to communicate to your Highness the decision which they have come to on the present condition of the Jhallawar State. It would be a mistake for your Highness to suppose that this decision is based solely on considerations personal to yourself. The Government of India have always been tolerant when occasion has arisen for dealing with any foolish acts of the Chiefs of Native States, and your Highness has had a full measure of that toleration. His Excellency the Viceroy restored to you the powers which your misconduct had forfeited in 1887, hoping that you would have learned to conform to the rules of conduct which are necessary for good government. He has been disappointed, and he must act on the warning which accompanied the grant of powers, and reconsider your position. The Government of India are satisfied that the condition of the Jhallawar State now closely resembles that to which it had been reduced in 1887, and that the same reasons exist for effecting a reform. The Government of India, while they respect the right of Ruling Chiefs, cannot permit misgovernment of their subjects.

They have reluctantly come to the conclusion that your Highness, by the use you have made of the powers twice entrusted to you, has proved yourself incapable of appreciating the limitations which are necessarily put upon the arbitrary exercise of personal will by a Ruling Chief in India. They are of opinion that the time has come when the inhabitants of the Jhallawar State should be relieved from apprehension of being again subjected to similar misgovernment, and they have, therefore, determined that your Highness must finally be deposed from the rulership of Jhallawar."

The orders have the sanction of the Secretary of State.

"In the House of Commons Dr. Clark, member for Caithness, protested against the deposition of the Maharaja of Jhallawar without a public enquiry. Lord George Hamilton, in reply, said that the Maharaja had been deposed for the benefit of his people, whom he was incapable of ruling, and that so long as he (Lord George) was connected with the Government of India, he would not interfere with its privileges. He added that when the papers on the subject arrived they would prove that the Government of India were fully justified in the action they had taken.

We must wait then, till the papers are published in England or the matter is taken up by Parliament, for the knowledge how Prince Zulim has deserved his fate. There is a recommendation to allow Jhallawar to revert to its parent State. But will the British Government endure the extension of any of the existing Native Principalities? Kotah's claim based on treaty to have back its own was disallowed on a former occasion. If no ruler is appointed to the State and it is not to revert to Kotah, what becomes then of Jhallawar? The British Government, through the Political Agent, now administer the State.

PROSPERO has laid down his magic garment and the tempest in the University has been allayed. On a formal application by the Registrar, the Syndicate have withdrawn their resolution on his conduct in connection with the assault on the son of one of the Syndics. The Registrar has withdrawn his resignation as also his letter to Mr. Bose. The Vice-Chancellor had a narrow escape, the Syndicate having been inclined to take notice of his irregular action in the matter of his circular letter to the Senate. The resolution appointing a committee of enquiry has been confirmed. Two members of the committee having resigned, the remaining two have been vested with full power.

At the Evening Party, at Government House, on Thursday, a respectable Indian, respectable because of the invitation to the Party, having partaken of the good cheer on the hospitable board, bethought of a memento of his visit to the great House. While leaving, he selected a bundle of cigars, when he was reminded by a European gentleman

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that the rolled leaves were meant for all comers and not for any particular guest.

AS will be found from an advertisement in another column, the annual *Conversazione* of the Mahomedan Literary Society will be held on Monday, the 23rd instant. Kept up with unflagging interest for thirty-two years, it is not only an occasion for the meeting of all races, the rulers and the ruled, Native Princes and notabilities of sorts in the land, but it also affords an opportunity for useful knowledge and for meeting distinguished visitors to the city of Calcutta. Of late, attempts have been made to make the entertainment truly enjoyable. Although its novelty has worn out and other competitors have entered appearance, still this old institution, for it has grown to be so, has a tradition which cannot be easily forgotten, and it will maintain its place against all odds, if only the present managers know how to proceed about the business, and fit the occasion to the time.

ACCORDING to the Health Officer, since the commencement of the year there have been, in Calcutta, 27 cases of small-pox, with four deaths, against 620 deaths during the corresponding period of last year, and 216 deaths in the same period in 1890. He does not apprehend any serious outbreak of the disease this year, and there is nothing to create alarm. Yet, he says, "I am, however, having vaccination carried out as vigorously as possible and the medical inspectors are searching for cases which may not come to the notice of the Health Department." Dr. Simpson recommends the forcible removal of all small-pox patients, male and female, to hospital. As an earnest of the power he seeks for removing "females (not being purdanasheen) attacked with small-pox who shall be without proper accommodation, as determined" by himself, he removed two patients, one male and another female, from the Colvin *bustee*, because he considered that small-pox in a washerman's quarter was a great danger to public health. Last year a washerman was sent to prison for causing the spread of infectious disease, because he did not agree to the removal of his wife to hospital. This time a woman is forcibly taken away from her home without any legal authority. The Health Officer thinks he ought to have the power, and probably exercises it, in a season of no panic, in anticipation of the grant of such authority by the Commissioners and the Legislature.

THE reform of the Police has for some years been pressed on the consideration of Government and has engaged its careful attention. The Police Commission made several recommendations, some of which have been adopted. The pay of officers in the lower ranks has been raised, a competitive examination is held for selection of candidates for Sub-Inspectorships, and a police training school has been opened at Bhagalpur. The head of the Department is not deaf to the demands of the time. Mr. Henry has also sympathy for the natives and is willing to extend to them a helping hand. There was a time when members of respectable native families took service in the Police. Those days are being revived. It is a sign of the times that young Mahomedans of respectability have been induced by Mr. Henry to accept service in his Department. It is calculated to serve two useful purposes. It will raise the status of the Department and give employment to a class that finds time hang heavy on its hands. There are scions of good and old families who want appointments, as there are those who, though not in actual want, look upon Government service as a recognition of their status in society. Notwithstanding, it was difficult to persuade them to accept appointments in the lower ranks. Mr. Henry's influence has removed the stumbling block. We are glad to learn that he has conferred on such young men in Behar posts of Sub-Inspector and Joint-Inspector with prospects of rapid promotion provided they prove themselves deserving. If this new class is allowed to continue, it is hoped that, in course of time, the ordinary complaint against Police officers will gradually diminish, if not disappear altogether. It is not thought advisable to admit all sorts of candidates to open competition and, therefore, a limited number are allowed to compete for a fixed number of appointments as Superintendents. Natives have, therefore, no chance of entering this post by the door of either competition or nomination, except in due course of promotion from the lower ranks. We would suggest that at least one or two natives may be allowed to compete yearly as in the Opium Department.

The Faculty of Arts met to-day. The attendance was very full and unprecedented, for 84 members were present. Some came from distant stations. Five representatives were selected for the Syndicate. Of the old representatives, only Dr. Sircar has been re-elected, the other four, *viz.*, Messrs. Ashutosh Mookerjee, Kuli Churn Banerjee, Ananda Mohun Bose, and A. F. M. Abdur Rahman going out. Their places have been filled up by Father Lafont, Mr. Gilliland, Nawab Ameer Hossein, and Mr. Risley. The meeting did not disperse without Dr. Gurudas Banerjee strongly resenting certain remarks made by Sir James Westland. The latter offered the usual explanation that nothing offensive had been meant. Messrs. Rowe and Pedler also had to declare that they had not used the offensive expression imputed to them by a member who sat close to them and who was obliged to bring it to the notice of the Chairman. Dr. Sircar, by a majority of 2 votes, was also re-elected chairman of the Faculty. The rival candidate was the Rev. E. Lafont.

THE prosecution of Mr. John Croft under the Merchandise Marks Act and the Penal Code has failed. The jury, under the lead of Captain Allison, the foreman, unanimously declared that there was nothing proven against the defendant. The Judge taking the verdict to be not guilty, discharged the accused. In the charge to the jury, the Judge seemed not to be in favour of conviction. Mr. Croft, he said, had been prosecuted before. This was the second prosecution, and it was impossible to say what other troubles were awaiting him. "The case was first begun under the Excise Act, then the present case was taken up, and if it broke down who knows what would be done next. If this was the law, it was so much the worse for those who broke it." The defence had taken the precaution to ask the Judge to examine all the respectable European wine merchants in the city and high officials who had tasted his wines and pronounced them excellent. The feeling against the accused which was very strong in the first prosecution began to evaporate and the charge in the present was, under instructions, confined to a point in which there was no legal evidence. A thorough enquiry would, it was felt, be an unusually lengthy one and drag into court men and things from the least suspected quarters. The Revenue Board, which specially watched the first prosecution and which fact spurred the Magistrate, who found the accused technically guilty of manufacture of spirits in an unlicensed place, grew indulgent as the second prosecution ripened or rather the preparations for the defence assumed alarming proportions. It was known when the jury was empanelled, if not earlier, that the prosecution would break down. A good opportunity has been lost to the public of knowing the tricks of trade. The paper on bacteriology which we reproduce elsewhere tells us that from the same kind of grape, a half dozen different wines may be obtained, and that a Rhine wine may be had from a New Jersey grape. Why may not, therefore, Scotch, French and German wines and spirits be manufactured at Calcutta?

THE death of General Ranabir Jung Rana Bahadur is a great relief to Maharaja Birshumshere. The General was the third son of Maharaja Sir Jung Bahadur, the ablest of statesmen Nepal produced, and the staunchest of allies the British Government had in India. Of all the sons of Jung Bahadur, General Ranabir Jung was unquestionably the most intelligent. His capacity for business was admitted by all. He had been, before the last massacre at Nepal, Minister-in-Chief of an extensive portion of his country and officiated several times as Prime Minister during the absence from Nepal of his uncle Maharaja Sir Ranadip Sing Rana Bahadur and was looked upon as the successor elect of his uncle in the Prime Ministership. It is scarcely necessary to recall the incidents of the revolution effected in Nepal in 1885, through the dastardly assassinations and murders by Birshumshere, the present Prime Minister, and his accomplices. Maharaja Sir Ranadip Sing was murdered while at his evening prayers. The conspirators despatched a gang to the residence of General Juggut Jung, the eldest son of Maharaja Jung Bahadur. Juggut Jung, and his son, Yuddha Pratap Jung, in whose veins flowed the blood of Nepal royalty, for his

mother was the sister of Prince Trailokya Bikram Shah, the father of the present King, Prithvi bir Bikram Shah, were shot like dogs by Birshumshere's men. The other sons of Maharaja Jung Bahadur would have met with the same fate, but having received timely intimation of Birshumshere's murderous plans, they succeeded in escaping to the British Residency. The treatment they received from Colonel Barkley, the British Resident, was simply extraordinary. It was characterised by the utmost harshness. For days together the Residency was surrounded by Birshumshere's hordes thirsting for the blood of the refugees. Failing to uphold British prestige, and British honour and faith as well, Colonel Barkley did all in his power to recognise the Government of Birshumshere. If General Ranabir and his brothers had been permitted to stay for a week at the British Residency, the Nepalese army and the people would, by that time, have been undeceived of the false rumour set afoot that Ranabir Jung had murdered his uncle Ranadip, and the punishment of Birshumshere would have followed in due course. Birshumshere knew this well. He exerted all his arts for compelling the refugees, through the British Resident, to come to British India. General Ranabir Jung, accordingly, with his brothers and cousins, were forced to leave Nepal. Since then these Nepalese noblemen are living as exiles in British India. General Ranabir, last year, had applied to Lord Elgin for an allowance, setting forth the valuable services of Maharajah Jung Bahadur during the Sepoy Mutiny as the basis of his claim. The application was curtly refused. Writing on the 30th of May 1888 to the Secret Committee of the East India Company, Lord Canning said,—"I had the satisfaction of offering to the Maharaja Jung Bahadur in full Darbar, my cordial thanks for the aid which the Government of India had received from him and from his brave soldiers, and my assurance that the friendly conduct of his Government and the exertion and successes of his troops, would be held in grateful recollection, not less in England than in India." Lord Linsdowne, while speaking at Quetta, in October 1889, said,—"On one thing you may be sure, the British Government.....does not forget those who have deserved well at its hands." Encouraged by these words, the son of Maharaja Jung Bahadur, in a time of deep distress, had appealed to the Viceroy of India either to allow him "to see such of the princes of India as belong to houses connected with ours or equal to ours in lineage or blood," or "that a suitable pension be granted to me by the British Government of India for enabling me to live, as far as possible, after the manner of a Nepalese nobleman belonging to the house of Maharaja Sir Jung Bahadur." The General was not allowed to visit Cashmere. As regards other places, the reply was,—"a circular order, such as you suggest, could not be conveniently issued on the subject of your visits to Native Chiefs in India; but if you give notice to the Foreign Department of your desire to visit any specified Chief, you will be duly advised whether the matter can be arranged." The pension was out of the question—"His Excellency the Viceroy is unable to entertain your prayer for the grant of a pension." Next Ranabir Jung tried to approach the Queen-Empress through the Prince of Wales who had visited Nepal or rather the terrace and had seen the General there. His Royal Highness expressed his regret "at not being able to take up his case." General Ranabir became greatly depressed. He had been living at Benares with his family. He was in the prime of manhood, apparently healthy and strong. His death has been sudden. Indeed, the intelligence of his demise has preceded that of his illness. He talked English fluently, and had been a careful reader of military histories. His conversation was delightful. He was singularly free from vanity. Maharaja Sir Luchmesswar Sing of Darbhanga used to help him largely with funds. Indeed, without the Maharaja's assistance, he would not have succeeded in dragging his existence so long in exile. He leaves a large family. Is it too much to hope that the British Government will do to them what both gratitude and generosity would dictate?

The little that Ranabir was allowed to bring away, he spent in his preparations for re-entering Nepal, where he was sure he would be hailed by the Army which was attached to him. Half an hour's delay frustrated all his plans. He made more than one attempt and had not given up his idea of returning to his own as the conquering hero. Birshumshere was in such dread of him that, when he visited Benares, for a plunge in the holy stream, he turned himself into a purdanashin to escape the ire of his cousin.

In March 1888, the General had offered his services to Lord Dufferin "for a practical and peaceful settlement of the difficulty with Tibet

#### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Wednesday, the 11th Inst., at 6-30 P.M. Subject: Refraction (continued). Prism—Minimum deviation.

Lecture by Babu Syamadas Mukerjee, M.A., on Thursday, the 12th Inst., at 3 P.M. Subject: Analytical Conics.—Anharmonic properties of Conics.

March 7, 1896. MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D., Honorary Secretary.

and Sikkim. Sir Mortimer Durand, then Foreign Secretary, replied, "The Government of India are sensible of the friendly disposition which prompted you to make this offer; and though they are unable to avail themselves of your help I am desirous to thank you for the good will you have shewn towards them." Though willing, pursuing the policy of his father, to help the British, General Rimbair would not do anything which would in any way detract from the independence of Nepal, and viewed with pain and disgust the conversion, by his cousin, of his country into a buffer State. He maintained his hatred for him to the last, refusing to receive from him any pecuniary assistance.

The following valued testimony to the worth of the departed comes from a distinguished European member of the Indian Civil Service: "I, too, knew General Rimbair Jung. My wife and I travelled up with him from my station to Benares on our way to Nainital in 1892, and we found him a charming companion, with polished manners and great intelligence. What a wasted life was his! Ambitious, a soldier to the tip of his fingers, warm-hearted, his were materials which few Governments would have neglected to utilise."

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, March 7, 1896.

### THE LATE DR. REINHOLD ROST.

REUTER, to whom nothing comes amiss, did not think it fit to cable the death of Dr. Reinhold Rost. This week's mail brought this very sad intelligence to India. The first intimation of the loss of that Orientalist, for which we were not prepared and which was to us a bolt from the blue, we received in the letter we publish below. We will preface it by extracts from letters from the deceased received in Calcutta which will shew the man and his troubles leading to his death. We are extremely obliged to "W. P. D.," though he brings us sad news.

#### THE EXTRACTS.

1896, January 17.—I am better than when I last wrote, but cannot recover strength and spirits.

January 3.—After a long and painful illness, I am glad to be able to give you a sign of my existence and above all to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. May your noble and disinterested efforts to promote peace, good-will and general culture be ever more successful and appreciated!

1895, July 5.—Much as I appreciate your kind letters, each gives me a sort of pang as I feel guilty that you whose time is so enormously taxed and so precious should waste even half an hour upon me. On the other hand, I am under such lasting obligations to you that I can never sufficiently shew you my gratitude; and it is but a small affair if I send you now and then a cutting that you may utilize.

Lord George Hamilton is not likely to allow himself to be led by the nose as his predecessors in office have done. If he had been Secretary of State 3 years ago I should probably still be Librarian. Now nothing can be done for me.

June 7.—You will be sorry to learn that these two years of incessant worry, anxiety and vexation have brought on diabetes, the terrible illness to which three of my best friends—Sir Henry Yule, Dr. Burnell, and Pratap Ch. Roy—have fallen victims. I am at present under the usual strict diet which may arrest the progress of the disease for a time. At any rate, it is the beginning of the end. As this result is directly traceable to the treatment I have received at \_\_\_\_\_'s hands, the world ought to know when I am gone something about it.

March 8.—The death of Sir H. Rawlinson is a great blow to me. He was my staunch friend, and I owed mainly to him my appointment to the librarian-

ship. Now all appointments are made by the grace of \_\_\_\_\_.

I have just recovered from the influenza and am still very weak.

January 11.—But what I shall soon need is remunerative work; for the catalogues on which I have been engaged since March will be completed long before midsummer. Unfortunately, my eyesight begins to fail, and my left hand is refusing to obey me, which makes writing irksome and a labour.

1894, September 28.—I will send you literary scraps as occasion offers, and write you a few lines when I think you can help a good cause or expose an abuse, but my own career has been too humble to be noticed.

August 31.—I have now, in the second half of my 73rd year, to work harder than I have done since my school days, and I may be excused for saying that I bear \_\_\_\_\_ a deadly grudge for having reduced me to this condition. However, there is no use in kicking against the pricks, and I can but work as long as my eyes can see, and my left hand can hold the pen.

September 24.—I have, like yourself, an unbounded hatred of all literary humbug and disingenuousness, just as I cherish, in the opposite direction, as unbounded an admiration of all unselfish devotion to literary research for its own sake. I simply adore men like Prof. Cowell at Cambridge who, though by far the greatest Sanskrit and Zend scholar in this country, is all but unknown outside the narrow circle of specialists, &c.

I am on good terms with Tawney whom I have known for many a long year.

On any man or question I shall at all times be most happy to give you my opinion unreservedly and to the best of my ability; this is the very least thing I could do in recognition of the noble services you have rendered me. I cannot write long letters, —my right hand had become palsied some 10 years ago, and now my left seems inclined to follow suit. Still I can dictate when I can no longer write. My literary tastes in various outlying departments which I should so much like to cultivate have to be kept under lock and key while I have to work for my bread and butter.

My cataloguing 'job' will terminate about Easter. I hope by that time my two sons will be able to earn their own living.

When I am gone, my family will be penniless, and my invalid wife will be a charge to her children, as there is no widow's pension. Most of the members of Council and the departmental Secretaries have Indian pensions in addition to their handsome salaries. I was overtaken by the superannuation rule soon after it was made, and some compensation should have been made to me; but \_\_\_\_\_willed otherwise. He is the only man living to whom I bear an implacable hatred. Even for \_\_\_\_\_who has tried to do me every possible injury I have but contempt.

February 23.—You will be pleased to learn that at last, after 14 weeks' delay, \_\_\_\_\_has placed the scheme regarding my being employed on cataloguing the printed books in Dravidian and other Indian characters before the Library Committee, and that it has been recommended. I may thus, for the next two years, by dint of working all day earn £250 per annum, which will go at least some way towards making up for the loss of £400 by my superannuation.....pro-



posed that I should be paid by the number of title cards sent in to my successor, thus treating me as a literary hack, and as I am a poor man and cannot help myself, I have no option but to submit.

January 26.—Mr Tawney is doing his utmost to qualify himself by degrees for the multifarious duties and requirements of the post, fully aware as he is of his many shortcomings.

#### THE LETTER.

London, Feb. 14, 1896.

I am sure you and many of your readers will be grieved to hear of the death of your old friend Dr. Reinhold Rost. He went down this day week to fulfil his weekly engagement at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury. He reached the station, well apparently, but had hardly walked 200 yards before he was seized with a violent pain in the region of the heart. A passing labourer gave him his arm, but, almost immediately after, he fell to the ground and was carried to the College, where he died shortly after, without apparently recovering consciousness.

A telegram was sent to his family of his being alarmingly ill. His younger son, Surgeon Lieutenant Ernest Rost, left immediately for Canterbury, arriving at about 10 p. m., but, by that time, all was over.

His funeral took place on Wednesday, the 12th, at Hampstead cemetery, on a lovely and mild spring-day with bright sunshine, one might have thought it was mid June, instead of mid February.

The gathering at the grave was all one could desire, as a testimony of true regard for the "most eminent Oriental philologist of his day," as well as for one of the most loveable of men.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Schöll, the chaplain of the German Chapel Royal, St. James'. The India Office was represented by Sir George Birdwood, Mr. Tawney, the present Librarian, Mr. Danvers, and Mr. Wade, Sub-Librarian, who for many years had worked under Dr. Rost. St. Augustine's College by the Rev. Mr. Baggis, Ceylon by Don Wickramasinghee de Zilva, Oriental Publishers by Mr. Doubleday of Constable and Co., and Mr. Luzac, the British Museum by Professor Bendall, and among others were the Rev. E. R. Orger, the Rev. R. Gwynne, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Waters, Mr. Pirie Duff, &c., &c.

One most pleasing feature was the presence of three messengers from the Library Department of the India Office (closed that day out of respect to the deceased) who placed a beautiful wreath upon the coffin. Another beautiful wreath was sent by the Princess Buonaparte. I enclose an obituary notice from the "Times" of the 10th instant, which you may be pleased to publish.

As soon as it was known that the family had been left with a very slender provision, a movement was at once started, with a view to bringing the name of the widow to the notice of the First Lord of the Treasury, that a grant may be made to her out of the "Civil List Pension Fund." Dr. Rost's many friends in India will be glad to hear that the movement has been most heartily responded to by many influential men representing all that is best in literature and culture. The Universities of Scotland will show the names of their two representatives in the House of Commons, the Lord Advocate and Mr. J. A. Campbell. Literature will be represented by the Rt. Hon. James Bryce, M.P., and Sir W. W. Hunter. Oriental scholarship by the illustrious Max Muller, Professor Rhys Davids, Professor Bendall, and Mr. Rapson of the

British Museum. The India Office by Sir Charles Bernard, Sir George Birdwood, and Mr. Tawney. Bombay by Mr. J. M. Maclean, M.P., for Cardiff, and India generally by Mr. Bhownaggee, M.P., and Mr. D. Naoroji.

I hope to keep you informed of the progress of the movement. It is hoped we may obtain representatives of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Dublin.

In closing, allow me to say that the most prominent feature of his character was his profound humility and self-effacement. I am told by frequenters of the India Office Library, that to all alike, eminent public men like Mr. Bryce and humble natives of India residing in London for purposes of study, he was always the same obliging friend, placing at their disposal his unrivalled knowledge of Oriental languages. I am no linguist. It was only as a personal friend I had the honour of his intimate friendship for the last three years, and after more than half a century of life, and having visited nearly every country save South America, I am only speaking the words of sober truth when I say that no more Nathaniel-like a man was ever committed to the grave than my dear and most valued friend Dr. Rost, whose dust now lies in Hampstead cemetery.

I am, &c.,

W. P. D.

#### THE "TIMES'" OBITUARY NOTICE.

"Oriental students will learn with regret of the death of Dr. Reinhold Rost on Friday last, at Canterbury, whither he had gone on his customary weekly visit to St. Augustine's College. He was born on February 2, 1822, at Eisenberg, in Saxe-Altenburg, where his father was Archdeacon, and was educated at the Gymnasium at Altenburg and the University of Jena, graduating at the latter place in 1847. In the same year he came to this country, and shortly afterward was appointed Oriental Lecturer in St. Augustine's College. In one of his letters Dean Stanley speaks of meeting Rost at St. Augustine's, and of the deep impression made on everyone present by his immense learning and modesty. Thirteen years afterward he was appointed secretary to the Royal Asiatic Society; and in 1869 he became Librarian to the India Office, a post he held to the end of 1893, when he was retired under the recent Order in Council on superannuation. Under his unremitting care this library gradually became the most complete repository of Oriental Manuscripts in Europe, and the resort of Oriental scholars from all parts of the world. But it was not by his official labours that Dr. Rost gained his unique reputation, nor by his published works, which were far too few; but rather by the universality, the profundity, and the absolute accuracy of his linguistic attainments, and the readiness and freedom with which he placed his unbounded stores of knowledge at the unrestricted disposal of fellow-labourers. He was the most many-sided authority on Oriental philology of his day; but he always seemed more willing to work for others than for his own profit; and thus pursuing the unobtrusive tenure of his labours for close on 50 years he slowly, but surely, won not only the respect and admiration of his contemporaries for the solidity of his scholarship, but their warm affection and regard for the integrity, generosity, and modesty of his character. A full account is given in *The Times* of October 3, 1893, of Dr. Rost's services in connexion with the India Office; but his heart was always at St. Augustine's and it is with St. Augustine's and Canterbury that he will always be most fondly associated by those who knew and loved him best.

Among the works published by Dr. Rost may be mentioned a treatise on the sources of the ancient Burmese laws and a descriptive catalogue of the palm-leaf manuscripts belonging to the Imperial Public Library of St. Petersburg, 1852. He edited Professor H. H. Wilson's 'Essays on the Religions of the Hindus and on Sanskrit Literature,' which appeared in five volumes between the years 1861 and 1865; H. B. Hodgson's *Essays* (two vols., 1880) and *Miscellaneous Papers on Indo-China* (four vols., 1886-88). He also edited the last three volumes of Trübner's 'Oriental Record,' and was a contributor to the 'Encyclopædia Britannica.' He was honorary M.A. of Oxford and LL.D. of Edinburgh, and was a member of many learned societies. He was created a Companion of the Order of St. Ann in 1851, C.I.E. in 1888, Chevalier of the Order of Wisa in 1889, and Companion of the Prussian Order of the Crown in 1893. In February, 1894, in recognition of his services to Oriental literature, he received the Order of the North Star from the King of Sweden."

Everybody who knew Dr. Rost would unhesitating-

ly admit the correctness of the testimony which the *Times* bears to his worth. He made the India Office Library what it should be, a centre of research with Oriental scholars in every part of the world. Dr. Rost always placed the stores, vast as they were, of his own knowledge at the service of others. It has been said that in this way the work he did through the minds and hands of others would be astonishing for its variety and quantity. One had only to ask Dr. Rost, and forthwith suggestions of the utmost value, with clear indications of the sources, would flow from the great scholar. A more unselfish man it would be difficult to name. He lived more for others than for himself.

It may not be generally known that the English translation of the *Mahabharata*, begun by Pratapa Chandra Roy and continued by his widow, was first suggested to the publisher by Dr. Rost. This was gratefully acknowledged by Pratapa Chandra in the prefatory notice issued with the first fasciculus of the work. That gigantic enterprise is almost completed. Dr. Rost had all along befriended it warmly. It was through his good offices that the publisher was enabled to present a copy of the English *Mahabharata* to the Queen-Empress. The English translation of Charaka also that has been begun by Pundit Abinash Chandra Kaviratna of Calcutta had Dr. Rost's hearty support. His enforced retirement, under the Treasury minute which could not properly be applied to him, from the India Office, where he was all round the most useful and the most competent man at the head of the Library, suddenly deprived him of half his income. He had not been able to make any provision for his family. This preyed upon his spirits and shortened his valuable life. It must be said in justice to the India Office authorities that Dr. Rost was allowed to complete his term for half pension. Oriental scholars visiting England used to receive Dr. Rost's hospitality. This was a heavy drain on his slender income. After his retirement, Orientalists in every part of the world combined to make up a purse for him. Learned men, however, in all countries, are never flush of cash. The purse, therefore, that was got up could not go far to relieve Dr. Rost of his anxieties.

Sweets to the sweet. It was a graceful act of the India Office to place the wreath on the grave of one whom it had forced out of its Librarianship and the world.

#### RECENT ADVANCES IN BACTERIOLOGY, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO FOOD.

BY M. V. BALL, M. D.

Bacteriology is, comparatively, a recent science. Only within the last ten years has it received any special attention, and within this time it has been given a place in the medical colleges and become recognized as an important department of knowledge.

Municipalities are forming laboratories for bacteriological work, and governments are instituting, on a large scale, researches which must eventually be of great service to mankind. It is hardly to be expected that this subject should as yet be the common property of any but those who have made it a special study, and, therefore, a few words as to the nature of bacteria will not be out of place here.

Bacteria—from the Greek, meaning little or minute rods—is a term applied to various forms of organisms, microscopic in size, closely allied to the lower types of fungi and algae; usually containing no chlorophyl; capable, in many instances, of propelling themselves with swift motion through the liquids in which they are found, and possessing, for this purpose small cilia or flagella, like other types of microscopic plants.

They are very minute, requiring for their detection powerful lenses. Some idea of their size may be obtained from the statement that in the space of an inch from 15,000 to 20,000 can be placed side by side; but, growing together in large numbers as they do, such aggregations or colonies can readily be seen with

the unaided eye, though the individual members of these colonies cannot be recognized.

Bacteria are neither yeasts nor moulds, though possessing some of the characters of both.

The name, "bacteria," is not a good one, since other than rod-shaped organisms are collected under this group. Micrococci are globular or spherical bacteria; bacilli are the rod-shaped bacteria; and spirilli are spiral formed or twisted bacteria. The colonies of one form are not to be distinguished from the others, but under the microscope the difference in shape is readily made out.

Bacteria are quick breeders; they multiply very rapidly. From one or two germs thousands are obtained in the course of a few hours. Some one has made the calculation that a single germ, if uninterrupted in its growth, would fill an ocean with its progeny in five days; but, fortunately, it digs its own grave by the poisons it generates, and so puts a limit to its growth. Some require several days before germination occurs. Two kinds of growth are known: One, in which reproduction is a process of fission or segmentation—one bacterium dividing itself into two, and each of these again sub-dividing—in reality, a continuation rather than a reproduction. And a second kind, known as sporulation. The germ gives rise to a spore, the spore then takes on a separate existence, and, when the conditions favourable to maturation exist, it gives rise to a new germ.

Both forms of growth are utilized by the same bacterium. Under ordinary conditions it multiplies by fission when a permanent form is advantageous, or, as some think, when the soil is particularly rich, it produces spores. Spores have not been found in all bacteria; those possessing them are very resistant to all physical and chemical agencies, and withstand a high degree of heat without being destroyed.

For the different bacteria different conditions are necessary. Just as different plants require different kinds of soil and temperature, so these minute plants react differently and demand for their growth various surroundings. Some are not at all particular, and flourish on any sort of soil. They are like weeds that grow without attention; others again are as sensitive as hothouse plants, and require very carefully prepared media and a suitably regulated temperature. While some species demand a plentiful supply of oxygen, others grow only when this is excluded. Sunlight is usually destructive; an alkaline medium is better tolerated than a neutral one, and acids are usually harmful. Moisture is necessary to growth.

Bacteria are not only disease producers, they manufacture a host of products beneficial and essential to life. Life itself depends, in a great measure, upon the actions of these minute plants, which transform the complex molecules into their elements and make them fit for assimilation. If we could separate the industrial germs from the pathogenic or disease producers and domesticate the former, while we drive the latter out of existence, life would be more worth the living. This is gradually being attempted. Scientists are pointing out to us the properties of individual varieties and showing us the methods of cultivation; while hygienists and therapeutists are doing all they can to exterminate the destroyers of life; so that we can already see how, in a few years, cholera will be a rare disease, and tuberculosis will no more be counted as the cause of one-fifth of all deaths.

What advances, if any, have been made in recent years as relates to the subject of foods? This is the topic I have been asked to consider: "Bacteria in their relation to food."

First of all, I desire to take up the most important of foods, namely, water. Water is a food, because it is necessary to sustain life, and considered in this sense, air might also be classed as a food. But whether or not we call water a food, there are other reasons sufficient for us to make it a matter for consideration here.

Formerly a good water was one which came up to a certain chemical standard. The amount of chlorides and nitrates was determined, the hardness was computed and the total amount of solids ascertained. If a water did not contain more than one grain of chlorine per gallon, it was deemed potable. To-day, while chemical analysis still has an important place in the examination of water, it must go hand in hand with the biological or bacteriological analysis, and we must know what sort of living organisms inhabit or are to be found in the specimen in question.

In the early days of bacteriology much stress was laid upon the number of bacteria found in a given quantity of water, and water containing more than 500 colonies to the cubic centimeter was deemed unfit for drinking, but now it is not so much the quantity as the quality of the bacteria that is looked for. One typhoid bacillus in a gallon of water is more dangerous than one million ordinary water bacteria; in fact, it would render the water impotable, while the latter would be harmless. Thus, the water analyst of to-day must be a competent bacteriologist as well as a chemist; and to be a bacteriologist means a pathologist as well, for, in the investigation of bacteria, animals must be used for experiment, and the nature of the diseases caused by the bacteria must be known to the experimenter.

As in the earlier chemical analyses, the chlorine itself was not

considered dangerous, but simply one of the indications of faecal contamination, so in the bacterial examination, the presence of certain harmless germs may indicate dangerous contaminations. For instance, the presence of the bacilli commonly found in human faeces, which in themselves are non-pathogenic, would, of course, lead one to infer that human sewage had become mixed with the water supply.

The methods for the detection of typhoid bacilli in drinking water leave much to be desired. The examination is often undertaken too late, when the bacilli are no longer present, or have been destroyed by the ordinary water bacteria. Typhoid bacilli do not long in ordinary drinking water; and yet, if the water be contaminated with them, a whole city or district can become infected in a short time, and when suspicion is directed to the water the germs have disappeared. To a less degree this is likewise true of the cholera spirillum, which acts so quickly and is so deadly, and which usually is spread through the drinking water.

A method lately described, and which promises success, is to take a large quantity of the suspected water (2000 cubic centimeters) and add to it 2 grammes of peptone and 2 grammes of chloride of sodium. Place this in the incubating oven, and, if cholera germs are present, they will multiply rapidly, so that they can readily be detected in the course of ten to twelve hours.

Bacteric examinations have been most useful in the testing of water filters, "germ proof" filters, etc. Several filters are now in the market, which claim to be germ proof; that is to say, which are supposed to prevent the passage of bacteria through the very minute pores of the filter. These filters are made of baked clay, infusorial earth, porcelain, etc. As a rule, they can deliver a germless water only for a few days in succession, when owing to the activity of the bacteria which have collected on the surface of the filter cylinder, the pores are penetrated by the growth, and more bacteria than usual find their way into the water. This, in some cases, can be prevented by a careful cleansing, every few days, of the filter tube. All tubes are not alike, and some afford no protection at all, though they clarify the water by keeping out the grosser particles of dirt.

Filters are best tested by adding to the water, before filtration, some well known bacterium (usually the red pigment forming and rapid growing *Bacillus prodigiosus*) making cultures before and then after filtration. If under suitable precautions the germ is found present in the filtered water, the filter is imperfect. In the testing of large filtering plants, where it is not expected that the water will be perfectly free from germs, quantitative methods must be used in order to tell what percentage of bacteria is left behind.

The large filtering plants are in use in several cities, and, it seems to me, they are of doubtful value only. It is true the water is more pleasing to the eye, and, for toilet and laundry purposes, more valuable; but if the water is contaminated with disease germs, there is no surety that they will be among the 50 per cent. filtered out. They are just as liable to pass through as the others, and such a water is not safe. From the sanitary point of view, filtering plants are only valuable when the water is uncontaminated by human sewage, and to erect such a plant in our city, without paying any attention to the source of our water supply, and even allowing it to be polluted along its whole course, will hardly reduce the death rate, though it may add to the æsthetic quality of the water.

On an average, 500 deaths occur every year in this city from typhoid fever. This means at least 6,000 cases. From an economic point of view, the persons affected are the most valuable members of society, chiefly young adults between the ages of 20 and 40. The expense, in loss of time, medical attendance, etc., is at least \$100 for each case, a total cost of \$600,000 yearly from this one disease, to say nothing about the loss of life; and all because we are obliged to drink the sewage of half a dozen towns above us, and the drainings from graveyards and pigsties along the banks of the Schuylkill.

And while we are thus treated by the cities above us, we send our sewage to the towns below. Some strict measures must be put into practice, which will prevent this pollution of our drinking water.

The second important article of food, with which bacteriologists have busied themselves, is milk. A good milk must contain a certain amount of solids and fat, but it can be adulterated with far more harmful matters than water, and these other adulterations are not so easily detected.

A few hours after milking, ordinary milk has been found to contain 1,000,000 germs to the cubic centimeter. How did these get in?

If the udders of the cow are not kept clean, the first flow of milk will wash the dirt into the milking pan. If the man who milks the cow is uncleanly in his habits, using dirty hands in the operation, the milk receives this dirt. If the stall is the place for milking, and other animals are moving about, the dust raised falls

into the open pail and contaminates the fluid; and, finally, in the transportation from the farmer to the collector, from the dealer to the customer, a hundred opportunities present themselves for the entrance of bacteria, which, when once in, thrive abundantly, the milk being a rich and suitable soil for their growth.

In the markets of Halle, Berlin and Leipsic, Ranke succeeded in finding in the milk exposed for sale, considerable quantities of cow dung, which, of course, greatly increased the number of germs to the cubic centimeter—in one case up to 169,000,000.

Bolle, the milkman of Berlin, who sells 60,000 quarts of milk daily, has endeavoured to make his large establishment conform to scientific requirements. He has a competent bacteriologist, who makes frequent examinations of the product. The milk is obtained from such dairies only as are under his inspection. Separate examinations are made of the different herds, so as to trace disease to its proper source. The collected milk is filtered each day through immense sieves of gravel, which have first been subjected to a high degree of heat in order to sterilize them. The milk is forced through from below upward, and collected in proper vessels. Four thousand quarts pass through such a filter in one hour. By this means the dirt is removed and with it about 50 per cent. of the bacteria present.

While this filtered milk keeps longer than unfiltered, and is more readily sterilized, it is just as dangerous if disease germs were originally present, since, as was stated above, in connection with the filtration of water, the disease germs are just as likely to be among the 50 per cent. that pass through as to be among those that remain.

In order to render milk completely sterile, it must be subjected to such a degree of heat as will coagulate the casein and make the product undesirable in other ways. If, however, great care be exercised in the milking and sterilization be carried on at once or shortly after, a very moderate degree of heat will be sufficient to make the milk entirely sterile.

One of the bacteria that is often found in milk has very resistant spores and, therefore, if milk becomes contaminated by exposure to the dust and dirt of the air or stall, ordinary warming or heating, as is done when milk is pasteurized (so-called sterilized milk), will not suffice to destroy these spores.

Milk is often sold to us in bottles, and one would imagine that such a product was reasonably clean; but this bottling is done in a very careless way, often in the street by some ignorant delivery boy, while the street sweeper is raising clouds of dust, some of which lodges in the exposed milk.

In one dairy in Dresden, Germany, all the milk comes from stall fed or dry fed cows, experience having shown that such cows give a product that is less variable and contains fewer germs and sours less speedily than when they are fed on fresh grass. Great care is taken in the milking, and especial attention is paid to the cleanliness of the employees. After the milking the milk is placed in coolers, where it remains two hours at a temperature of 10° C. Then it is put into a centrifuge in order to separate the dirt that might accidentally have fallen in. It is now warmed up to 65° C. (pasteurized) and collected in half pint sterilized bottles, and the filled bottles again heated for one hour and three-quarters at 65° C. and quickly cooled. Such milk is reasonably sterile, and the method is the only one to be recommended.

Unless all these steps are followed, the milk cannot be considered sterile.

What danger is there in milk from tuberculous cows? This is a question which, just at present, is receiving considerable attention.

Tuberculosis is very frequent among cattle. In the slaughter houses of Berlin out of 142,000 head of cattle 21,000, or 15 per cent., were found to be tubercular. In all Prussia 10 per cent. of all the cattle slaughtered annually are found to be affected with this disease. Some veterinarians claim that 30 per cent. of all cows are infected, and that a herd cannot be found that is entirely free from the disease. From this one can readily see the importance of this question. In New York City 900,000 quarts of milk are consumed daily. Consumption is likewise a very common disease, causing from one-third to one-fourth of all the deaths among adults, and many, if not the greater number, of the diseases of children are tubercular in origin.

Is the cow an enemy to man? Are we warranted in accusing the milk of consumptive cows as being the cause of consumption in man? The last word has not yet been said on this subject. We can only give the opinions of authorities, the present beliefs gained from the knowledge at hand; and these are that if the udders of a cow are unaffected, if there is no local tuberculosis, no bacilli are to be found in the milk, the milk may be considered safe. Yet later investigations have shown that the toxic principles of bacteria find their way into the milk, that the milk of an animal rendered immune to diphtheria or tetanus has the same properties as the serum of the blood, and can protect other animals. If this is uncontroverted, then the milk of tuberculous or consumptive cows may have within it the products of the tubercle bacilli, and such milk may have the same effect upon

the human organisms as these products obtained artificially or from cultures outside of the body. The discussion on the benefits or ill effects of tuberculin has not yet been closed, and it is impossible to say, therefore, whether such milk, i. e., milk containing tuberculin, is positively harmless or dangerous.

In Paris all cows whose milk is offered for sale must be tested with tuberculin to prove their freedom from tuberculosis. Our own board of health has strongly advocated a similar test.

Tuberculin has been found reliable in the greater number of cases, i. e., if an animal showed signs of temperature rise after the injection of the tuberculin, the disease has always been found present; but the disease has been found when no rise has occurred, so that it is a positive test only. Tuberculosis is present whenever there is a rise of temperature, but it is not necessarily absent if no reaction occurs.

Because tuberculosis is so very frequent, because 2,700 deaths of adults between 15 and 45 occur every year in this city alone from this one disease, it behoves us to try every measure that holds out the slightest chance of success in reducing this awful mortality; and, therefore, if only as an experiment, it would be worth the time and money to destroy every suspicious animal and thus prevent the sale of all milk save that obtained from perfectly sound cows. Any reduction in the death rate from this disease will be step in advance, and efforts should be directed to this end at all cost.

If the milk of consumptive cows is dangerous, then cheese and butter made from such milk is likewise dangerous, and the sale of such should be equally guarded against.

In Germany, butter has been made from sterilized milk by the addition of pure cultures of certain bacteria, which have the power of coagulating the milk. Such butter has a constant flavour, and does not deteriorate so quickly as butter produced in the ordinary way.

To summarize in regard to milk we can say that, (1) a careful inspection of the dairy; (2) a close examination of the cattle; and (3) cleanliness in the transportation and sale, must be rigorously enforced to safeguard the public health.

As regards meat, little has been said or done. Meat is rarely used in the raw state, and cooking generally renders ineffective the germs likely to be found present.

In the cities of Europe, careful inspection is practised at the abattoirs and meat from diseased cattle is excluded or sold under restrictions. Meat shops are likewise kept very clean, and the meat is seldom exposed in filthy warehouses. In our own cities some of the meat offered for sale on the stands and in street shops is most unfit for food—some of it, indeed, in a state of putrefaction. Some cities have laws which make such meat liable to seizure, but these laws are self-operative.

The advances in fermentation deserve attention, for though they are not, strictly speaking, connected with our subject, yet so closely are the yeasts related to bacteria, and so similar are the methods of cultivation, that any discoveries in the one field are sure to be of value in the other. Bacteria have always been a disturbing element in industrial fermentations and expensive methods have been resorted to to prevent the entrance of disease germs—disease here meaning impure or improper germs.

The yeasts were formerly considered as few in number—as alcohol producers and non-alcohol producers; no serious efforts were made to obtain pure cultures, but the mashers and brews were kept under such conditions that the foreign germs were prevented from growing or multiplying. Beer was stored in ice cellars, whisky was subjected to special temperatures, and other elaborate measures were used which can now be dispensed with if we start with pure cultures of yeasts at the beginning and avoid the entrance of impurities from air, water, etc.

In Denmark, Hansen (and from him a school has originated) pays great attention to the cultivation of pure yeasts. Brewers can obtain from the laboratories such pure cultures and thereby insure a definite alcoholic strength, a constant flavour and a product that will not deteriorate, even under varying conditions of temperature, etc.

By experimenting with different combinations of yeasts, various degrees of bitterness and different aromas can be developed.

Wines depend very largely for their bouquet, not so much upon the grape as upon the particular germ or germs used in the fermentation of the juice. Experimenters have obtained, with the same kind of grape, a half dozen different wines by using as many different yeasts. As the pigment yeasts produce various colours, so the yeasts used in fermentation give rise to various ethers, and these ethers give the wine its peculiar bouquet.

We should expect to obtain a Rhine wine from a New Jersey grape by using the yeasts which are common in the Rhine region or on the Rhine grape. Even out of apple must a good testing wine has been produced by the use of particular cultures of yeasts.

These researches have revolutionized German brewing, and the large breweries now have competent bacteriologists in their employ, who attend to the cultivation of their yeasts.

The spaces or holes peculiar to certain cheeses are due to the evolution of gases during the ripening process. These gases are

produced by certain bacteria, and by using pure cultures of these gas-forming bacteria in the manufacture of cheese, these air spaces will always occur. The odour of cheese is likewise due to bacteria, and special flavours can thus be obtained at will by using the particular germs.

Bread made from pure yeasts will be found to be more digestible, to be lighter and to possess a sweeter flavour. Too little attention has been paid to this in baking. Mixtures of yeasts and bacteria are used, and the baking powder of the flour is blamed for poor results. Sour bread is usually due to a poor quality or impure kind of yeast. The soil out of which we obtain such important food stuffs has been studied bacterially and has been found to contain peculiar germs, which are all necessary to the growth of the plant. These are the so-called nitrogen-forming bacteria.

They convert the nitrates into nitrites, the oxidizers of organic material more necessary to the well being of vegetable life than anything else. Instead of using tons of fertilizers, the agriculturist of the future will cover his fields with cultures of the nitrogen germs and obtain better results. We will even have special germs for special plants. The science of agriculture is yet in its infancy, if we may believe that promises held out to it by bacteriology. Even at present the agricultural colleges are equipping themselves with laboratories for bacteriological research.

Thus I have tried to show that the recent advances in this science are as nothing compared with what may yet be expected; that in these germs, microbes and bacteria, mankind has deadly foes and also important friends; that we must do all we can to rid ourselves of the former and make the latter our willing slaves.—*Scientific American Supplement*, Nov. 30, 1895.

### WHY NOT LIVE A CENTURY?

"IN the coming time," said a famous English poet, "a man or woman eighty or one hundred years old will be more beautiful than the youth or maiden of twenty, as the ripe fruit is more beautiful and fragrant than the green. These ripe men and women will have no wrinkles on the brow, no grey hair, no bent and feeble bodies. On the contrary they will have perfect hearing, clear eyesight, sound teeth, elastic step, and mental vigour."

Does this sound absurd and impossible? Why should it? People over one hundred years old are frequently met with in these days, as they have been as far human records go back. A man is of no real value until he is past fifty and gained control of his passions and acquired some practical wisdom. After that he ought to have from fifty to seventy-five working years before him. Whoso dies short of one hundred (his violence) dies of his own folly or that of his ancestors, one chief thing, however, we must learn. What is it? Take an illustration—such as we see multitudes of on every side.

Mr. Richard Leggate of New Bolingbroke, near Boston, Lincolnshire, is a man now somewhat over seventy. He is a farmer, well known and highly respected in his district. In the spring of 1891 he had an attack of influenza from which he never fully recuperated. The severe symptoms passed away, of course, but he remained weak. No doubt food would have built him up, provided he could have eaten and digested it. Yet here was the trouble, his appetite was poor, and what little he took, as a matter of necessity rather than of relish, seemed to act wrong with him. Instead of giving him strength it actually produced pain and distress in the sides, chest, and stomach.

Then again—which is a common experience—he would feel a craving for something to eat; yet on sitting down to a meal, in the hope to enjoy it, the stomach would suddenly rebel against the proceeding, and he would turn from the table without having swallowed a mouthful.

Nothing could come of this but increasing weakness and it wasn't long before it was all he could do to summon strength to walk about. As for working on his farm, that to be sure, was not to be thought of. He had a doctor attending him, as we should expect. If the services of a learned medical man are ever needed they must be in such a case—when nature seems to be all broken up, and the machinery runs slow, as our family clocks do when we have forgotten to wind them at the usual hour.

Well, Mr. Leggate took the prescribed medicines, but got no better. He asked the doctor why that was and he appeared to be puzzled for an answer at first. Naturally enough a doctor doesn't like to admit that his medicines are doing no good, because he expects to be paid for them; and then there is his professional pride, besides.

However, he finally said, "If my medicines fail to make you better it is owing to your age." That idea was plain as a pikestaff, and if the patient had never got any better afterwards, why who could dispute what the doctor said? Nobody, of course. It would look just as though Mr. Leggate were really going to pieces from old age. But something subsequently happened which spoils that easy theory of the case. What it was he tells us in a letter dated February 3rd, 1893.

"After doctoring several months without receiving any benefit, I determined to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I got a bottle from Mr. G. H. Hanson, Chemist, New Bolingbroke. After taking the Syrup for a week I was much better. I had a good appetite, and what I ate digested and strengthened me; and by the time I had taken two bottles I was well and strong as ever. You may publish this statement if you think proper. (Signed) Richard Leggate."

So it proved, after all, that Mr. Leggate was not suffering from old age (at seventy? Nonsense!), but from indigestion and dyspepsia. When Mother Seigel's great discovery routed that, he felt "well and strong as ever."

Now for the moral: It is not Father Time who mows people down thus early in life; it is the Demon of Dyspepsia. Keep him away from—barring accidents—you may live a century.



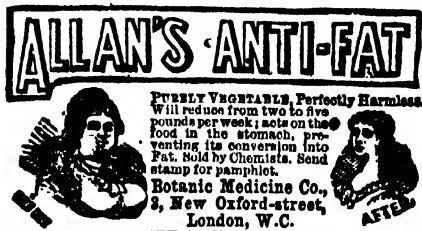
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from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of,  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
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to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakshinaranjan.  
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to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.

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to Vencataramamah, Mr. G.  
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

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### OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmy days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—The *Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unimpaired by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—The *Muhimmudin*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—The *Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but presents the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—The *Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 216.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

ROBERT BURNS.

A fire of fierce and laughing light  
That clove the shuddering heart of night  
Leapt earthward, and the thunder's might  
That pants and yearns  
Made fitful music round its flight :  
And earth saw Burns.

The joyous lightning found its voice  
And bade the heart of wrath rejoice  
And scorn uplift a song to voice  
The imperial hate  
That smote the god of base men's choice  
At God's own gate.

Before the shrine of dawn, wherethrough  
The lark rang rapture as she flew,  
It flashed and fired the darkling dew :  
And all that heard

/With love or loathing hailed anew  
A new day's word.

The servants of the lord of hell,  
As though their lord had blessed them, fell  
Foaming at mouth for fear, so well  
They knew the lie  
Wherewith they sought to scan and spell  
The unsounded sky.

The god they made them in despite  
Of man and woman, love and light,  
Strong sundawn and the starry night,  
The lie supreme,  
Shot through with song, stood forth to sight  
A devil's dream.

And he that bent the lyric bow  
And laid the lord of darkness low  
And bade the fire of laughter glow  
Across his grave,  
And bade the tides above it flow,  
Wave hurtling wave,

Shall he not win from latter days  
More than his own could yield of praise ?  
Ay, could the sovereign singer's bays  
Forsake his brow,  
The warrior's, won on stormier ways,  
Still clasp it now.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

He loved, and sang of love : he laughed,  
And bade the cup whereout he quaffed  
Shine as a planet, fore and aft,  
And left and right,  
And keen as shoots the sun's first shaft  
Against the night.

But love and wine were moon and sun  
For many a fame long since undone,  
And sorrow and joy have lost and won  
By stormy turns  
As many a singer's soul, if none  
More bright than Burns.

And sweeter far in grief or mirth  
Have songs as glad and sad of birth  
Found voice to speak of wealth or dearth  
In joy of life :  
But never song took fire from earth  
More strong for strife.

The daisy by his ploughshare cleft,  
The lips of women loved and left,  
The griefs and joys that weave the web  
Of human time,  
With craftsman's cunning, keen and deft,  
He carved in rhyme.

But Chaucer's daisy shines a star  
Above his ploughshare's reach to mar,  
And mightier vision gave Dunbar  
More strenuous wing  
To hear around all sins that are  
Hell dance and sing.

And when such pride and power of trust  
In song's high gift to arouse from dust  
Death, and transfigure love or lust  
Through smiles or tears  
In golden speech that takes no rust  
From cankering years,

As never spake but once in one  
Strong star-crossed child of earth and sun,  
Villon, made music such as none  
May praise or blame,  
A crown of starrier flower was won  
Than Burns may claim.

But never, since bright earth was born  
In rapture of the enkindling morn,  
Might godlike wrath and sunlike scorn  
That was and is  
And shall be while false weeds are worn  
Find word like his.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Above the rude and radiant earth  
That heaves and glows from firth to firth  
In vale and mountain, bright in dearth  
And warm in wealth,  
Which gave his fiery glory birth  
By chance and stealth.

Above the storms of praise and blame  
That blur with mist his lustrous name,  
His thunderous laughter went and came,  
And lives and flies ;  
The roar that follows on the flame  
When lightning dies.

Earth, and the snow-dimmed heights of air,  
And water winding soft and fair  
Through still sweet places, bright and bare,  
By bent and bye,  
Taught him what hearts within them were :  
But his was fire.

ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE.

— *The Nineteenth Century.*

### WEEKLYANA.

A SUPPLEMENT to the *London Gazette* of Friday, February 14, contains the following letter from the Queen to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department :—

“ OSBORNE, Feb. 14, 1896.

I have, alas ! once more to thank my loyal subjects for their warm sympathy in a fresh grievous affliction which has befallen me and my beloved daughter, Princess Beatrice, Princess Henry of Battenberg. This new sorrow is overwhelming, and to me is a double one for I lose a dearly loved and helpful son, whose presence was like a bright sunbeam in my home, and my dear daughter loses a noble devoted husband to whom she was united by the closest affection.

To witness the blighted happiness of the daughter who has never left me, and has comforted and helped me, is hard to bear. But the feeling of universal sympathy so touchingly shown by all classes of my subjects has deeply moved my child and myself, and has helped and soothed us greatly. I wish from my heart to thank my people for this, as well as for the appreciation manifested of the dear and gallant Prince who laid down his life in the service of his adopted country.

My beloved child is an example to all in her courage, resignation, and submission to the will of God.

VICTORIA, R. I.”

By her Majesty's command a full record of the ceremonial attending the arrival of the remains and the sepulture of Prince Henry of Battenberg was issued by the Lord Chamberlain's department, on gray foolscap with broad black edging. A plan of Whippingham Church, with the allotment of seats, is appended.

IN the House of Lords, on February 20, the Earl of Pembroke (Lord Steward of the Household) brought up and read the following message from Her Majesty :—

“ I thank you sincerely for your loyal and dutiful address, and especially for your expressions of sympathy with me and my dear daughter, the Princess Beatrice, on the death of my beloved son-in-law Prince Henry of Battenberg. The assurance of your participation in the general feeling of sorrow for my bereavement has given me very great consolation.”

WE read in an English paper that “ Yvette Guilbert has returned to Paris from America, where she made £8,000 chiefly by singing nigger and English ditties.” Not a pleasant association for Englishmen ! It is akin to dogs and natives.

THE normal span of human existence is not three score and ten, but, according to Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, five score and ten. He thinks that seven out of ten average people would, if they took proper care of themselves, attain that age.

REGULATION No. II of 1896—a Regulation to amend the Law for the Suppression of Crime on the Frontiers of Upper Burma and the Hill District of Arakan—extending to the Upper Chindwin, Pakokku and Mmbu Districts, and to the Hill District of Arakan, and coming into force at once—provides :—

“ 3. In the event of any frontier tribe, clan (meaning any

sub-division or section of a tribe) or village (meaning village-community and including a group of village) acting in a hostile or unfriendly manner to the British Government or raiding on any other frontier tribe, clan or village under the protection of the British Government, the Deputy Commissioner may, with the sanction of the Commissioner and subject to the control of the Local Government, detain all or any members of the hostile or unfriendly tribe, clan or village, detain or confiscate their property, debar members of the tribe, clan or village from access into British territory, and prohibit British subjects from all intercourse with the tribe, clan or village.

4. No action shall be taken in the case of any tribe, clan or village under section 3 until after the Deputy Commissioner shall have, in such manner as the Local Government may, by general or special order, direct, specified by name, and indicated the position of, the tribe, clan or village against which action is to be taken, and prescribed the limits in British India beyond which members of the tribe, clan or village shall be debarred from passing.”

HERE is a Proclamation, in the Foreign Department, by the Governor-General in Council :—

“ Fort William, the 4th March, 1896.

No. 469-E.—Whereas Saw Hsari, heretofore Myosa of the Keng Cheng State, by contumaciously refusing to obey orders lawfully addressed to him by duly empowered British officers, and otherwise impeding the exercise of Her Majesty's authority within the said State, has justly forfeited all right and title to the exercise of any authority within Her Majesty's Dominions. Know all men and it is hereby proclaimed and declared that the Governor-General in Council, with the sanction and approbation of the Secretary of State for India in Council, is pleased to order that the said Saw Hsari, heretofore Myosa of Keng Cheng, shall not henceforth exercise any authority or jurisdiction in any part of Her Majesty's possessions or sphere of influence.”

The head and front of Myosa's offending is that he fled from Mongsin when it was occupied by British troops and has not, after being called upon, re-appeared since, though the district has passed under French control. It is explained that the proclamation is necessary, as a portion of territory over which the proclaimed chief exercised control lies west of the Mekong,—an explanation which itself requires explanation.

IT is Gazetted—

“ 1. With the sanction of the Secretary of State for India, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to notify that, from the 1st April, 1896, the following changes in the organisation of the Indian Medical Services will have effect.

2. The medical services of Bengal, Madras and Bombay will be amalgamated into one service under the direct administrative control of the Government of India.

3. The Surgeon-General with the Government of India will be the head of the amalgamated Indian Medical Service, and his designation will be Director-General of the Indian Medical Services.

4. No change will be made in the conditions under which officers of the Bengal, Madras and Bombay Medical Services, appointed before the second examination in 1896, are serving ; promotion will continue to run on their respective lists, and the sphere of their employment will remain as at present, except in cases of emergency, when it may be desirable to employ them temporarily beyond it. In time of war all officers who can be spared from civil duties will be employed as the exigencies of the service may demand.

5. From the date of the second examination in 1896, Surgeon-Lieutenants will be recruited for the amalgamated Indian Medical Service, and the appointments will be made on one general list. Subject to the requirements of the service, officers will be allowed choice of Commands according to their position on the list as determined by the combined results of the preliminary and final examinations. The officers appointed to this list, although ordinarily employed within the Commands to which they may be posted, will be liable to employment in any part of India according to the exigencies of the service. The subsequent transfers to civil duties will ordinarily be allotted, so far as the requirements of the service will allow, to the provinces within the limits of the Command to which the officers were originally posted.

6. The present Surgeon-Generals with the Governments of Madras and Bombay will retain their claim to rank, pay, and pensions under existing rules. The question of the continuance of these privileges to their successors in office will be reserved for future consideration.

7. The Surgeon-Generals will be restricted to the exercise of the functions of Administrative Medical Officers and Civil Inspector-Generals of Hospitals in respect to the Civil Medical Staff and Civil Medical Institutions in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, respectively. They will cease to exercise any control over those sections of the existing medical establishments of Madras and Bombay which are composed of officers employed with the army, or over the reserve of 25 per cent. for leave and casualties, the administration of which will be conducted directly under the orders of the Government of India.

8. The post of Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras or Bombay will be retained for the present incumbents of the office of Surgeon-General with those Governments. On a vacancy occurring in the post of Secretary to the Surgeon-General, Madras or Bombay, it will only be filled by an officiating officer, and when the present Surgeon-Generals vacate their appointments, their successors will not have Secretaries but only Personal Assistants.”



It having been decided that the Presidency and Post Office Savings Banks should be amalgamated, and the Post Office organisation being more economical than the other system, the Government Presidency Savings Bank will be closed from the 1st of October, 1896. In the meantime, no new accounts will be opened in any of the Presidency Saving Banks. The transfer of existing accounts will be made gradually between April and September. All transfers will be made to the Presidency Post Office, with liberty to depositors to apply for transfer of their accounts to Post offices of their choice.

THE services of Mr. G. E. Manisty, Officiating Accountant-General, Bengal, being replaced at the disposal of the Home Department, Mr. R. E. Hamilton, Accountant-General, Punjab, comes to Bengal. Mr. A. G. Chuckerbutty, Deputy Accountant-General, acts as Accountant-General, Punjab.

MR. A. Forbes having been granted furlough for eight months, Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, Commissioner, Burdwan Division, acts as Commissioner of the Patna Division, and Mr. C. E. Buckland, from the Bengal Secretariat, officiates as Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, Mr. C. W. Bolton, temporary Additional Commissioner, Patna Division, replacing Mr. C. E. Buckland as Secretary in the General, Revenue and Statistical Departments. With his transfer Mr. Bourdillon has resigned the membership of the Bengal Legislative Council.

MR. Ambika Charan Sen, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Puri, will act as District and Sessions Judge of Cuttack, while Mr. F. E. Pargiter is away on leave.

TO SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, K.C.S.I.,  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

All hail, thou rightful heir of Banga's Kings !  
The happy throne, that erst was stranger-filled,  
Recalls its golden woe. See, joy doth gild  
Each face, and light each eye ; with rapture rings  
From million throats one burst of loud acclaim ;—  
To see thee, laurel-crowned, return once more  
From Peishwa's land, and Ava's rubied shore,  
To where thou saidst of old,—"I'll conquer fame !"  
Come, royal wanderer, the house restore,  
Our East loves best the son in father's place :  
Rough-wrench her treasured custom,—tear-drops pour  
From her sad eye, and glide adown her face !  
Now, shot with beams of joy, and dim no more,  
The tear-drops weave the glorious rainbow's radiant grace !

B. C. MITRA.

March 2, 1896.

#### NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

&  
THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH  
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

HER Majesty has arrived at Cimiez. The Emperor of Austria will prolong his stay in the Riviera, in order to visit the Queen. It is reported that he desires to promote a reconciliation between Great Britain and Germany.

CHINA has refused the offer of a loan from a French Syndicate, although the same is backed by the French Government. Negotiations for a loan were made between the Chinese Government and an Anglo-German Syndicate. The preliminary contract has been signed at Peking. It provides that the Customs service shall remain unaltered.

LORD Lansdowne, in a memorandum relating to the Army Estimates, says that recent events in Africa render it impossible to reduce the Egyptian garrison during the current year.

THE Venezuela Blue-book, just published, contains elaborate replicas of the ancient Dutch and Spanish maps, which show generally that the British are the lawful successors of the Dutch. The British

claim rests upon the effective possession of the country in dispute by the Dutch and British for over two centuries. The American press, commenting on the Venezuela Blue-book, asks that if the British case is so good then why not arbitrate ?

REPORTS about the Italian disaster say that a whole brigade was annihilated after a most heroic resistance. The enemy numbered a hundred thousand men. King Menelik is advancing slowly towards Adigrat. The roads to Kassa are still open. In this dilemma, Italy has opened peace negotiations with Menelik. The *Times'* correspondent at Cairo states that two large Dervish forces are advancing on Kassa, and that raiding parties at Dongola are preparing for a descent on Egypt. The same correspondent states that a disaster at Kassa will revive the Mahdist movement, especially in the direction of Suakin and Tokar.

THE *Novoe Vremya* has opened a fund in aid of those wounded in Menelik's army in the late battle with the Italians.

VIOLENT anti-American demonstrations have taken place in many towns in Spain, and a state of siege has been declared at Valencia.

COUNT Goluchowski, the Austrian Foreign Minister, has arrived at Berlin for the purpose of conferring with Prince Hohenlohe regarding the situation and specially relative to Italy. He has had two long interviews with the Emperor William. The *Cologne Gazette* states that Germany and Austria are determined loyally to support their ally.

THE new Italian Cabinet has been formed as follows :—The Marquis Rudini, Premier ; General Ricotti, Minister of War ; Signor Brin, for Marine ; the Duke Sermoneta, for Foreign Affairs ; and Signor Branca for Finance.

FOR his Asiatic explorations, Prince Henri of Orleans has been appointed a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

MR. Goschen, replying to certain criticisms in the House of Commons on the Navy Estimates, said that the policy of Government was to have a force sufficient to defend the interests of the Empire in all parts of the globe. The present programme, he said, was settled in November last, and it was therefore absurd to suppose that it was the outcome of the events in Venezuela and the Transvaal. Great Britain, he added, had now nearly as many ships in commission as all Europe put together.

SIR Richard Webster, opening the case for the prosecution of Jameson, made a temperate speech, and described the departure of the expedition, which, he said, had clearly been long prepared. He recognized the personal gallantry of Jameson and his officers, and proved that Colonel Grey had told the men they were going straight to Johannesburg to maintain British supremacy in South Africa. Witnesses were called who confirmed this. The prisoner was remanded for a week on bail.

THE Commons, by a majority of eighty-five votes, have passed a resolution in favour of the opening of Museums and Art Galleries on Sunday.

THE *Times'* correspondent at Odessa states that the despatch of Russian troops to the Far East actively continues, although the Russian force there already exceeds ninety thousand men.

THE Washington Congress is disposed to drop the Cuban affair.

THE Sultan has conferred the Order of Intiez on M. Nelidoff. This is regarded as cementing the tacit Russo-Turkish agreement.

MR. Chamberlain has appointed Colonel Sir Richard Martin Commandant-General of Bechnanaland and Rhodesia and Deputy Commissioner of South Africa. The *Standard* considers that this appointment is a serious curtailment of the privileges of the Chartered Company.

THE *Times* strongly condemns the proposal of Government to grant a retiring allowance of eighteen hundred pounds a year to the Duke of Cambridge in addition to his existing emoluments. The grant, it states, is contrary to regulations, and to the decision of the late Government, in which Mr. Balfour at the time acquiesced. The *Times* recommends the Duke to decline the allowance beforehand. Mr. Campbell Bannerman has given notice that he will bring forward a motion in the House for the rejection of the proposed vote.

SIR Henry Brackenbury's Volunteer Bill, which became law last Thursday, enlarges the powers hitherto exercised by the executive of demanding the service of citizen-soldiers in times of civil commotion. Their liability to be ordered to a distance from their hearths and homes has always been a sore point with volunteers. During the "boom" excited at the beginning of this century in England by Napoleon's threatened invasion, the Colonels and Staff of a newly raised regiment waited on the great William Pitt and urged that, though they had no desire to shirk their responsibilities, they entertained a strong objection to being sent to Ireland where it was proposed to employ them. "Very well, gentlemen," said the sarcastic Premier, "I will advise His Majesty to direct the modification of your commissions by inserting a proviso that you are not to be despatched beyond the seas—except in case of actual invasion."

THE *Conversazione* of the Mahomedan Literary Society has been unavoidably postponed from the 23rd to Monday, the 30th March.

DURING his last days in the Bengal Secretariat, Mr. Buckland was engaged in a graceful act. As in the Board of Revenue, in the Secretariat he wanted to keep the clerks straight by heavy fines. The extra saving to the Government in the Secretariat came up to a large figure. When it was decided that Mr. Buckland was to take up the Commissionership of the Burdwan Division, he repented of the hardness of heart which had prompted him to order the imposition of fines indiscriminately on one and all, and set himself to do them right. There was the difficulty to redraw the amounts of past years. He, however, succeeded, and he leaves the Bengal Office with many blessings for the good act. Mr. Buckland is a Civilian of the old type. His kindness for his subordinates and, indeed, for those whom he once regards as his own, is remarkable. He is ever ready to push their interests and fight for them, if need be, like a hero. There are many men in the public service whose making is entirely due to Mr. Buckland's influence sturdily exerted on their behalf. Kind, however, as Mr. Buckland is, inefficiency and humbug have no chance with him. Himself able and energetic, he has a quick eye for detecting idle and incompetent men. Mr. Buckland understands the *Bhadracharya* of Bengal thoroughly. Hence his remarkable success in raising subscriptions in aid of public movements.

THE Sub-divisional Officer of Ranaghat has called a public meeting of the friends and admirers of the late Babu Surendra Nath Pal Chowdry "to express sorrow at his untimely death and consider what steps should be taken to perpetuate his memory for the valuable public services rendered by the deceased."

AN Indigo-planter, of the name of Mr. A. J. Shillingford, had been bound over by the Deputy Magistrate of Purneah to keep the peace. The High Court (Justices Hill and Rumpin), on motion, after hearing both the petitioner and the Crown, have passed the following orders:—

"It appears to us that the order of the Deputy Magistrate of Purneah, binding the petitioner over to keep the peace, cannot stand. There appears to be no evidence upon the record from which the inference can justly be drawn that Mr. Shillingford, the petitioner, is likely to commit a breach of the peace, or to do any unlawful act which is likely to cause a breach of the peace. Assuming it to be established that persons in his employ have behaved in a somewhat high-handed manner towards the villagers of Sowrin, there is nothing whatever to connect Mr. Shillingford with their proceedings, or to show that he either directed or sanctioned them. The rule must be made absolute, and the order complained of set aside."

Here, according to such lights of the law as Mr. Westmacott, there has been a miscarriage of justice. The High Court, by insisting upon an impossible standard of evidence, have reversed a very wholesome order of the subordinate Magistracy. The Magistrate and his

Deputies must know more of what evidence is actually obtainable in this country and what not. They have the extraordinary capacity of snuffing criminals within ten miles of their catchery and auguring intended crimes by observing the faces of the accused. They can, with perfect conscientiousness, convict every person placed before them by the Police. Surely, Sessions Judges and Divisional Benches of the High Court should not be permitted to review the proceedings of Executive officers acting judicially and arrive at conclusions different from theirs. It is said that Sir Charles Elliott had a very short Bill drafted by one of his favourite Secretaries, in consultation with some of his Divisional Commissioners. Its object was to abolish the Indian Evidence Act, to declare that as conclusive proof which the District Magistrate or his Deputies would call so, and to convict all persons sent up by the Police. Sessions Judges and the High Court might afterwards acquit, but then the prestige of the Executive required that there should be conviction in every case. The very fact of the Police sending up a man should be regarded as conclusive proof of guilt. The late Lieutenant-Governor used to keep this draft before him, engrossed on parchment in letters of gold, to kiss it and hug it with affection at least half-a-dozen times in course of twelve hours, and never to go to bed without first carefully placing it under his pillow. Busy in whispering censures to this or that official, for he was extremely averse from letting the public know anything about their peccancy, he had no time for having the Bill formally introduced. While he made over charge to his successor, he was on the point of handing over that precious document, but entertaining grave doubts about its favourable treatment by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Sir Charles Elliott chose to take it away. By the bye, we hear that Sir Alexander Mackenzie has knocked on the head his predecessor's scheme of connecting all District and Sub-divisional head-quarters with Belvedere by the telephone. Sir Charles had great partiality for this new invention inasmuch as it afforded him the best possible medium for communicating his censures to subordinates without keeping any record behind and without anybody else being acquainted with what was said.

MR. R. D. Mehta, if anything, is a practical man. He does not take up a duty which he does not understand or for which he is not fitted. Nor is he a sleeping partner in any business. He qualified himself by regular study before he accepted the Honorary Presidency Magistrateship. As an instance of his activity, read his opening address at the Alipur Local Board:—

"Gentlemen—As this is the first meeting of our Board, let me thank you, one and all, very cordially, for electing me as Chairman. This is the third time you have honoured me with your confidence and with your co-operation. I hope, it will be possible for me to make myself worthy of the trust reposed on me. I see some new faces. I cordially welcome them to this Board, and I am quite sure that I will receive from them the same measure of support which I have uniformly received from my old colleagues, some of whom I am happy to be able to greet once more at this meeting. In the election of your Vice-Chairman you have shown marked judgment, for from him, as from my old colleagues, I have received unfailing support and sympathy. I need hardly remind you that ours is an important Board, the second in the Presidency Division, in respect of territorial jurisdiction and occupying a prominent place among other Local Boards in respect of population, for ours includes an area of 802 sq. miles with a population of over 5,31,000. I may say that in the discharge of our duties we have always received a very considerable measure of sympathy from the Government. Whenever there was a difficulty I took the liberty of approaching His Honour the Lieutenant Governor himself, and I say with absolute truth that I received nothing but sympathy from Sir Charles Elliott. I am sure that from Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who is known to be so great a friend of Local Self Government, we shall receive a similar, if not, indeed, a warmer, degree of consideration. In conclusion, I desire to say that small as may be our power and the opportunities of serving our fellow countrymen, we can only hope to pave the way for the enlargement of those powers and those opportunities by doing our best in our limited sphere of usefulness, and I am sure when I make an appeal to you in that behalf, I feel that I do appeal to men animated by sentiments such as inspire us all at the present moment to do our duty according to our lights and with a single-minded desire to uphold the interest committed to our

care. Already the Government has given us the credit of being a useful Board, and my humble self has been associated in the compliment thus paid to this Board. I trust that in future we shall not only maintain but add to the good name we have already acquired.

With these words, gentlemen, we shall now proceed to the business of the day."

THE following tribute of gratefulness, paid by Protap Chandra Roy, the publisher of the English translation of the Mahabharata, to Dr. Rost on the occasion of his decoration with the Order of the Indian Empire, is taken from the wrapper of the 37th fasciculus of the translation:—

"The (London) *Times* in its issue of Sunday, January 15, 1888, referring to the decoration of Dr. Reinhold Rost with the Order of the Indian Empire, says,—

"Who that favours Oriental studies has not been at one time or another indebted to Dr. Reinhold Rost, of the India Office Library, and will fail to congratulate the worthy Librarian on his well-deserved decoration of the Indian Empire? That his own knowledge is immense does not matter so much, for it is not his Tribner's grammars or his masterly linguistic contributions to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, his Indo-Chinese essays, or any other profound and mystical learning, that commends Dr. Rost to the many, but his unflinching courtesy, the never-tiring unselfishness with which he ransacks the stores of his brains or his shelves on behalf of the enquiring or studious visitor. He has made the India Office Library what it is, a centre of Oriental research and scholarship for all Europe."

"The above is no empty compliment that the great journal pays to the learned scholar. The *Times* is not given to paying compliments. It is the truth and nothing but the truth. The courtesy of Dr. Rost is not limited by considerations of proximity or distance, creed or color. It was his encouraging words that first led me to seriously think of an English translation of the Mahabharata, and it is his sympathy and friendship, unchanging and stable, that have supported and cheered me amid all my distractions. Honour to such a man is honour to Oriental scholarship. Yet how inadequate that honour! No man has worked more unselfishly in the cause of Oriental research than he. In this respect he is the exact prototype of an Indian Pundit of Navadvipa, Vikramপুর, Mithila, Benares, Maharashtra, or Dravida. Utterly forgetful of what is due to themselves or their families, perfectly unmindful of what would befall those they leave behind after they themselves are gone, such men work on for work's sake, with a simplicity in worldly affairs that draws tears from every eye from feelings the like of which man rarely experiences in life. Government may honour them, as, indeed, it does, with titular distinctions of C.I.E. or Mahamahopadhyaya, or a grateful public may erect a bust or statue, or designate a temple, pagoda, or large tank after them, for purposes of living or posthumous honour. But it would be more in keeping with the fitness of things, if, instead of such distinctions, provision were made for those near and dear to them so as to make the former independent of the exertions of the latter in life.

भूषयित्वा भवन्तं हि राजा विद्या सुप्रसिता ।

उपाधिना भूषयन्तु तव भाव विद्वत्प्रितम् ॥ १ ॥

असामान्यगुणैरेव भूषितोऽसि भवान् विभो ।

प्रज्ञया सधुरचन्द्रो मखनं किमपेक्षते ॥ २ ॥

के वा न सन्ति सतिमन् भुवि भावमिश्राः

शाले नृपतौ सुनिपुणा धिवषाविभाताः ।

भेदो जने सरलता विपुलश्च चेतः

यददृश्यते त्वयि तु तद्विरलं हि लोके ॥ ३ ॥

अमिताभं चयं यानु बहनु तव वाग्धवाः

श्रीरसु निचला तुभ्यं शान्तिः शशयतु ज्वरम् ॥ ४ ॥

मार्कण्डेयो भवान् भूयात् साधयन् सन्तिर्हितम् ।

दिव्यात् विद्वत्साक्ष्यं वदितो विवृषेः सः ॥ ५ ॥"

The following is a translation of the Sanskrit verses :—

By adorning thee, the Sovereign has adorned Learning.  
This title, O friend, only emphasizes thy adornments !

O puissant one, decorated art thou with endowments that are rare !  
Agreeable by nature, the Moon stands not in need of any decoration.

O thou of great intelligence, what learned men are there on earth that are not well-versed in the scriptures and the Veda, and that do not shine in knowledge ?

The virtues, however, that are seen in thee, *viz.*, universal friendship, sincerity, and a large heart, are rare possessions in the world !

Let destruction overtake thy foes ! Let growth visit thy friends.  
Let stable Prosperity be thine ! Let Tranquility of soul allay thy heart's fever !

Be thou as long-lived as Markandeya, and ever engaged in doing good to the world !

Growing in Prosperity with the deities themselves, do thou shine in Glory when Heaven becomes thine !

BABU Julu Gopal Chatterjee, who describes himself as a "Poet and Author," Bibu Nishi Kanta Chackraverti, who is a much humbler individual, for he speaks of himself as only an "Assistant, Bengal Secretariate," and three other gentlemen whose descriptions do not occur, invite public attention to the feats of an astrologer "of a high order." The name of the great man who has "brought over" this prodigy of astrological learning, has not been omitted. "The Pundit on examining the palm of man, can very accurately tell the past and future events of his life." Without at all objecting to the grammar and logic of this short announcement, one may ask the "Poet and Author" as to how proficiency in palmistry can be viewed as evidencing high astrological attainments. Poets may not be authors; so also authors may not be poets. In the case of Babu Chatterjee, there is a happy combination of both poetry and authorship. As such, he will be able to answer the question proposed. Then, again, as to the great astrologer's feat of "very accurately telling future events" of a man's life, who is to certify the accuracy? Is it the astrologer himself, or the Poet and Author? Bibu Jadu Gopal, it should be known, is a writer and compiler of school books.

OUR leading article in this number is an English translation of a critique on M. Barthelemy-Saint Hilaire in French from the pen of the renowned Orientalist, M. Barth. It has been specially written for *Reis and Rayyet*. The curse of Babel has fallen with peculiar severity on the votaries of literature, for the graces of style are not reproducible in a translation. For all that, the reader will, we hope, mark the entire absence, in the critique, of what Mathew Arnold calls Provincialism and which, according to that critic of undoubted ability, generally characterises English prose, particularly, in the department of criticism. With what delicacy has the true estimate been put forward of M. Barthelemy-Saint Hilaire's writings in different branches of literature ! Nothing has been said that is not true, and yet the manner of saying it is unobjectionable. When the great American scholar, Dr. Whitney, died, ours was the only Indian journal which tried to come out with a fitting obituary notice. So little is the interest felt in India in the lives and works of world-great Oriental scholars that Reuter may be almost excused for his omission to wire the death of Dr. Reinhold Rost. In our last we gave a detailed account of the posthumous honours done to Dr. Rost at his funeral. We are glad to find that the narrative has excited a mournful interest in this country. When intelligence arrived of the death of M. Barthelemy-Saint Hilaire, one of the Calcutta dailies published an extract from the *Men of the Time* without indicating the source. That is all that the Indian press has done towards noticing a life, a considerable part of which was past in the study of India, past and present.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, March 14, 1896.

### BARTHELEMY-SAINT HILAIRE.

INDIA has lost one of her best friends among us in the person of Jules Barthelemy-Saint Hilaire, who was suddenly carried off by death on the 24th of November 1895, at the advanced age of 90. (He was born in Paris on the 19th of August, 1805). Without being an Indianist in the proper sense of the word, he always gave to the past and present of your country a large place in the interests and manifold pursuits of his long and laborious career. It is well-known that this career was not solely devoted to learned research, and that, at different times, public affairs and politics took up a considerable portion of it : in fact, he began with politics, and with politics he wellnigh ended. When still quite young, we find him, from 1826 to 1830, on the staff of the "Globe,"

a journal which had gathered round it the *élite* of the liberal youth of the day, and, on the 28th of July 1830, we find him among the signatories of the famous protest of the journalists against the royal ordinances,—a protest which decided the fall of the elder branch of the Bourbons. He had then been for several years attached to the ministry of Finance, where he remained until 1838. But in 1833 he withdrew from journalism and militant politics, in order to devote himself more completely to learning. In 1834 he was appointed Tutor in French literature at the Ecole Polytechnique; on the 6th of January 1838, he was called to the chair of Greek and Latin philosophy at the College de France, and on the 23rd of March 1839 he entered the Institute as a member of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, where in 1889 was celebrated the 50th anniversary of his reception. Except for a short period of four months, in 1840, when he filled the office of head of the Council of the minister of Public Instruction under his friend and master Victor Cousin, the philosopher, the reign of Louis Philippe was thus for him a sort of truce during which he confined himself to teaching and study. The revolution of 1848 called him forth for some time from this life of calm: he was successively Secretary General to the Provisional Government, and Deputy for the Department of Seine-et-Oise to the Constituent Assembly and the Legislative Assembly: the *Coup d'Etat* of the 2nd December 1851 abruptly sent him back to it. He protested bravely against the violation of the laws, refused the oath to the new *regime*, and resigned his chair at the College de France. In 1855 he accompanied Ferdinand de Lesseps to Egypt, a journey the experiences of which he recorded in his "Letters on Egypt," first published in the "Journal des Debats," and afterward collected in one volume (1856); and down to 1858 he was a member of the Commission to study the cutting of a canal through the Isthmus of Suez. But it was not till 1869, when the Empire attempted to become liberal, that he re-entered public life, as Deputy for Seine-et-Oise. The terrible events of 1870 found him in the breach. He did not leave Paris till the armistice; and, reelected Deputy for Seine-et-Oise to the National Assembly, he became, on the 16th of February 1871, Chief of the Council of President Thiers, whose trusty confidant and right hand he was up to the time of his resignation of the Presidentship on the 24th of May 1873. He remained the devoted friend of M. Thiers and was his testamentary executor, as he had been that of Victor Cousin. On the 10th of December 1875 he was elected Senator for life, and from the 23rd of September 1880 to the 10th of November 1881 he was minister of Foreign Affairs in the Ferry cabinet, and, in this capacity, he prepared and organized the protectorate over Tunis. This was the end of his public life. He had entered it with the enthusiasm of youth; he had opposed Governments better than those he had experience of afterwards; and finally he saw himself set aside by the Government of his choice. In troubled times this is the usual fate of liberal and moderate men, and all his life he was a liberal and a moderate, an optimist, too, somewhat short sighted at times, inclined to judge men by himself, by no means a politician such as democracies produce, but, above all, a man of wisdom, high rectitude and integrity, accepting the burden of public affairs as a duty, and ever ready to return to his private studies, without the least selfish regret. For himself personally, there was hardly any change in passing from

the one to the other, pursuing both, as he did, with equal disinterestedness.

It is precisely this unselfish devotion and this high moral inspiration which constitute the unity of this beautiful life. As in politics, so in science, Barthélemy-Saint Hilaire was a wise man, much more a man of wisdom than a man of learning. He cannot be classed either among Hellenists or professional philosophers. In spite of his worship of the memory and the ideas of Victor Cousin, who continued to be his ideal in philosophy, as Thiers was in politics, he was not a slave to the system of his master and friend, any more than to any other system. He was, above all, an honest man, a man of great good sense, great knowledge, and great sincerity, whom his strong spiritual and Christian conviction, of a turn, rather moral than metaphysical, may have rendered severe to whatever wounded his conscience, but who endeavoured to estimate with kindness the doctrines of the past, and to draw from them good practical lessons for the individual and for society. This is not the place to enter into details regarding his philosophical works. The principal one was his great translation of Aristotle, the work of his life, begun in 1832, and continued up to his death. Of the old treatises, the "Politics" appeared in 1837, the "Rhetoric," last, in 1872. But in the interval, and in the years that followed, he was ever busy revising his work, preparing new editions of it, enriching it with memoirs on special points, on the fragments and the newly-discovered treatises: only a few days before his death he read, to his *confrères* in the Academy, the last paper on his philosophy. Round this work, which offers matter for criticism in detail, but which is imposing from the greatness of its proportions, and the perseverance of its effort, are grouped various less considerable publications, in which he explores other regions of history and philosophy, and of which I only mention the principal ones: "On the Alexandrian School," preceded by an "Essay on the method of the Alexandrian Philosophers and Mysticism," 1845; "A report to the Institute on the competition opened for the comparison of the moral and political philosophy of Plato and Aristotle with the doctrines of the greatest modern philosophers," 1854; "The philosophy of the two Amperes," 1866; translation of the "Meditations of Marcus Aurelius," 1876; "On Metaphysics, its nature and rights in its relations to Religion and Science," 1879; "On Philosophy in its relations to Science and Religion," 1889; "A Study of Francis Bacon," 1890. Another treatise on philosophy—political philosophy—is his appeal and warnings "To the French Democracy," 1874. Lastly, to his long studies on Greek thought we may add his "Translation of the Iliad, in verse," 1869.

As Barthélemy-Saint Hilaire appears to us in his philosophical works, such, too, we find him in his publications on India. The lines he has left in this other

#### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.  
(Session 1895-96.)

Lecture by Bahu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Wednesday, the 18th Inst., at 6.30 P.M. Subject: Lenses and their applications.

Lecture by Bahu Svamadas Mukerjee, M.A., on Thursday, the 19th Inst., at 3 P.M. Subject: Analytical Conics.—Homography and Involution.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

March 14, 1896.

Honorary Secretary.



field of study are not always very deep, but they are broad and traced by a persevering hand. I have already said that he was not an Indianist, nor did he attempt to pass for such, although he possessed a very respectable knowledge of Sanskrit. He had begun the study of it in 1823 under Eugene Burnouf, whose pupil he was always proud to have been, and of whose life and works he wrote a touching notice (1852), the best we have of the great philologist. It is nonetheless true that most of his labours in this field were done at second-hand, and rest on translations. But they are numerous and solid. They attest vast information at a time when this was not easy to acquire, and they bear the same stamp of practical wisdom and broad benevolence, which is the distinctive mark of all that came from his pen. They are thus perfectly personal. They were also useful in their day; several of them are still so, and it is not saying too much to affirm that, during a long period when those studies were not widely spread, Barthelemy-Saint Hilaire was, in his way, an initiator. Only in his last years, when materials had accumulated to such an extent, and become so complicated as to overwhelm the most laborious specialist, did he at times shew himself not quite so conversant with the precise existing position of questions. Nearly all his works on India appeared in the "Memoirs" of the Academy of moral and political sciences, and the "Journal des Savants," a monthly periodical published in common by the three Academies, of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres, of sciences and of moral and political sciences, to the editorial staff of which Barthelemy-Saint Hilaire belonged for nearly half a century. Only a few have been reproduced separately, and to collect them all, the last forty-three years of the Journal especially would have to be ransacked, one by one. They extended over all branches of Indian study, from that of the most ancient monuments to the results of contemporary statistics. I limit myself to the mention of the most important: "A Review of Burnouf's Introduction to the History of Indian Buddhism," 1846; "An account of the works of M. Eugene Burnouf," 1852; "First Memoir on the Sankhya Philosophy" (in the "Memoirs" of the Academy) 1852. Very remarkable for the time, and still useful at the present day, this work is one of those into which Barthelemy-Saint Hilaire has put the greatest amount both of personal criticism and personal research; "On the Vedas," 1853-54, with reference to the texts and translations published by Langlois, Max Müller, Wilson, Stevenson, Benfey, Weber; "On Vedic Grammar and the Prāṭicakhyas, 1854; "On Buddhism and Buddhist Pilgrims," 1856; "Buddha and his Religion"; published separately in 1859; 2nd edition in 1862; "The Buddhist Apologues," 1870-71; "Memoir on Kanada, the author of the Vaiṣeṣika system, or the system of the difference and particularity of beings"; "British India, its present position and future," published separately in 1887, based principally on the data of the census of 1881; another series of articles published in 1894, in which the author discusses the results of the census of 1891, has not been reproduced in a separate volume; "The Yoga of Patanjali" (with reference to Rajendralala Mitra's edition), 1895; the third and last article appeared a few days before his death. He welcomed with joy the generous undertaking of the late Pratapa Chunder Roy, to translate the Mahabharata. He obtained for this work a grant, altogether exceptional,

from the French Government, and to the translation he on several occasions devoted extensive articles, the last of which, alas! in 1895 was an obituary notice. Articles of the same period, on the Ramayana, were weaker; in spite of his robust health, his 90th year began to weigh heavily upon him. But what never waned was his deep love for India and her people. In reading him, you can discern this clearly, but how much more noticeable was it when you heard him talk! Memories and reflections then came thronging in crowds, and flowed from his lips as from a living fountain. He was full of admiration and respect for the work pursued by England in India, and fervently desired that no complication from without or from within might come to interfere with its peaceful and fruitful development. Of all his oriental publications, only two are unconnected with India: his "Letters on Egypt" (1856) which are the record of a journey, and his book on "Mahomet and the Koran" (1865) which is also probably an echo of it.

Barthelemy-Saint Hilaire was never married, and he has left no near relations. His vigorous old age knew neither infirmities nor suffering. On the very day before his death he was present at a sitting of the Academy.

A. BARTH.

#### LITERATURE OF BENGAL.

##### III.

##### TO THE EDITOR.

IN my last letter I made some remarks on the dates of birth and death of Chaitanya. In the present I shall deal with the birth-date, as usually given, of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. That date, in my humble opinion, is a fiction.

Students of Bengali literature are not unaware of the fact that there is a dispute about the exact date of birth of Raja Ram Mohan. Three conflicting opinions have been put forth in print. Some of our countrymen, headed by the Rev. Dr. K. S. Macdonald, are of opinion that Raja Ram Mohan Roy was born in 1780. Another class, headed by the late Kisori Chand Mittra, and at present by Mr. R. C. Dutt and Babu Nagendra Nath Chatterjee, the Bengalee biographer of the Rajah, hold the year 1774 as the correct date. Lastly, a third class, headed by the late Mr. C. H. A. Dall, hold the year 1772 as the real date. The correct view I shall give below, supporting it by such evidence as is still obtainable.

I must, at the outset, heartily thank Pandit Mahendra Nath Roy Vidyanidhi,---the biographer of Akshaya Kumar Dutta--- for directing my attention to the results of his investigation into the matter. His well-written article on Raja Ram Mohan Roy, published in the *Sravan* number of the Bengali monthly magazine, *Janmabumi*, will be my guide in the present letter. Pandit Mahendra Nath is a distant relative of the Rajah and his opinion is, no doubt, entitled to respect.

The first date, *viz.*, that put forward by the Rev. K. S. Macdonald, rests on no evidence that can be regarded satisfactory. It may, therefore, be rejected without hesitation. The second date, *viz.*, that put forward by Mr. R. C. Dutt and others, can be shown to be incorrect by proving the correctness of the last one which was accepted by Mr. C. H. A. Dall. The following letter, published in the *Indian Mirror* of the 18th January, 1880, on the subject, will be of great use in determining the question. It is, therefore, transcribed below:---

"There need be no doubt, whatever, as to the year and the month in which Ram Mohan Roy was born. His son Rama Prasad Roy, Vakil of the Sudder Court, made the matter perfectly clear to a circle of visitors and clients in 1858, at his residence, the well-known house of his father in Calcutta. Kisori

Chand Mittra was present as also Dr. Rajendralala Mitra and I was one of the listeners. I put his words on record at the time and here they are :---“ My father was born at Radhanagar near Krishnaghur, in the month of May, 1772, which, according to the Bengalee era, is the month of *Jaitba* 1179, I asked for the day, and Rama Prasad replied that he could not tell it without consulting the horoscope, which at that distance of time, it was not easy to find.” After this, it need not be surmised that Ram Mohan was born in 1774 or in 1780. We need not guess, since we have the highest authority for saying that he was born in May 1772. --Yours, &c., Dall.”

Learning that the life-story of Raja Ram Mohan Roy in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* was from the pen of Miss Collete, Pandit Mahendra Nath Roy Vidyavidhi addressed a letter to her on the subject, from which I extract the following lines :---“ As far as I remember, it exactly tallies with the date, 22nd May 1772, as given in your letter to me. I shall esteem it a great favour, if you kindly inform me definitely of the authority on which you rely.” The letter is dated 16th August, 1891. In reply Miss Collete wrote :---“ the date of the Raja's birth is the 22nd May, 1772. This fact came to me from Babu P. B. Mukerjee of Rajshahi College, who had it from Babu Rabindra Nath Tagore who had it from Babu Lalit Mohan Chatterjee, great-grand-son of the Raja,” &c.

Listen now to what Babu Lalit Mohan says :---“ I have heard from my grand-father, the late Babu Radha Prasad Roy, the first-born son of the celebrated Ram Mohan Roy, that his father died in the 62nd year of his life, date and month unknown.” Raja Ram Mohan died in the year 1833, in his 62nd year, according to the English calculation. Therefore, when he died, his age was 61 years and some months, because when we say that a particular gentleman is in his 30th year we mean that he has already passed his 29th birth-day and is 29 years old, omitting the months in excess. Deducting 61 from 1833, we get 1772 as the real birth-date of Raja Ram Mohan. Pandit Mahendra Nath made a mistake in his article in calculating the date from the data contained in the letter of Babu Lalit Mohan. He forgot the difference between the English and Bengali methods of computation. This reminds me of the question raised by the Commissioners of the Civil Service Examination in the case of Mr. Surendranath Banerjee. Mr. Banerjee's statement was accepted when the difference between the two methods of computation was explained.

From the above it will appear that the year 1772 is the correct birth-date of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. The year 1774 is an imaginary one, put forward by Mr. R. C. Dutt and others. It rests on no evidence. The day, 22nd May, may not be accurate, but the year 1772 is correct.

In page 137 of *Literature of Bengal* Mr. Dutt writes :---“ He (Raja Ram Mohan Roy) was born at Radhanagar in the District of Hooghly in 1774, the year in which Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General of India, and the Supreme Court was established.” I am at a loss to understand the significance of these allusions. Many other incidents occurred in that year in Indian or even in Bengal history. Does Mr. R. C. Dutt mean to point out particularly that Ram Mohan Roy was born in the year rendered memorable in Bengal by the appointment of Warren Hastings as the first Governor-General and the establishment of the Supreme Court? Warren Hastings trod all the ten commandments under foot in the game for empire, and the Supreme Court under Sir Elijah Impey soon distinguished itself as a tribunal whose justice was something worse than an invasion by Genghis Khan or Tamerlane. As already said, the significance of the allusions is not very intelligible. It is probably a mere stage “aside” introduced with the object of showing the writer's familiarity with Indian history. This sort of indulgence in “asides” is sometimes carried by Mr. Dutt to a ridiculous extent.

Was it not he who spoke of Runglal Banerjee as “a poet and Deputy Magistrate?”

Then, again, in page 138 of his book, Mr. Dutt says :---“ Ram Mohan's father was Ram Kanta Rai, a petty Zamindar, who had served under the Nawabs of Moorshidabad, and had witnessed their fall.” In page 12 of the biography of Raja Ram Mohan Roy by Babu Nagendra Nath Chatterjee, appears a passage of which the following is a literal translation :---“ Brojodenode (the grand-father of Raja Ram Mohan) held a respectable post under Serajuddowlah, the Nawab of Moorshidabad, but on account of some ill-treatment which he received at his hands, he resigned his post and passed his days at home.” In page 1 of the Biographical sketch, written by the Rev. Dr. Carpenter, appears the following :---“ His (Ram Mohan's) grand-father resided at Moorshidabad and filled some important office under the Moguls, but being ill-treated by them towards the end of his life, the son (Ram Kant Roy) took up his abode in the District of Burdwan where he had property.” The passage quoted is quite unintelligible. The grand-father was ill-treated by his master. No mention is made of what he did in consequence of that treatment. But, instead, we are told of what the son did owing to the harshness of which the father was the object. The truth is, the life of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, written by these authors, is a *debris* of facts. Imagination has filled up many details. It is a pity that these narratives still pass for a life of one of our best men, who was the leader of a mighty movement for religious and social reform. In future, I shall show in detail how the landed property of the ancestors of Ram Mohan Roy came into their possession and how they came to settle in Radhanagar.

S. C. SANYAL.

#### THE DHULIA RIOTS.

The following Resolution has been issued by the Bombay Government :--

Bombay Castle, 12th November, 1895.

From the reports received by Government it appears that the District Magistrate had ordered that, during the Ganapati festival, only two instruments of soft music should be played by Hindoos when passing mosques in procession in the town of Dhulia, as it was ascertained by him that such an order would be in accordance with the local custom. Several Hindoo processions had passed mosques during the festival without serious trouble, but on Sunday, the 1st September, when a Ganapati procession approached a mosque, which had, as a measure of precaution, been surrounded by a small force of armed Police under the command of a Police Inspector, a crowd of Mahomedans, who had been concealed within, lined the walls of the mosque compound, and assaulted the Police with stones and flourished their sticks with shouts of “Din! Din!” One of these men managed to leave the mosque compound by the east door, where the District Magistrate was standing at the time, and struck at the Mamladar, who was also there, but was promptly arrested. The District Magistrate then arrested two more men in the doorway and entered the compound, when he was attacked with sticks, but was not actually struck, as he was sheltered by the archway over the door. The Police outside the compound, at the north end, then fired on the Mahomedan crowd, killing four on the spot and wounding a number more. About the same time the District Magistrate, not knowing what the Police at the north end were doing, called to those who had been with him at the east door to enter the compound, and they thereupon also opened fire. All opposition was at once in consequence put down, and the District Magistrate came out of the compound and ordered the Police to stop firing.

2. The first point for consideration has reference to the District Magistrate's order as to the playing of music. He says it was according to what he believed, after due enquiry, to be the custom. Government see no reason to doubt the correctness of the District Magistrate's decision as to custom, for that decision was based on careful local enquiry. The District Magistrate was right in assuming that, to insist on the observance of custom, as ascertained by an enquiry, is in accordance with the orders of Government.

3. The next point is whether the Police were justified in firing on the mob. It is difficult to be absolutely certain as to the actual circumstances, but it appears that the compound was crowded and the walls were lined with Mahomedans armed with sticks, as evinced by the eighty-three sticks collected there afterwards, and shouting “Din! Din!” and pelting the Police with stones of which two sack loads were picked up. The uproar

must have been great. The Mamlatdar had been assaulted and the District Magistrate was inside the compound with the riotous Mahomedans and in considerable danger of being mobbed. Indeed, it may well have appeared to the Police that he was in danger of his life. At the north end of the mosque compound were posted some armed Police, and from where they were they could apparently see the assault on the Police, and on the Mamlatdar near the east door, and on the District Magistrate after he had entered the compound. One of them—but who it was it is now impossible to ascertain—opened fire and the rest followed. The Police at the east of the compound, hearing the District Magistrate call to them, and hearing the others firing, fired also. There appears to be no doubt that the Police fired to protect the District Magistrate and themselves, and to prevent the mob of Mahomedans swarming out of the mosque and overpowering them, and Government concur with the District Magistrate and the Commissioner, C. D., that no blame can be attached, in the circumstances, either to the man who fired the first shot or to the other men of the Bhil Corps, whose action appears to his Excellency the Governor in Council to have been warranted by law. The consequence of the firing was the immediate suppression of a disturbance, which, unless checked at the outset, might have had still more terrible and generally disastrous results.

4. The reports before Government show that on the 5th July the Mahomedans in or connected with this very mosque objected to a Hindoo procession passing with any music at all, and that trouble was prevented by the District Magistrate chaining the door of the mosque on the outside; that on the 20th August there had been a dispute about the music question before another mosque; that on the 21st August the Hindoos held an indignation meeting; and that on the 26th August the Mahomedans also held a meeting, at which they are alleged to have threatened a disturbance if music was not stopped before mosques. Therefore, though the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police did not apprehend an attack on the Hindoo procession, there were present at the mosque, on the afternoon of the 1st September, thirty-three armed Police, some sowars, the Chief Constable, the Police Inspector, the Mamlatdar, the Deputy Collector, and the District Magistrate himself. These precautions, as the event showed, were sufficient to enable the disturbance to be checked at the outset, but his Excellency the Governor in Council considers that, knowing the tension of feeling between the Hindoos and Mahomedans, the District Magistrate would have shown wiser judgement had he insisted on the presence of another European officer, *viz.* the Superintendent of Police; while as regards the movements of this officer, the time selected to absent himself for the inspection of an outlying post was certainly ill-chosen. His Excellency the Governor in Council, however, cordially acknowledges the firmness and cool courage of Mr. Cumine in dealing with the riot, and his untiring and successful exertions for the preservation of the peace after it.

5. The loss of life was deplorable, but it appears that only those who had assembled with the obvious intention of interfering with the liberty of others and of defying order were killed and wounded.

6. Copies of this Resolution should be forwarded to the Secretary of State and the Government of India.

B. W. VIDAL,  
Acting Chief Secretary to the Government,

## THE CONVOCATION OF THE ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (MR. CONLAN'S) ADDRESS.

\* \* \*

And now I have a few words for those who have received their diplomas to-day; and to them I say, if you or any of you labour under the impression that this closing scene of your academical career also marks the completion of your education, you make a very serious mistake which, if preserved in, will soon obliterate your present record. Let me assure you that the course you have just completed will be of value to you only if it teaches you that you have but just begun to tread the path of knowledge, that the road which lies before you is long and intricate, and that it must be pursued with inflaming devotion if you are to take your stand eventually in the ranks of educated men. No doubt the diplomas which I have handed you to-day bear testimony to the possession by you of qualities which lead to the goal I have just indicated and encourage the hope that you will not abandon the culture of your minds because you have obtained the degrees which you have striven to gain; but the temptations to relaxation—temptations to which only too many before you have succumbed—are not to be despised, and I make no apology for warning you earnestly against them. If you are to profit by what you have already acquired, you must go on steadily adding to your stock of knowledge, for the moment you call a halt, deterioration will set in and you will move backwards instead of forward until you lose

every step of the advance you have now made. As an incentive to exertion let me tell you that it is being said, I am afraid deservedly, in high places and elsewhere that the students of our Colleges and the graduates of our University, when tested in the various employments which fall to them by reason of their academical success, fail to exhibit that knowledge of the English language which is justly expected from men who have enjoyed their advantages. It is asserted that both in speech and writing many of our students and graduates betray a lamentable ignorance of the language in which for the most part, they have acquired the knowledge which is their boast: and comparisons are instituted which tend to cover our whole system of education with contempt. Now this is a state of things which ought not to continue, and it rests with you and men like you to wipe out the reproach. But to do so you must make up your minds to work for the sake of working, for the sake of convincing men who can judge that the education you have received is not a sham, and that its best effect has been to implant in you an honest desire to increase by continuous efforts the comparatively small amount of knowledge which you have brought away with you from your respective Colleges.

And not only must you go on adding to your knowledge, but you must be careful to preserve and increase that submission to discipline which you have been taught in the institutions to which you once belonged. The youthful mind, released from the control which was necessary in the class-room and the boarding-house, is apt to believe, and to act upon the belief that all discipline may be safely put aside with the note-book and the text-book, and to give itself up to the enjoyment of a so-called emancipated existence. It seems an accepted truth to many whom our Colleges and Schools have sent out into the world that, once the necessity for scholastic discipline ceases, those who were subject to it may and, indeed, ought to indulge, if they are to prove their enlightened manhood, in intellectual license of every description; in tilting without reflection and principles at institutions which appear obnoxious and in demanding reforms which commend themselves to their unformed judgment. This course of procedure, evidenced by writings and speeches, violent in character and thoughtless in composition, results entirely from the absence of moral discipline. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon you that intellectual without moral training in the youths of a community only half prepares them for a life of true usefulness, and is a fruitful source of danger to the community itself; for whilst the former may be aptly compared to the motive power in a ship which urges it along in the direction of its port, moral training is represented by the ballast in that ship which keeps it steady in its course. It is well to be equipped with learning for the voyage that is now before you, and it is well that you should increase that stock of learning whilst the voyage is in progress, but it is better still that you should cultivate your moral nature so that you may be able to apply your knowledge to the best advantage of yourselves and the community to which you belong. And this task, nobler in its character and more beneficent in its effects than any committee to human beings, is a task which you must undertake and perform for yourselves. In the acquisition of such learning as you possess, you have had the help of accomplished professors and masters, and from them also you have learnt the rudiments of moral discipline; but to make that discipline perfect, to make it the rule of your lives, you must trust to your own efforts alone. You have read the lives, you have witnessed the career of men whom the world respects and honours, and I will venture to say you have found none such who lacked the moral attributes which go to constitute a sound mind and an exalted character. It is to these men you must look for an example, it is from them you must learn how to cultivate your judgment. If you do this, you may be confident of attaining to what is the aim and end of the education that has been imparted to you, for you will then possess not only the knowledge which enables men to take part with credit in the affairs of life, but the trained moral faculty which qualifies them to guide those affairs with prudence and success.

## ARMENIAN AND MUHAMMADAN WOMEN.

An Armenian lady, Dr. Margarit Melik Belgarian, recently delivered a lecture in Vienna which, says the *Literary Digest*, will be read with interest by all students of the woman question. She described the condition of the Armenian and Muhammadan women in Anatolia. The lady, who is a descendant of an ancient princely family of Armenia, has studied in Berne, Zurich, and Salzburg, and made a short stay in Vienna upon her return to her own country. Speaking of the condition of Armenian women, she said:—

Everything you see in an Armenian house has been made by the woman. The cotton from which the Armenian woman makes clothes is given to her in the raw. To obtain silk, she must raise silk-worms. The colours used in dyeing she prepares from plants in forest and field, and thus the brightly-coloured garments and

the handsome rugs and hangings for which Armenia is noted are produced. The men have nothing to do with all this. On the other hand, the Armenian women are absolutely free from all work requiring great physical exertions. The men cut wood and carry loads. The men, too knead the bread. Even in the poorest families the girls are regularly spoiled. The parents may be starving; but they take care of the daughters "A girl," they will say "is like a rosebud, and cannot develop into full bloom without much care." To an Armenian woman the brother is a veritable knight and guardian angel. The Armenian girl receives no dowry; indeed, the bridegroom must contribute to the wedding expenses, and furnish the bridal dress. In her home the Armenian wife and mother rules supreme; even the grown one will do nothing without her consent.

Turning to the condition of Mohammadan women especially among the Kurds, Dr. Belgarian said:—

The Muhammadan woman is no member of women's strights club, but she is as emancipated as any. She is above all, very brave, and knows how to handle arms and horses. It is a real pleasure to see her ride a wild horse and generally she has a child tied to her back. The country is very hilly, and she races down inclines where many men would lose their equilibrium—especially those who are not Prohibitionists. Such a woman is not only a man's right hand, but his right and left both. What could he do without her? She cooks, spins, rides, keeps house, does everything. If she is attacked by robbers. She fights courageously. But woe to her husband if he stays away from home a long time and returns without booty. Any piece of wood is handy to give him a reminder, for the Muhammadan woman respects no man that is not brave. When a young man proposes, the girl asks. How many caravans have you robbed? or "How many horses and weapons did you bring home?" We often hear that a Muhammadan girl has been carried off, but that is not so awful as you think. They have been carried off by their lovers, generally with the parents' consent, if the bridegroom is poor, for a wedding is very costly.

#### HORSES OF THE SAHARA.

The three most esteemed races in the Western Sahara are those of Haymour, Bou Gharch, and Merizigui; the first being generally bays, the second whites, and the third grays. The favourite colours are white—"take the horse white as a silken flag, without spot, with the circles of his eyes black"—black—"he must be black as a night without moon and stars"—bay—"the dark red one said to the dispute, stop there"—chestnut—"desire a dark shade; when he flees beneath the sun it is the wind. The Prophet was partial to chestnuts" (which may account for some of the fine old crusted humour of the Koran). Grays also are much in demand—"the gray of the wild pigeon", lighter in colour on the head than on the body; the piebald no self-respecting Arab will have—"flee him like the pestilence, for he is own brother to the cow." The horses that fetch the best prices are those with no white beyond a star on the forehead, or a narrow blaze down the face, or a snip on the muzzle. If he has several white spots three is the fashionable number; if he has white stockings he must have them on the off forefoot and the near hindfoot; one foot at least must be stockinged. "Never buy a horse with a white face and four stockings, for he carries his winding sheet with him." In earlier times the estimate as to colour was rather different. The Prophet, for instance, said, "If thou would'st go to the war, purchase a horse with a star on the forehead and stockings on all his legs with the exception of the right forefoot;" and if the white were no overdone he must have looked remarkably well on his chestnut mount. According to Abd-el-Kader, "the fleetest of horses is the chestnut; the most enduring the bay; the most spirited the black; the most blessed, one with a white forehead."

The ordinary Arab of the Sahara prefers a mare because of the profit to be made out of her produce, because also she does not neigh in time of war and is less sensitive hunger, thirst, and heat, and also because she can feed on any thing; she will graze on the same herbage as the sheep and camels, and requires no one to watch her. The foal is weaned in the sixth or seventh month, and is then taken possession of by the women. Much of the docility of these horses of the Desert is owing to this. On the journey and the campaign it is the rider who sees to his horse, but under canvas and in the times of peace it is the wife who superintends and feeds her husband's mount. She brings him his foot in the morning and tends him and washes his mane and tail; she gentles

him and gives him the bread dates and other dainties, going out herself to gather for him the herbs with tonic and nutritive properties needful for his well being. Curiously enough, she often gives the horse couscous, or even meat cooked and dried in the sun. Many of them give the horse camels milk to drink, and some never give green food to the war horses. In summer the horse is not watered until three in the afternoon; in winter he is watered earlier, say from noon to one—in accordance with the proverb, "in the hot season put back the hour of the watering place and put forward that of the nosebag; in the cold season put forward the hour of the watering place and put back that of the nosebag." Twice a year, in August and September, and in December and January, the horses are watered only every other day.

The colt is not bridled until he is two years old. At first the bit is covered with undressed wool so as not to hurt him, and "to allure him to docility by the saltish flavour of which he is so fond." Saddling follows, and when he is about two and a-half years old he is mounted, after a preliminary experience of carrying a pack saddle with two baskets of sand gradually added to until they are of the same weight as his intended rider. He is always shod on his two forefeet, and in stony districts on all four, the shoes being kept ready made and always put on cold. They are of light, soft, pliant metal, those on the forefeet having only three nails on each side, the toes being never fastened and the feet being neither pared nor shortened. One foot is never left shod and the other bare, for if a forshoe is cast the rider takes off both hind shoes and puts one on the forefoot, and if only the forefeet are shod, the remaining shoe is at once taken off. The shoes are joined at the heel and follow the curvature of the frog.—*Leisure Hour.*

#### WHY NOT LIVE A CENTURY?

"IN the coming time," said a famous English poet, "a man or woman eighty or one hundred years old will be more beautiful than the youth or maiden of twenty, as the ripe fruit is more beautiful and fragrant than the green. These ripe men and women will have no wrinkles on the brow, no grey hair, no bent and feeble bodies. On the contrary they will have perfect hearing, clear eyesight, sound teeth, elastic step, and mental vigour."

Does this sound absurd and impossible? Why should it? People over one hundred years old are frequently met with in these days, as they have been as far from records go back. A man is of no real value until he is past fifty and gained control of his passions and acquired some practical wisdom. After that he ought to have from fifty to seventy-five working years before him. Who dies short of one hundred (bar violence) dies of his own folly or that of his ancestors. One chief thing, however, we must learn. What is it? Take an illustration—such as we see multitudes of on every side.

Mr. Richard Leggate of New Bolingbroke, near Boston, Lincolnshire, is a man now somewhat over seventy. He is a farmer, well known and highly respected in his district. In the spring of 1891 he had an attack of influenza from which he never fully recuperated. The severe symptoms passed away, of course, but he remained weak. No doubt food would have built him up, provided he could have eaten and digested it. Yet here was the trouble, his appetite was poor, and what little he took, as a matter of necessity rather than of relish, seemed to act wrong with him. Instead of giving him strength it actually produced pain and distress in the sides, chest, and stomach.

Then again—which is a common experience—he would feel a craving for something to eat; yet on sitting down to a meal, in the hope to enjoy it, the stomach would suddenly rebel against the proceeding, and he would turn from the table without having swallowed a mouthful.

Nothing could come of this but increasing weakness and it wasn't long before it was all he could do to summon strength to walk about. As for working on his farm, that to be sure, was not to be thought of. He had a doctor attending him, as we should expect. If the services of a learned medical man are ever needed they must be in such a case—when nature seems to be all broken up, and the machinery runs slow, as our family clocks do when we have forgotten to wind them at the usual hour.

Well, Mr. Leggate took the prescribed medicines, but got no better. He asked the doctor why that was and he appeared to be puzzled for an answer at first. Naturally enough a doctor doesn't like to admit that his medicines are doing no good, because he expects to be paid for them; and then there is his professional pride, besides.

However, he finally said, "If my medicines fail to make you better it is owing to your age." That idea was plain as a pikestaff, and if the patient had never got any better afterwards, why who could dispute what the doctor said? Nobody, of course. It would look just as though Mr. Leggate were really going to pieces from old age. But something subsequently happened which spoils that easy theory of the case. What it was he tells us in a letter dated February 3rd, 1893.

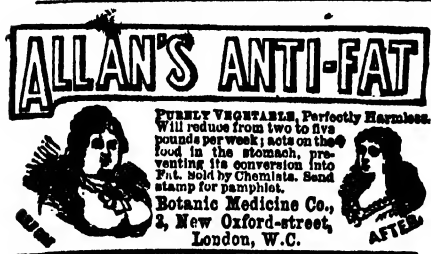
"After doctoring several months without receiving any benefit, I determined to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I got a bottle from Mr. G. H. Hanson, Chemist, New Bolingbroke. After taking the Syrup for a week I was much better. I had a good appetite, and what I ate digested and strengthened me; and by the time I had taken two bottles I was well and strong as ever. You may publish this statement if you think proper. (Signed) Richard Leggate."

So it proved, after all, that Mr. Leggate was not suffering from old age (at seventy? Nonsense!), but from indigestion and dyspepsia. When Mother Seigel's great discovery routed that, he felt "well and strong as ever."

Now for the moral: It is not Father Time who mows people down thus early in life; it is the Demon of Dyspepsia. Keep him away and—barring accidents—you may live a century.

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## AN INDIAN JOURNALIST: Life, Letters and Correspondence

OF

**Dr. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE,**

late Editor of "Reis and Rayyet."

BY

**F. H. SKRINE, I.C.S.,**

(Collector of Customs, Calcutta.)

The Volume, uniform with Mookerjee's *Travels and Voyages in Bengal*, consists of more than 500 pages and contains

PORTRAIT OF THE DOCTOR.

DEDICATION (To Sir W. W. Hunter.)

HIS LIFE STORY.

CORRESPONDENCE OF DR. S. C. MOOKERJEE.

## LETTERS

to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J.C.,  
 to Atkinson the late Mr. E.F.T., C.S.,  
 to Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
 from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
 to Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
 from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
 from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
 to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
 to Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
 to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
 from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
 from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
 to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
 from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.  
 to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.  
 to Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.  
 to Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
 to Graham, Mr. W.  
 from Griffin, Sir Lepel.  
 from Guha, Babu Saroda Kant.  
 to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
 from Hume, Mr. Allan O.  
 from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
 to Jenkins, Mr. Edward.  
 to Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.  
 to Knight, Mr. Paul.  
 from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
 from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.  
 to Law, Kumar Kristodas.  
 to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
 to Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
 to Mallik, Mr. H. C.  
 to Marston, Miss Ann.  
 from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
 to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.  
 to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakhmaranjan.  
 from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
 from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
 to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
 from Nayaratra, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.  
 from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.  
 to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.  
 to Rao, the late Su T. Madhava.  
 to Rattigan, Sir William H.  
 from Rosebery, Earl of.  
 to, from Routledge, Mr. James.  
 from Russell, Sir W. H.  
 to Row, Mr. G. Syanala.  
 to Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.  
 to Sinha, Babu Brahmananda.  
 from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.  
 from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.  
 from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
 to Underwood, Captain T. O.  
 to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
 to Vencataramaniam, Mr. G.  
 to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
 to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
 to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS(& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLANCE, from  
 Abdus Subhan, Moulvi A. K. M.  
 Ameer Hossein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.  
 Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
 Banerjee, Babu Manmathanath.  
 Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Shib Chunder.  
 Barth, M. A.  
 Belchambers, Mr. R.  
 Deb, Babu Manabar.  
 Dutt, Mr. O. C.  
 Dutt, Babu Prosadoss.  
 Elgin, Lord.  
 Ghose, Babu Narendra K.

Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
 Graham, Mr. William.  
 Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
 Haridas Viharidas Desai, the late Dewan.  
 Iyer, Mr. A. Krishnaswami.  
 Lambert, Sir John.  
 Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
 Mitra, Mr. B. C.  
 Mitter, Babu Sidheshur.  
 Mookerjee, Raja Peary Mohan.  
 Mookerjee, Babu Surendra Nath.  
 Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
 Routledge, Mr. James.  
 Roy, Babu E. C.  
 Roy, Babu Sarat Chunder.  
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 Vizianagram, the Maharaja of.

## POSTSCRIPT.

After paying the expenses of the publication, the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal of the family of the deceased man of letters.

Orders to be made to the Business Manager, "An Indian Journalist," at the Bee Press, 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his life and letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism; it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—The *Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—The *Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man. Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—The *Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—The *Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 717.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### A FATHER'S ADVICE TO HIS SON, ON LEAVING HIS HOME FOR CALIFORNIA.

Farewell, my son, the hour has come,  
The solemn hour when we must part ;  
The hour that bears thee from thy home,  
With sorrow fills thy father's heart.

Farewell, my son, thou leav'st behind  
Thy mother, sisters, brothers dear,  
And goest the far-off land to find,  
Without one friend thy way to cheer.

Alone thou leav'st thy vine-clad cot,  
Thy childhood's lawn, thy natal bowers ;  
Sweet scenes, that ne'er can be forgot,  
Where life has passed its sunniest hours.

When far away in distant lands,  
Mid California's golden streams,  
Where brightly shine those yellow sands,  
Oft will *Sweet Home* come o'er thy dreams.

Thy father's counsels, prayers, and love,  
Pursue thee through thy dangerous way  
And at the mercy-seat above,  
Implore his son may never stray

From that straight path where virtue guides  
To purest, noblest joys on high,  
Where God in holiness resides,  
And springs perennial never dry.

Remember his omniscient eye  
Beholds each devious step you take—  
That you can ne'er his presence fly,  
At home, abroad, asleep, awake.

On California's sea-beat shore,  
Where the Pacific rolls his tide,  
Where waves on waves eternal roar,  
You cannot from his notice hide.

He holds you *there* upon his arm,  
Encircled with his boundless might,  
Preserves you safe from every harm,  
'Mid brightest day and darkest night.

Let this great truth be deep impressed  
Upon the tablets of thy heart—  
Be cherished there within thy breast,  
And from thy memory ne'er depart.

If strong temptations round you rise,  
Where sin's deceitful smiles betray,  
This *thought* will prompt you to despise  
The course that leads the downward way.

When fascination spreads her charms,  
But to allure, beguile, destroy,  
Think, then, a father's faithful arms,  
Are thrown around his wandering boy,

To keep him from the fatal snare  
Spread to entrap his youthful feet,  
And lead his heedless footsteps where  
Pale ruin holds its gloomy seat.

What pangs must rend thy father's soul,  
To find his counsels all are crossed,  
Are set at nought, without control,  
And his beloved son is lost !

Oh ! think what mourning, anguish, grief,  
Would bathe thy kindred all in tears,  
That one dear youth, in life so brief,  
Should cloud in night their future years.

Should those bright hopes that gild thy sky  
And cast their splendours on the west,  
Fade on thy sight, grow dim and die,  
And heart sink down with gloom oppressed—

Should sickness chain thee to thy bed,  
In California's distant land,  
No brothers there to hold thy head,  
Nor sister take thy trembling hand—

Just then, my son, that guardian Power,  
Whose eye beholds the sparrow's fall,  
He'll watch thee in that lonely hour,  
Whose gracious care is o'er us all.

Then, if beneath the evening star,  
Beside the great Pacific's wave,  
Thou find'st an early tomb afar,  
His grace will there thy spirit save.

Or if, upon thy safe return,  
Thou find'st no more thy father here,  
Pay one sad visit to his urn,  
Drop on his dust one filial tear.

May God's rich blessings on thy head  
Descend in showers of heavenly grace,  
And keep you safe where'er you tread,  
As we here end this fond embrace.

So live, my son, while here you stand  
On time's bleak, ever-changing shore,  
That we may reach that better land  
Where sons and fathers part no more.

J. D. G.

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## WEEKLYANA.

ON Thursday, March 19, Sir James Westland presented his Financial Statement for the year 1896-97. We give the official summary:—

"The Statement begins by announcing the restoration of the Famine Insurance Grant with effect from date of its suspension. The amount however will for the present be taken at Rs. 1,000,000 instead of Rs. 1,500,000, this amount being considered on a review of fifteen years' transactions to make sufficient provision for present needs.

The accounts of 1894-95 closed Rs. 259,000 better than the Revised Estimate of the year, but as the restoration of the Famine Grant involves an additional charge of Rs. 557,000 the result on the whole is a surplus of Rs. 693,000 against Rs. 991,000 estimated last March.

The result in the Revised Estimates for 1895-96 is that after paying the charges of the Chitral Expedition, Rs. 1,750,000 besides £16,000 in England, and restoring the Famine Grant to the extent mentioned, and repaying the Provincial contributions, aggregating Rs. 405,000 levied in 1894-95, there is a surplus of Rs. 951,000. Of this great improvement in the financial position, Rs. 1,436,000 is ascribed to smaller charges for exchange, as 1368*d.* have been realized against 1309*d.* originally estimated, and English Expenditure was £249,000 less than estimate; Rs. 197,000 arises from better opium revenue, and Rs. 676,000 from short payments under the same head, the crop having again been short. There are improvements of Rs. 243,000 under other Principal Revenue heads, and Rs. 462,000 savings under ordinary Army Expenditure, prices during the year having been favourable.

The Government base their Budget Estimates for 1896-97 on a 133*d.* rate of exchange, being desirous of avoiding all speculation as to the maintenance of the better rates established during the last two months.

At this rate the estimates show a surplus of Rs. 463,000. Compared with last year's estimates, there is a falling-off in Land Revenue of Rs. 276,000 due to unfavourable agricultural prospects, and in Customs of Rs. 333,000 due to reduction in scale of Cotton Duties. Railways also will produce slightly less net earnings; but other Revenue heads show considerable improvements, and the Expenditure shows little increase. A special grant of Rs. 495,000 is made for Army Mobilization, chiefly purchase of animals and material for transport, and a thousand reserve artillery horses.

A large programme of Railway Capital Expenditure is laid down, namely, Rs. 7,270,000 on State Lines, including East Indian and Assam-Bengal Railways, besides Rs. 1,150,000 advances to Bengal-Nagpur and Indian Midland Railways for their extensions. These figures do not include other Companies' construction.

It is announced, with the usual reserve, that the Secretary of State proposes to draw for £16,500,000 and that a Rupee Loan of four crores will be raised in India."

The same day that the Finance Minister made his statement, the *Times* was enabled to speak on it. Reuter reports under date London, March 19, that the *Times* commenting on the Indian Budget, says that there is much to be proud of in the management of the Indian finances, and adds that when India has just struggled back into financial safety, it would be inexcusable to plunge her again into a deficit to gratify Lancashire.

The omniscience of "the giant of the press, whose might can make or unmake a reputation," is marvellous. The *Englishman* could only issue in the evening a supplement containing the Statement made in the forenoon. But the far distant *Times* reviewed it the same day.

It had, however, transpired here that there would be an Indian loan and no fresh taxation.

LORD Elgin starts on his spring tour on Friday, the 27th of March, at 6-3 P.M., Calcutta time, arriving at Simla on Thursday, the 9th of April, at 4 P.M. visiting en route Allahabad (March 28 and 29.) Bareilly (April 1 and 2), Hurdwar (April 2), Saharanpur (April 3 and 4 and 8), and Dehra Dun (April 4 to 8). The departure from Calcutta, the arrival at Simla and the visits to the intermediate places will be all private. At the railway stations where halts of one hour and upwards will be made, one Civil Officer and (if a military station) one Military Officer are required to meet the Viceroy, and to report themselves to the Military Secretary. Viceregal salutes will be fired at all terminal stations (that is, where the Viceroy enters or leaves the special train) where artillery is quartered, both on arrival and departure. An officer's guard of British troops, whenever available, will be mounted on the house or tent where the Viceroy takes up his quarters. If British troops are not available, the guard will be furnished by Native troops under the command of a British officer. The party accompanying the Viceroy on tour will consist of the Countess of Elgin, Lady Elizabeth Bruce, H. Babington Smith, Esq., Private Secretary, Colonel A. G. A. Durand, C.B., Military Secretary, Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel B. Franklin, Surgeon to the Viceroy, Captain S. H. Pollen, Aid-de-Camp, Captain E. Fitz Clarence, Aid-de-Camp, and F. W. Latimer, Esq., Assistant Private Secretary.

DR. Chantemesse, of the Pasteur Institute, has, it is said, discovered

an anti-typhoid serum, after the first injection of which, in three instances, the disease passed at once through the ordinary stages and the patients entered into a state of convalescence.

IT is reported from Prague that Professor Maydl, of the Czech University, opened the abdominal cavity of a young man, aged nineteen, a scholar at the Technical College in Brünn, suffering since his childhood from a growth extending from the backbone downwards, and found between the spine and intestines the undeveloped form of a child, without a head, but with discernible extremities covered with fat and grown over with hair. The suggestion of the professor is that the lump is a twin child, which grew into the lower part of the body of the child that was actually born. The lad has since died.

WHEN the interior of the human system is not impervious to photographic rays of light, it is small matter that your letter can be read unopened. The Paris correspondent of the *Standard* says that two journalists, M. Henry Jerzuel and M. Henry Lapauze, of the *Gaulois*, have clearly and legibly photographed a letter of the well-known journalist, Alexandre Hepp, through its envelope.

IN Madras, at the Egmore Presidency Magistrate's Court, a man was fined two rupees for having exhibited to public view an obscene figure, which was put up to keep off "the evil eye" from his building under construction. On this the *Madras Mail* remarks—"old native superstitions die hard, even in the Presidency towns." But what is the origin of the superstition? Will fines kill it? It bespeaks a national character which is not confined to our brethren of the South. With all our advancement under British rule, with our so-called patriotism, there is still the necessity to divert the neighbourly "evil eye."

SIR Arthur Elibank Havelock, K.C.M.G., the new Governor of Madras has been created a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire. Lord Wenlock, whom Sir Arthur has succeeded, also started with that dignity. Lord Connemara was, however, not made a G.C.I.E., till he had held office for six months. Sir M. E. Grant Duff when he began belonged to neither of the two Orders. Only towards the close of his career in India, he was admitted to the Exalted Star as a Grand Commander.

MR. W. H. Grimley has been Gazetted a Member of the Board of Revenue, L. P., from the 31st March, when the Hon'ble Mr. D. R. Lyall, C.S.I., retires from the British service or sinks into that of the Kuch Behar State, Mr. C. R. Marindin, Magistrate and Collector, Shahabad, acting for Mr. Grimley as Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division.

BY the middle of next month, there will be a temporary vacancy in the Commissionership of the Bhagalpur Division, when Mr. G. Tynbee takes 2 months' leave. The Commissioner Mr. W. B. Oldham, C.I.E., from Chittagong, comes to Bhagalpur, and Mr. F. H. B. Skrine goes to Chittagong as Commissioner, his place in the Calcutta Custom Office being taken by Mr. E. N. Baker on furlough.

THE Municipal Commissioners having accepted Mr. H. C. Williams on his own terms, he has been Gazetted Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation from the date on which he joins the appointment, probably from the 14th April when Mr. J. G. Ritchie goes on furlough for 19 months, having resigned his present post and reverted to his regular service as a Magistrate and Collector of the second grade.

Before his departure Mr. Ritchie will entertain the Commissioners who will return the compliment.

MR. C. W. Bolton has replaced Mr. J. A. Bourdillon both in the Bengal Secretariat and the Bengal Legislative Council.

MR. P. O'Kinealy having obtained extraordinary leave for one year, Mr. A. M. Donne officiates as Standing Counsel for the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal.

NAWAB Ahsaunillah Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., has given fresh proof of his liberality and public spirit by payment of Rs. 15,000, to the Joint Committee of the District Board and Municipality of Dacca, for the improvement of the Buriganga and other rivers of the district.



CHOLERA having abated on the river route from Goalundo, the notification suspending the emigration of all natives of India from the districts of Bengal to the labour districts of Assam, has been withdrawn.

MR. Herbert Roberts, M.P. gave notice, for February 24, of the following question in the House of Commons:—

"To ask the Secretary of State for India, if his attention has been called to the charges brought by the political agent at Jhallawar against the Maharaj Rana of that State, accompanied with a recommendation to the Viceroy for his deposition; if so, what action has been taken by the Government of India with regard to these charges:

Will His Highness have every opportunity afforded to him to defend himself publicly from these charges before any definite action is taken with regard to the recommendation for his deposition:

And, will the Secretary of State lay upon the table of the House any papers and correspondence relating to this difficulty in Jhallawar."

In reply Lord G. Hamilton said:

"My answer to the first part of the first question is in the affirmative, and to the second part that the reports of the political agent as to the oppression existing have been examined on the spot by the newly-appointed agent to the Governor-General, whose report is under the consideration of Lord Elgin. The Maharaja will be allowed every opportunity of submitting his reply to these charges. As soon as I have received the final decision of the Viceroy I will consider if papers relating to this subject can be laid upon the table of the House."

Mr. Roberts has also given notice of the following motion:—

"India (political resident at Jhallawar).—To call attention to the recent differences between the political resident at Jhallawar and the Maharaj Rana of that State; and to move, That, in the opinion of this House, the arrangements under which political residents are selected and appointed are unsatisfactory and require careful reconstruction."

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IN the House of Lords, Lord Stanley of Alderley had the following question on the paper:

"To ask the Under Secretary of State for India what steps have been taken to bring the practice of the Appeal Court of Bengal into harmony with the law and the practice of the Appeal Court of the Madras Presidency, by directing the Appeal Court of Bengal to communicate to a lower court the fact of its having reversed a sentence of the lower court, so as to prevent the abuse now existing in cases of persons who have been subject to a criminal charge, and fined by a lower court, and who have obtained a reversal of such sentence from the Appeal Court, of being subjected to some months' delay, and to the payment of additional stamps, in order to recover the amount of fines wrongfully paid by them. He said that he had reason to believe that the ground of the complaint to which the question referred had now been removed. He desired to tender his thanks to the present Secretary of State for India and his predecessor for the steps which they had taken in the matter.

The Earl of Onslow: I am not aware what authority the noble lord has for the suggestion that the practice of the High Court of Bengal is not in harmony with the law. I believe it to be a universal rule throughout India that all orders passed in appeal shall be forthwith certified to the court below. When, therefore, the refund of a fine has been ordered, there ought to be no difficulty in obtaining repayment from the Treasury. Instructions were sent to India some time ago to make enquiries as to the practice obtaining in the various provinces, and to pass such orders as might be found necessary to secure prompt relief in such cases. The Government of India issued a circular on the subject in June last, and the Secretary of State expects to receive their final report shortly."

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

ON March 13, the Emperor Francis Joseph paid a visit to Her Majesty the Queen at Cimiez. The Vienna papers regard the interview as important, reflecting the old Anglo-Austrian friendship and community of interests in the East. The Queen has appointed the Emperor of Austria to a Colonelcy in the King's Dragoon Guards.

IN the House of Commons, on March 13, the Hon. W. St. John Brodrick, Under-Secretary for War, brought forward the Army Estimates, and said that England's readiness for war had recently greatly improved, and that plans were prepared for every emergency to rapidly mobilize the fleet and for the army to co-operate.

THE Dongola expedition has been decided upon. Brigadier General Khitchener commands it which will be composed of five black battalions and seven Egyptian battalions of Artillery and Cavalry, comprising 8,000 men of all arms.

The *Times* says that the advance on Dongola is the first step towards the reconquest of the Upper Nile, at least up to Khartoum, from barbarism. The French press regards the expedition as a pretext for deferring the British evacuation of Egypt. A communique to the French press states that M. Berthelot, Foreign Minister, has pointed out to Lord Dufferin the serious consequences thereof. An active exchange of views is going on between Paris and St. Petersburg.

The Egyptian Cabinet have asked the Egyptian Debt Commission for a credit of two and a half million francs towards the cost of the expedition. All the Powers, except France and Russia, have assented. France contends that the assent of all the Powers is necessary. Great Britain holds differently. It is also semi-officially stated that the Congo State has formed a camp on the Nile and made a proposal to France for defensive co-operation against the Dervishes. The *Times* states that the occupation of Abu Hamed must follow the occupation of Dongola. It hopes that the advance on Akasleh is but the first step of a forward policy in Egypt, of which the Soudan is the key. Great Britain, it adds, cannot afford to let the Soudan pass into the hands of a civilized or semi-civilized Power.

The Conservative papers approve of the expedition to Akasleh. The Liberal papers demanded full information on the subject, and strongly oppose the re-conquest of the Soudan.

In the House of Commons, on March 16, Mr. Curzon, replying to Sir William Harcourt, said that it was known some weeks ago that a strong force of Dervishes were advancing on Kassala and other points, and also that reinforcements were advancing on Dongola.

It is believed, he said, that 10,000 of them are already threatening Kassala, and a Dervish victory would constitute a serious danger not only to Egypt and Italy, but to the cause of European civilization, and hence the military advisers of Egypt in London had decided that an advance on Akasleh was necessary, which might ultimately extend to Dongola. It was not expedient, however, to disclose plans at present.

The Government were convinced that their action would have the twofold effect of relieving the Italians at Adowa and Kassala and of saving Egypt from events which might assume formidable dimensions.

Mr. Labouchere, after this statement, moved that the House should adjourn to discuss the expedition which, he said, was merely an excuse to remain in Egypt.

Sir Charles Dike seconded the motion, and denounced the advance of the Egyptians as inopportune.

Sir William Harcourt warned the Government that a British occupation of the Soudan would be fatal to the peace of Europe.

Mr. Balfour said that it would be of the greatest benefit to the Soudan if the allegiance of the Arab tribes was transferred to a Government which was acting under English influence. The Government, he said, had no intention to occupy Darfur.

The motion on being put to the vote was rejected by a majority of 142.

In the House of Lords, Lord Salisbury said that the advance towards Dongola had been undertaken after communicating with the Egyptian and Italian Cabinets, and that the former urged the dangers that would arise from the advance of the Dervishes.

The Italian Government have expressed their pleasure at the forthcoming Egyptian expedition, and the Senate passed a vote of thanks for the sympathy towards Italy expressed in the House of Commons. Marquis Rudini made a statement in the Chamber in which he said that the Italian Government would reject any peace proposals incompatible with the dignity of the nation. Meanwhile they would continue hostilities in Abyssinia, but would do nothing to weaken the European position of Italy. In no case would they abrogate their protectorate over Abyssinia. He then asked the Chamber to vote a credit of 140 million lire.

THE *Times* correspondent at Pretoria states that President Kruger is considering the despatch of Mr. Chamberlain of the 4th February, suggesting whether it would be possible to abrogate the Convention of 1884 on the franchise being granted to the Britishers, Great Britain guaranteeing the autonomy of the Transvaal.

THE Socialist members of the Reichstag during a two days' debate have revived the charges against Herr Peters, alleging that while he was Commissioner of German East Africa he ordered the hanging of his Negro mistress and her lover and was guilty of other cruelties. The Government have promised a fresh enquiry into his conduct.

AN edict has been signed at Peking sanctioning the opening of the West River.

SIR Michael Hicks Beach, speaking on the introduction of a motion in the House of Commons by Mr. Whiteley in favour of an international agreement to secure a stable ratio between gold and silver, said that Government were anxious to confer with foreign countries either by a conference or by negotiations as to the best means of alleviating the evils affecting Great Britain and India through the fall in the value of silver. He feared, however, that the prospects of the agreement were not brilliant, anyhow Government would accept no change in the gold standard of Great Britain. The motion was eventually adopted.

LORD George Hamilton, replying to a question put by Sir Seymour King in the House of Commons, said that it had been decided that the Chord Line between Moghul Serai and Barakpur should be part of the East Indian Railway system, and the first instalment from Moghul Serai and Sherghutty to Gaya had been entrusted to the East Indian Railway. The Government had no present intention of constructing any other line between Moghul Serai and Calcutta.

AT a debate in the Reichstag the Foreign Minister said that Germany was obliged to join France and Russia against Japan not from any hostility to Japan or partiality for China, but solely to guard her own interest. The young and energetic Japanese nation, which had shown a sharp sword by sea and land, might count on the protection of Germany and he hoped soon to place Germany's commercial relations with Japan on a firm basis.

THE Viceroy will hold his last public reception of the closing season at Calcutta on Monday next, in the gardens of Government House, from 5-30 to 7 P.M.

LAST night, Lord Elgin entertained at dinner the two retiring members of his council, Sir Alexander Miller and Sir Henry Brackenbury. After dinner, the Viceroy invested the military member with the insignia of the Star of India of which he has been made a Knight Commander.

LADY Mackenzie being indisposed, the Lieutenant-Governor unexpectedly left with her for Darjeeling on Wednesday. He is, however, expected back to Calcutta next Wednesday.

THE rate of exchange for the adjustment of financial transactions between the British and Indian Governments for the year 1896-97, has been fixed at 1s. 1½d. the rupee.

THERE being no rates on churches, frankincense, the gum olibanum of commerce, burnt therein, has been properly exempted from import duty.

BEFORE Influenza has gathered its last victim in Calcutta, Cholera has raised high its head. The number of deaths, last week, from all causes, was 350, against 332 and 332 in the two preceding weeks. Of this, about one-third or 101 was from cholera. The rate of mortality from this cause is rising rapidly, the numbers for the two previous weeks being 75 and 43. To add to the panic thus caused, small-pox has made its dreaded appearance. Week before last, there was one death from this disease, last week the number had quadrupled.

IN the usual place will be found an advertisement of the India General Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., offering "very favourable" insurance rates for goods carried by them.

REGARDING the validity of certain codicils of Sir William Mackin-

non's will, the Edinburgh Court of Session has decided that, after the Free Church revised its creed, Mackinnon distrusted its orthodoxy, and therefore the legacies to the Church aggregating to £55,000 sterling were cancelled.

Sir William Mackinnon's testamentary charities have really been princely. There are men in Bengal who still remember the days when William Mackinnon was the owner of a single country boat. Fortune smiled on him. He fully deserved the fair goddess's smiles. To the native clerks of his Calcutta and Bombay offices of ten years' standing and above, he left a legacy of a full lac of Rupees. The Free Church loses its legacy, but the decision will not go unchallenged, we may be sure. The Church litigant is not a strange sight.

IN the *Calcutta Gazette*, Part I, (containing "Orders and Notifications by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, &c.") of March 11, 1896, p. 288, we read:—

"Government of Bengal,—Marine Department.

The 9th March 1896.

No. 26 *Marine*.—Whereas it appears that the estimated income of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta under Act III of 1890, from 1st April 1896 to 31st March 1897, after deducting therefrom the estimated expenditure for the above period, will be insufficient for the payment of the sums which, under the provisions of the said Act, are payable during the year to the Secretary of State for India in Council and to holders of debentures under the said Act, it is hereby notified that from the 1st of April 1896 the Port Commissioners will charge upon all goods landed from or shipped into any sea-going vessel lying or being within the limits of the port, whether such goods shall or shall not be so landed or shipped at any dock, wharf, quay, stage or jetty belonging to the Commissioners, in addition to, or other than those prescribed by any scale of tolls, dues, rates and charges now in force, a toll which shall approximate four annas per ton, except for export coal, the charge on which shall be 2 annas per ton, and on bunker coal, which shall be free. Goods transhipped within the port are exempt; also ballast, with the exception of dressed stone. For the purpose of levying such toll on miscellaneous general cargo landed or shipped at the Kidderpore Docks or at the Jetties, the Commissioners will follow the schedules of charges prescribed for the Docks and the Jetties and charge one-fifth of the rates therein specified; but where the landing or shipping charge is in these schedules levied on the ton by weight, then the special charge under this notification shall be four annas per ton. For the purpose of levying such toll on goods landed or shipped over the inland vessels' wharves or otherwise than through the Docks or Jetties, the ton shall be reckoned at the actual weight where such is ascertainable. Where the weight is not declared, then the ton shall be reckoned at the respective weights and measurements given in the schedule in force for the inland vessels' wharves.

No. 27 *Marine*.—The following Resolution of the Government of India, sanctioning certain alterations in the first clause of the existing form of agreement with Indian seamen employed in foreign-trade ships, is published for general information.

A. D. MCARTHUR, Colonel, R. E.,  
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal."

Verily, the *Gazette* needs a regular editor. The printer-editor will not do. The *London Gazette* has its editor. Why then not the *Gazette of India* and the Provincial Gazettes?

Is Notification No. 26 valid? Is it any authority for the Port Commissioners to make the extra charge, or does it bind the ship-owners and agents to pay the same? Is it any notification or order by the Lieutenant-Governor, or by the High Court, or by Government Treasury, or by another? Evidently, it is no part of No. 27, which alone is signed, if a printed name be a signature, and bears some evidence of authenticity. That mark of authority properly belongs to the second, which is quite distinct from the first and refers to a different matter. There is nothing in the notification to shew that it has the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor. It may after all be a notice by the Port Commissioners themselves. But its appearance through the Marine Department of the Bengal Government clashes with such supposition. Who then sanctions the extra charge and who notifies it?

A MEASURE has been passed in the House of Lords which cuts the English law of evidence at the root. The Bill called the Evidence in Criminal Cases Bill was, on Feb. 20, on the motion of the Lord Chancellor, and with the cordial support of Lord Herschell, read a second time. It amends the law by allowing any person charged with an offence to give evidence on his or her own behalf, and also by making the wife or husband of the person so charged a competent witness. It was explained that the measure was urgently required to correct the anomalous state of the existing law and to remove the grievous practical injustice often experienced in its administration, that it had repeatedly received the sanction of their lordships, and the

Lord Chancellor hoped that when it reached the other House time would be found to pass it this session. On the 24th of February, the Bill passed through committee with some slight amendment, suggested by Lord Russell of Killowen, to the clause making accused persons competent witnesses. Three days after, on the 27th of February, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Indian law has already made an advance in the direction indicated, but it has not been always favourably received. If the other House pass the measure, the Indian courts will receive an impetus. Sir Barnes Peacock, the Chief Justice of Bengal, we believe, first laid down that in a criminal case a wife was a competent witness against the husband. The Indian legislature accepted the ruling and incorporated it in the Code. Another innovation empowered the Magistrate to examine the accused. Prompted by English instincts, the High Courts in India would not allow the free exercise of the power. In *Empress vs. Chinibash Ghose* sentenced by the Sessions Court of Hooghly to death for murder of a woman of the town, the Bengal High Court remarked:

"We observe in this case that before the evidence for the prosecution was recorded, the prisoner Chinibash Ghose was subjected to a very searching cross-examination. Now under section 250 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the court may from time to time, at any stage of the case, examine the accused personally, but it has been held by the Madras High Court (vol. I. p. 199) that the Sessions Judge is not competent to subject the accused to severe cross-examination, and that the discretion given by the law is not to be used for the purpose of driving the accused to make statements incriminating himself, and that it can only properly be used for the purpose of ascertaining from the accused how he is able to meet the facts standing in evidence against him, so that these facts should not stand against him, unexplained."

We have not the text of the proposed English law before us. If there are no safeguards, a prisoner will not only be free to give evidence on his own behalf but may be driven by severe cross-examination to incriminate himself.

THE high priest of Thensophy in Bengal, as also of every brand-new creed that the ingenuity of man or woman may devise, is, it seems, brushing up his knowledge of Jewish literature for, as is believed, delivering better regulated attacks, in behalf of his faiths, against the Christian religion. Having come across a Jewish chronicle he quotes it wonderingly, and exultingly too, for some coincidences his disordered imagination has discovered between the incidents narrated and the career of Mr. F. H. Skrine at Calcutta. Poor soul, he is still smarting under the hiding he received from Mr. Skrine in the matter of the Viceroy's verandah. The truth is, Mr. Skrine saved the reputation, if not the very existence, of the Calcutta Corporation endangered by the constitutionalism of our patriotic orators. They had expected that the Viceroy of all India would come down on his knees and humbly pray their august selves in proper form for permission to build a new house that has become a desideratum in view of the growing needs of the empire. The spectacle would have been highly gratifying to the patriotism of some of the City fathers. Unfortunately for their self-love and self-glorification, Mr. Skrine intervened and brought the authors of the attempted *contretemps* down to their own level. Among others, the high priest of all new Dispensations, in particular, was made, more than any other among his compatriots, to feel his own littleness.

Mr. Skrine leaves Calcutta amid the regrets of the mercantile community. There is hardly a trading firm in the metropolis that has not found his supervision of the Customs Department fraught with facilities to business in many directions. It may be fairly said that he has, in ten months, effected such reforms in the Customs administration as could be hoped for in as many years, considering the ingrained conservatism of Indian officialdom. His success is admitted by such judges as Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Sir James Westland. Chittagong is a large division with great possibilities. We have little doubt that Mr. Skrine will make a very successful Commissioner. Few Englishmen possess such experience of the native character as Mr. Skrine. He can detect humbug and snobishness at once. Noddledom has very little chance with him. He can see a man through and through. He believes, one may be sure, in the correctness of Dr. Johnson's definition of patriotism.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Times of India* has the following on the Neem or Margosa:—

"The Neem or Margosa tree, *Asadracta Indica*, belongs to the

order Meliaceæ, Linn., Syn., *Decandria Monogynia*, and is found more or less abundantly throughout the peninsula of India. All parts of the tree are bitter and nauseous to the taste; this is especially noticed in the bark, the bitterness being accompanied with some astringency, which is very permanent.

For many centuries the Neem tree has been held in the highest esteem by the natives of India, who have applied every part of it to some medicinal use: thus the bark has been regarded as an excellent tonic and antiperiodic, the seeds and the oil obtained from the pericarp (pulp) as an anthelmintic, the bark of the root as an emmenagogue; the gum, which exudes plentifully, as an aphrodisiac; and the leaves, in the form of poultice, as a valuable local application to ulcers, inflammations, sinuses, and cutaneous affections.

The *Taleef Sheriff*, of which there is a translation by George Playfair, (Calcutta, 1833,) contains a very lengthened account of its virtues, of which I shall content myself with a brief summary, reserving a large space for the consideration of its virtues as observed by European practitioners. The author of the *Taleef Sheriff* states from personal experience that it proves most useful, exhibited internally in juram (elephantiasis?), white leprosy, cutaneous eruptions, and scabies; and he quotes the case of a man, whose whole body was white from leprosy, who in forty days was cured by its use. To old and obstinate ulcers and to fistula, the local application of the leaves (a decoction of the leaves or of the bark being given internally at the same time) is highly spoken of. The addition of salt was found to aid its efficacy. The leaves heated and applied to swellings and boils in some cases resolved them, in others expedited suppuration, and in all were beneficial. Fumigation with the decoction of leaves proves useful, it is said, in the same way, and the water of this decoction is useful in cleansing foul ulcers and removing pains (rheumatic) from the joints. The seeds, bruised and applied to the head, will cure headache; their juice acts as a vermifuge; the juice of the leaf-buds introduced into the eye will cure night-blindness. The oil of the leaves as prepared by Hakims is very efficacious in sinuses and otorrhœa. I have used it often with success here."

Mr. U. C. Dutt, in his Sanskrit *Materia Medica*, has the following on the same subject:—"This useful tree is indigenous to India and is cultivated all over the country for the sake of its bark, leaves, and fruits. These have been used in Hindu medicine from a very remote period. The bark is regarded as bitter, tonic, astringent and useful in fever, thirst, nausea, vomiting and skin-diseases. The bitter leaves are used as a pot-herb being made into a soup or curry with other vegetables. The slightly aromatic and bitter taste which they impart to the curries thus prepared, is much relished by some. The leaves are moreover an old and popular remedy for skin-diseases. The fruits are described as purgative and emollient and useful in intestinal worms, urinary diseases, piles, etc. The oil obtained from the seeds is used in skin-diseases, and ulcers."

There are other virtues in the tree. The twigs cleanse the mouth and preserve and strengthen the teeth. In the popular belief, the whole tree imparts health to a house. At any rate, the flowers perfume it. It is, therefore, not strange, that the tree is, to some extent, held sacred, in that it is seldom cut down, or, if cut down, its wood is never burnt as fuel by a good house-holder. In many parts of Bengal, the Neem is regarded as the favourite tree of the goddess *Vishalakshi*, or she with large, expansive eyes, probably another name of Sitala, the presiding deity of small-pox. It is a pity that European practitioners do not use the products of this tree more largely.

WE take the following from the *Times of India*:—

"A young German Orientalist, the Rev. Joseph Dahlmann, S. J., has just published in Berlin a learned monograph of the great Indian epic of the Mahabharata, which is likely to arouse the interest not only of Sanskritists, but of all interested in the history of ancient civilization in India. Father Dahlmann has well kept up the learned traditions of his Order, and is an Oriental scholar of great promise. He has laboured at the Avesta and Pahlavi languages as well as at Sanskrit, and is a contributor to the encyclopædic work on the two former languages now being prepared by various European scholars under the editorship of Drs. Geldner and Geiger. Chinese also has attracted his attention owing to the famous narratives of the pilgrims from China which throw a valuable light upon the India of the fourth and sixth centuries. A few years ago he published a work, characterized by wide research and great philosophical ability, on the labours of Catholic missionaries for the preservation of the languages and literatures of Asia, Africa, and America. He is at present at work upon an annotated German edition of the Mahabharata, and the monograph to which we have alluded is, properly speaking, an introduction to this great edition. It is entitled 'The Mahabharata considered as an Epic and a Law-book, a problem in the history of ancient Indian literature and civilization.' His chief object in it is to show that this Epic is not a mere conglomeration of heterogeneous elements produced during widely-differing epochs, but one harmonious whole written at one period. There are two elements in this poem, the epic and the didactic. But according to Father Dahlmann the two are so closely interwoven as to be almost inseparable, the didactic element, or that which contains the law portion, being predominant. This, it may be seen, is against the view upheld by many scholars, who maintain that the two portions are separate and were written at different times. But our author sees no diversity of style and language throughout the work, and the so-called contradictions he shows to be rare and only apparent. He ingeniously shows that the intimate union of the epic and the legal elements appears first in the

tragic contests between the chief legal heroes; the external and material contest becomes in his view an ideal one between right and wrong, and in this contest thus dramatically conceived, old saws and sayings are interwoven about the mysterious nature and self-assertion of law. He points out the hitherto little observed fact that Indian speculation turned early towards law, and was embodied in wise saws and sayings. In judging the relation between poetry and law, it is of decisive significance that the dramatic structure and development of the poem closely coincides with the idea of this kind of legal wisdom digested in ancient proverbs. Of peculiar interest in this connection are the author's remarks on the Pandava family. In Draupadi, the common consort, he sees the symbolisation of the unity of property in the undivided family. In the second part of his work he considers the question of the date of the poem, which he fixes at the fifth century at least before Christ; and his discussion of the value of the testimony of Buddhacharita and Panini in this connection is very striking. The religious and scientific as well as the social and economical conditions of the fifth century are clearly mirrored in the poem, which reflects the life and condition of the people even more truly than other national epics. In the final part some characteristic laws about marriage and inheritance are brought together. In short, Father Dahlmann endeavours to prove that the Mahabharata is in form and contents like one of the ancient metrical law-books. This is a novel view and is likely to arouse lively controversy. Dr. Bühler, whose disciple Father Dahlmann is, is known to hold different views on the subject."

It is difficult to judge of the merits of Father Dahlmann's new work from the above account. If the account is correct, it is plain that the theory put forward by the writer is not at all a novel one. There are many readers of the Mahabharata in the East who choose to regard it in this very light. The narrative of the events leading up to the battle and of the battle itself, is taken as a grand allegory. According to these men, the battle of Kurukshetra is the spiritual battle that the Soul has to fight before it succeeds in achieving emancipation. The heroes on both sides represent so many passions. Draupadi is the mind, and Krishna is the soul in its wisdom and holiness. Father Dahlmann is treading the old ground in thus interpreting the great work, supposed to have been written as a whole by Vyasa. When, however, we are told that the reverend Father does not see any diversity of style and language throughout the work, we cannot help thinking that his knowledge of Sanskrit is not deep. The story of Nala and the philosophical sections in the Sánti Parva from the same pen? The difference between the style of Addison and Bacon, or of Macaulay and Carlyle, is not more marked than the difference between the style of the purely narrative portions of the great epic and its didactic portions. There is abundant internal evidence to prove that old narratives were dove-tailed in the work as it proceeded from the pen of its author. Every episode is introduced with the well-known line "Atirāpyudāharantimam itihāsam purāṇanam," i. e., "in this connection the following old story is referred to." In the didactic and legal portions, many verses occur that one meets with in Manu. The slight differences of reading decidedly show that the form in which they occur in the Mahabharata is more ancient. This lends great strength to the theory that the Manu-Samhita we now possess is based upon an ancient compilation from which the author or authors of the Mahabharata quoted freely.

**THE Englishman says:—**

"We believe it is not denied, by the greatest enthusiasts for Lord Ripon's scheme of local self-government, that the municipal affairs of Calcutta have been grossly mismanaged by the Native Commissioners who form the large majority of the municipal body. The chief contention upon the Native side is that the Babu class has a constitutional right to misgovern the city if it chooses. The letter from 'Citizen,' which appeared in our correspondence columns the other day, proves the fallacy of the argument. It will be difficult for the Bengali municipal orator in future to claim that his election is 'broad-based upon the people's will'; for the statistics show that he has been elected by a mere handful of voters, whose numbers bear no relation whatever to the total population. Neither can he profess to represent the wealth, far less the enterprise of the city, for the tax-paying list declares the enormous proportion in which these qualifications belong to the European minority. Our correspondent has rendered an important service by exposing the arbitrary manner in which the Europeans have been excluded from any share in the government of Calcutta. It certainly reflects small credit upon the Government of the day that it could not disfranchise them at least with some appearance of fairness. It may be contended that it is now too late to remodel the municipal constitution so as to ensure, as our correspondent suggests, that at least half of the Commissioners shall be Europeans. We do not think it is too late. The results of the change have been to render the municipal body a laughing stock, and to paralyse every effort of those who have the real good of the community at heart. It is impossible that this state of things can continue. Apart from the weighty considerations urged by our correspondent in favour of preserving British ascendancy in municipal as in Imperial affairs, the public health has over and over again been shown to be threatened by the lethargic spirit in which all sanitary and kindred questions are approached. Recurring incidents like the verandah dispute may

be left out of account. They are irritating for the time, but nothing more, as obstreperous Commissioners always subside before any manifestation of official displeasure. Some day however, they may go too far, with disastrous results to their corporate existence. It would be a kindness to them—and to us—to prevent this catastrophe. The Government has sufficient data for interfering if it sees fit. There is mismanagement enough to render an alteration expedient, and there is reason enough on the European side to render it just."

If our contemporaries were aware of, or had studied, the history of the present constitution of the Calcutta Corporation, it would not have made the complaint about the European minority. When in 1876, at the instance of the Indian League, in the teeth of the opposition of the members of his legislative Council, the Justices of the Peace who composed the Corporation, and the British Indian Association, Sir Richard Temple gave the city an elective Municipality, the Europeans not only took no part in the agitation but studiously kept away. It was not till the appointment of Mr. S. E. J. Clarke as Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, that the European community were roused from the torpor into which they had fallen. They have since resumed their political activity and taken part in important public movements, sometimes even initiating them. In the framing of the Municipal constitution, enough room was left for European representation. The law has since been amended to give greater verge to that community. If there has been any exclusion, it is not due to the law, but to those who complain. In a conference on the Bill which became law as Act IV of 1876, Sir Stuart Hogg, the Chairman of the Corporation and member in charge of the Bill, said that neither the European nor the native community wanted the reform. He was sure the Europeans disliked it and he believed the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal and his political associate Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, for instance, who so vehemently opposed the new constitution, would be lost to the Corporation. The reply was that he of course knew better his European brethren and could speak for them, but he was wrong in his estimate of the Indians he had named, as the event proved, for they were the first to offer themselves as candidates for election. The official Europeans accepted the law when it was passed, but the non-officials continued in their old indifference. Mr. Reynolds offered himself a candidate and was not above canvassing. Read his letter to a voter:

"4, Harrington Street,  
August 28, (1876).

To.....  
Sir,—If you have not already given or promised your votes in Ward No. 16 (Badamtollie) at the ensuing municipal election, I beg to request the favour of your voting for me.

I have been asked, both by native and European gentlemen, to stand as a candidate; and I believe it is generally admitted to be desirable that there should be some European Members among the elected Commissioners.

If I am elected, my utmost efforts shall be used to promote the best interests of the town.

I enclose a voting paper, I shall be much obliged by your filling it up in my favour, and returning it to me, if you are inclined to vote for me.

Yours obediently,

H. T. REYNOLDS,

(Offg. Secretary to Government.)"

We need not say that Mr. Reynolds was elected and he was a useful and respected member of the Corporation. The letter also shows that natives were anxious that Europeans should be returned. The same feeling survives to this day. It is ungenerous of the *Englishman* to insinuate that the Babu is not for the European, or that the Europeans have been excluded. If they do not come forward, the blame of their non-representation cannot rest on other shoulders. Of all Anglo-Indian papers, however, the *Englishman* has the shortest memory, when the end in view is vilification of the children of the soil.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, March 21, 1896.

FREDERIC PINCOTT.

THERE has lately passed away, in India, an indefatigable and modest scholar, Mr. Frederic Pincott, personal intercourse with whom had been enjoyed, here in England, by many Hindus and Muhammadans, especially natives of the Upper Provinces, and whose name has become honourably associated with Hindu literature. Of poor and humble origin, and indebted to external circumstances for only a meagre education, he was a person whose career, failing his strenuous ambition for self-improvement, would pro-



bably have deserved no memorial. Considering, therefore, what he accomplished, under difficulties, as a linguist, some account of his literary achievements is justly his due.

From his early youth he followed the vocation of a printer, which, in consequence of the reorganization of the establishment where he was last employed, he recently relinquished, to earn a livelihood mainly by his pen.

It was just thirty years ago that he introduced himself to me. At the printing-office to which he was then attached he had, by his quickness of eye and retentiveness of memory, approved himself highly serviceable in dealing, as a compositor, with the languages of India. The aspect of the strange characters with which he was constantly busied mechanically, piqued his curiosity, he told me, to ascertain what they represented to the ear. On my providing him with the necessary books, he not merely, before long, realized his wish, as regarded Telugu and Tamil, but made some progress in gaining acquaintance with their elements. Meanwhile he had likewise learned the Arabic and Devanagara alphabets. At my instance, laying Telugu and Tamil aside, he applied himself seriously to the acquisition of Urdu and Hindi. At these he toiled, year in and year out, in all his spare hours, which were solely at night, until he had read, and read critically, many hundred pages of the one and several thousand pages of the other. His invariable custom, from the first, was to note down methodically, as he proceeded, everything in vocabulary and construction that he met with, supplementary to the information furnished by the best dictionaries and grammars. Sanskrit next engaging his attention, he prosecuted the study of it, so far as to read the *Rig-veda*, with his habitual diligence, and with no inconsiderable success; and then he passed on to Panjabi. In French he was proficient, and he knew a little Latin.

In 1870 I compiled my *Hindi Reader*, for the use of selected candidates for the Indian Civil Service. Something additional in Hindi was, however, required for them; but, as I had already sunk a couple of thousand pounds, or thereabouts, by my interest in oriental matters, I was indisposed to part with any more of my substance gratuitously. Hearing me name Kanva Lachhman Singh's translation of the *Sakuntala* as a work I would have edited, if I had had encouragement to do so, Mr. Pincott proposed to undertake the task; and I lent him, for that purpose, my copy of it, probably the only one then in England. His edition, a handsome small quarto, came out in 1876. Its execution is meritorious, and, as was his desert, his venture proved remunerative. His next publication, issued in 1880, was a translation, more helpful to the incepting student than any of those which had preceded it, of the Sanskrit *Hitopadesa*. In 1882 appeared, destined to reach a third impression, his valuable *Hindi Manual*, which, like his *Sakuntala*, was at once adopted as a textbook by the Civil Service Commissioners, and remained so until Hindi was struck out from the list of languages prescribed by them. And then followed six or eight Hindi school-books, all of them printed in India, ending with a "Life of Queen Victoria," published last year at Bankipur.

In evidence of Mr. Pincott's untiring assiduity, mention should likewise be made of his Hindi translation, for a religious society, of a book which, in its new dress, is quite equal, in compass, to the "Prem-sagar." This was task-work; and so was his

editing a thick volume, in the Roman character, of the Urdu version of the "Alif Laila," as was, too, his minute "Analytical Index to Sir John W. Kaye's History of the Sepoy War, and Colonel G. B. Malle-son's History of the Indian Mutiny."

Several articles were contributed by him to the *National Review*, and others to the *Journal* of the Royal Asiatic Society, of which he was a member; and he was also author of four or five pamphlets, and of numerous book-reviews in newspapers.

But what was, to Mr. Pincott, as a scholar, more than anything else a source of complacency, was his familiarity with the scriptural records of the Sikhs. Few Europeans can have pored as he did over the pages of the "Adi-granth," the fruits of his researches on which he intended to embody in an elaborate treatise. This enterprise, for which he had made copious notes, he reserved as occupation for the leisure he hoped would by and by be at his command.

About five months ago he went to India, in connexion with the promotion of a commercial project. He wrote to me from Bombay, from Faizabad, and finally, from Calcutta, on the 4th of December. At that date he was well. His last letter concludes with these words: "I hope now to make a success of cultivating rheumatism; and, if I do, a few years will bring me back to England, with sufficient accumulations to end my days in the peaceful study of my books. This is, indeed, something to work for and to hope for. And another hope I have is, that you may live and preserve your health, so that we may enjoy communication with each other during those peaceful days." Just after Christmas he was struck down by fever, and lingered till the 7th of February. His age was fifty-nine or sixty.

As a husband, a parent, a friend, and in all other social relations, he was everything entitled to commendation. Estimated scholastically, he possessed much merit, despite his occasional shortcomings, those which are inevitable to an autodidact. Peculiarities like those scattered over "The Laws of Language," in writing which he co-operated, in 1874, with Count de Goddes-Liancourt, are, however, discernible with less and less frequency in his subsequent performances. In him Indian literature has lost an enthusiast whose labours and whose example are to be remembered with respect.

FITZEDWARD HALL.

#### "CRITICISM AS THEFT."

BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM KNIGHT.

Some years ago I contributed an article to this Review on "Criticism as a Trade." This brief sequel to it I call "Criticism as Theft."

It is a somewhat grave charge to make against even a subsection of our nineteenth-century Literature that it contravenes the spirit of the eighth law in the Jewish Decalogue; and, if made, it must be justified by evidence. I bring no "railing accusation," however, against the noble army of modern critics, who, day by day, week by week, and month by month, write to satisfy a modern demand. The true critic fulfils a singularly great function in the world of Letters, and he is quite as needful—alike to his contemporaries and successors—as is the original author, be he poet, novelist, philosopher, man of science, or divine. The severe censorship of the Press is absolutely necessary to prevent our Literature from becoming a rabbit-warren of commonplace, or a Sahara of mediocrity and irrelevancy. I raise no objection to it, however scathing it may be, if it is based on knowledge, and is discriminative, just, and wise.

What we owe to our best contemporary reviewers I have already indicated, and I shall try to state it more appreciatively later on. No one who has an eye for excellence can be blind to the merit of their work; but what our age seems unfortunately to demand in the continuous turning out of a set of articles that are

neither original, nor distinctive, nor genial, nor learned, nor instructive, nor 'up to date,' but which merely satisfy the morbid and pampered appetite of the hour, which for the most part craves for novelty. The comment which follows should therefore perhaps be directed against the spirit of the age we live in, rather than against the work of any individual writer belonging to it. The Age demands the article, and our modern Press supplies it; but it does not follow, because the Age desires what its railway-book-stalls chiefly supply, that the latter is the best thing for it. Demand always regulates supply, but the supply quickens the demand. The two things are closely kindred; and are related as cause and consequence. The one invariably feeds the other. If our highest wisdom lies in following the verdict of the many, and of the hour--if it is to be found in accepting a policy decided by the mere 'count of heads,' raising (as some have done) the 'masses' above the 'classes,' as our superiors in insight, so long as that insight coincides with their own--it doubtless follows that we should receive the literary judgment of the uneducated with the same difference with which we accept their votes at the polling-booth. If our age demands what an enlightened judgment condemns, it may possibly have to be submitted to, for the time being; but the demand would certainly be lessened were the critics of the day open-eyed enough to see it, and courageous enough to resist it.

There can be little doubt that far too much is written nowadays, by 'all sorts and conditions of men.' The list of new books advertised week after week by the publishing houses of Great Britain, the Continent, and America is stupendous, and almost baffling. There never was anything like it heretofore. It may be one result of our extended methods of modern education, and the evils which it has created will probably cure themselves before long. Meanwhile, our English Literature--as it is mirrored in the long advertisement lists issued by our publishing firms--is undergoing an extraordinary change. For the few dozen 'Books of the Season' which used to interest our grandfathers, we have now not only hundreds, but thousands. One who is tolerably well in touch with this continuous stream of tendency--the evolution of new books--is constantly met by the question, 'Oh, have you seen so and so?' or, 'You should read so and so. It's the best book of the year.' They are works--perhaps belonging to his own department--of which he has never heard, and which, perhaps, he will never see. The printing-presses of the last decade of this nineteenth century was producing books, at such a rate and of such dimensions, that no one can possibly keep pace with the many-sided 'output,' can even remember the names of the books and their authors, far less be familiar with their contents; and librarians, or members of 'library committees'--Town libraries or University ones, it is all the same--have to confess, with dismay, that it has become an extraordinarily difficult thing to winnow the wheat from the chaff.

It is true that this vast increase in the number of new books published week by week is a partial justification of the multitudinous criticism which overtakes them; especially since there is so great an increase of trivial, pretentious, and useless books. At the same time, the majority of these criticisms are worse than the books they criticise, and do no good to their readers or their authors, or to the public.

Time out of mind it has been found that books of original merit, and of permanent value to the world, have been ignored in their day, but have become to after-ages objects of supreme interest. While they exercised no influence in their own time--and were peculiarly worthless to their author--they have occasionally fetched large sums at the auction-sales of the future. On the other hand, the 'Book of the Hour'--which most persons read, and of which nearly every one speaks--is often buried, at no distant date, amongst the *débris* from which it knows no resurrection. Of these two extremes, the latter will probably be found to be most characteristic of the close of the nineteenth century. In every department of

effort we are suffering from the vast amount of trivial production--in other words, from swarms of *ephemeræ*, and from the avidity with which the public welcomes the most sensational and even the most ghastly tale of the hour.

In addition to this, the state into which our contemporary literature has been brought by the multiplication of its daily, weekly, and monthly magazines, is so bewildering that no one can adequately follow it throughout. I remember the day when the bare notion of starting a weekly paper to be called *Tit-Bits* was thought to be the *ne plus ultra* of literary degradation. Nevertheless, the paper issued under that title is currently believed to have yielded a fortune to its owner. Some years ago I asked at an English railway-station bookstall for this extraordinary product of the time, when the boy who sells for Smith ran up to the carriage door and said, 'No, sir, sold out, sir; but here's *Ally Sloper*, sir. It's far better; I sells a lot more o' them, sir.' The literary pabulum supplied to the travelling public at our railway-bookstalls is a sad disclosure of the taste of the day. It goes without saying that it is a sheer waste of money to buy, and a greater waste of time to read, the 'shilling shockers' which are the ordinary stock-in-trade at many a railway station. The melancholy thing is that so many new periodicals are started by publishers merely to please the public, and to make profit by descending to its level, instead of endeavouring to educate the multitude, by inviting it to ascend a few steps above the platform on which it stands. It is the easiest thing in the world to write down to the taste, and the sympathy, of the half-educated proletariat; but such writing is--let the word be taken literally--degradation. There are at the present moment scores of papers, journals, magazines, reviews--whatever they may be called--produced simply 'to please the public,' but not to inform, or to teach, to educate or to elevate; and this, it must be owned, is one of the least valuable results of the activity of the modern printing-press.

In the same connection it may be worth mentioning--and all honour to American enterprise and originality for attempting it--that a good many years ago the Alton and Chicago Railway Company issued--as a supplement to their monthly time-tables--the poems of Robert Browning, beginning with *Sordello*. I remember how much the poet was struck with the copy I once showed him. Had the experiment been tried in England it is doubtful if the ordinary railway traveller would have read any one of the poems from the beginning to the end.

It may at first sight seem surprising that any one should object to the work of those clever censors of the press who vigorously, if unmercifully, put down the many-sided ignorance, the manifold pretence, the arrogance and egotism of all who imagine that they are born to be 'writers of books.' When one realises the fact already alluded to, viz, the scores of volumes issued week by week from our British and American printing-presses--books which had never any right or title to exist--it is quite unnecessary to raise the question as to what will be the verdict of the twentieth century upon them. It is a real kindness to posterity for the literary reviewer to kill many of these books, whether he makes use of a tomahawk or not; and it would be far better for the world if the majority of the volumes which annually appear never saw the light. One effect of the diffusion of the 'higher education' of men and women has been that we have now hundreds and thousands of writers where we only had dozens before this 'higher education' began. We have a modern literary swarmery, as we have a modern social proletariat.\* One result inevitably is that the quality of the work deteriorates, while its quantity increases; and we have numerous dashing writers of 'books for the many'--like the dexterous scribes of political leaderettes--instead of the well-informed, the calm, the strong, the incisive, and thoroughgoing writers of the past. When the history of 'English Periodical Criticism' has to be written--and it well deserves to be written--there is reason to believe that the present age will not be that of its chief glory.

The truth is that the function of the modern critic is a singularly ill-defined one. Who is to define it? is a question not easily answered, but it may surely be taken for granted that a thorough knowledge of the subject written about is essential to any adequate criticism. Nevertheless it is a quite notorious fact that when asked to review a book sent to him for the purpose--and presumably sent because the recipient is considered an authority, or a quasi-authority (if not an expert) on the subject--some reviewers have

\* A well-known writer and reader of books for a publishing firm lately ventured on the statement that he thought there were probably one thousand clever young women in our country who were quite well able to turn out the ordinary and most readable English novel of the period; but, as to these books being 'Literature,' that was a very different question. A publisher recently told me that he received so many offers of volumes of verse, and of novels, from beginners--mostly, young girls--that he would require to keep a special 'reader' if they had all to be examined with care. It was only possible to glance at most of them. In the same connection I may quote a sentence which Tennyson once wrote, 'I receive a stanza of verse sent to me for every five minutes of my life, but very seldom a volume of good wholesome prose.'

### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1895-96.)

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Wednesday, the 25th Inst., at 6-30 P.M. Subject: Optical Instruments.

Lecture by Babu Syamadas Mukerjee, M.A., on Tuesday, the 24th Inst., at 3 P.M. Subject: Analytical Conics.--Homography and Involution on Conics, on Thursday, the 26th Inst., at 3 P.M. Subject: Analytical Conics.--Tangential Equations.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charges for a single lecture are 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

March 21, 1896.

contented themselves with cutting open the table of contents and the preface, and—without reading the book itself—proceeding to review it. At the sale of a large Library of Books, which had been sent for review to an 'expert,' who, for many years, wrote long and most dexterous literary notices for a daily newspaper of celebrity and importance, it was found that the pages of very few were cut, while some of the books and their authors had, by this critic of the hour, been brilliantly 'cut up'! Sometimes a book is sent for review to one who is on the occasional staff of a paper, and he has, on a sudden, to 'get up the subject' to consult his authorities, or—as an editor once told me was a common habit—to read every other notice of the book which had already appeared! before he wrote his own. The 'little knowledge' thus acquired is too often thrust into the foreground of the notice produced. Surely such reviewing is theft.

It is a self-evident and elementary truth that an author who adds anything of value to the literature of the world is entitled to receive a reward for his labour. If the return of that reward is prevented by capricious, or ignorant, or reckless criticism, the critic has stolen from the author, quite as truly as if he had robbed him of his purse. He *has* robbed him of the legitimate value of his brain-work; but it is only criticism of the reckless and unenlightened order that does this. A critical 'notice,' written to display mere dexterity or nimbleness of wit, ingenious repartee, power of sarcasm or of rejoinder, is not criticism at all. Suppose a nimble-witted person skims a book; turning its pages in a listless mood, he finds some information that is new to him. He notes this, and goes on to read more. He finds some errors, and then proceeds to use the information, which he has received from the book itself, against its author; just a clever surface society-talker, wholly ignorant of a subject, can often 'pick the brains' of one who knows it, while he is speaking, and give him back in a torrent of verbosity the very ideas he was slowly and modestly expressing, as if they were the talkative thief's familiar property. Surely this is even worse than the use of an arrow, winged by feathers taken from a bird it killed, against another of the same species.

An eminent literary friend was recently induced to subscribe to an agency—which sends reviews of books, in the form of 'newspaper cuttings,' to their author—on the pre-payment of a certain sum of money. He told me that, amongst *thirty* notices of his book, only two showed any real knowledge of the subject. This was not because of any want of competent critics in the country who were familiar with the subject in question. On the contrary, there were hundreds; but the book had been given out, for the most part, to the journalistic hacks, and so it had 'fallen among the thieves.'

Of the numerous ways in which our modern criticism has deteriorated, the following may be mentioned. By the editor of a weekly paper of great merit and distinction—devoted to a special branch of knowledge—I was asked, some time ago, if I could find for him a critic whose duty it would be, first, to find out the 'Book of the Week,' *i. e.* the most important of all those issued by the various firms for that particular period; and, secondly, to give, not a critical estimate of it—that was too much to expect, and not indeed to be desired—but a skilful digest of its contents, a summary of what it said, for the benefit of the readers of this delightful weekly Journal. As the phrase went, 'Let him tear out its heart, that is all we want'; and a very liberal allowance was to be given for this weekly literary anatomy, or rather vivisection. The idea apparently was this. Our subscribers won't read the best 'Book of the Week,' but they must know something *about* it, so as to be able to talk of it with a fair show of knowledge, if the book in question happens to be mentioned in the society-conversation of the day. Now this sort of thing—putting people off with a scratch summary, or rough analysis, of a book which they never intend to read (or can read)—is a treble literary theft. It takes from the author, it hurts the publisher, and it defrauds the public. The sale of the very best book must be injured, by every such 'tearing out of its heart.'

The same thing applies to the common practice of giving long 'extracts,' in the daily and other papers, of what the critic considers the most important passages in the magazine-articles of the month. Editors and proprietors may very reasonably complain that their Magazines are not bought, as they otherwise would be, because the best things in them are thus exhibited to the public beforehand in such 'reviews of reviews.'

But the chief moral theft thus committed is not from the authors of the books, or from their articles, but from the *public*. The public is deprived of the opportunity of knowing, in its integrity, what some of the ablest writers of the time have had to say to it, and have tried to unfold in their books. The public, instead of receiving the wholesome nourishment of genuine 'corn and wine,' are fed on a sort of watery intellectual bread-berry, which has been made doubly unwholesome from the amount of spice which it contains. The books reviewed are *pilfered by the critics*, and the public thinks that it is

well informed as to what it does not really know, even in fragment. It is notorious that half-knowledge is often worse than total ignorance; and, in many of our modern reviews, we find writers presuming to speak oracularly, yet wholly unaware that their quasi-knowledge is of less value than that which it tries to supplant.

This literary theft which is so common is, however, partly due to the sensationalism of the hour its numerous phases, *e. g.* to the morbid demand for early extracts in the morning papers, on the very day of issue, from any work—the publication of which has been announced for some time—instead of letting sober-minded people wait patiently until the book itself can be seen and read.\* Such scraps and fragments are, at times, wholly misleading. They can be extracted so as to falsify the real drift and purpose of the book. At other times they are altogether indefinite. Usually they satisfy the casual reader; while, most unfortunately, they give him a biased opinion of the subject, and of the book in which it has been discussed.

It is consolatory, however, to remember that, in the long run most authors get their due. Some may have been overlooked for a time by literary accident, or from peculiarities of style and treatment, which made their works 'caviare to the general.' But, in *all* cases, the *Verdict of Times* is just; and there is far less chance than ever before that, in the twentieth century, the merits of any good writer will be overlooked, or that an original one will be (even for a time) ignored. The very multiplicity of modern criticism prevents this. On the other hand, there is great risk that the professional critic, undertaking too much work, may review many books without reading them; and that, unless he is somehow discovered, and just sentence passed upon him, he will often return a biased verdict on the literature that passes through his hands. Opportunity may even continue to exist for the display of small-mindedness and partisanship in the future. Many a review—philosophical, political, scientific, theological, and literary—has hitherto been tainted with this bias. An *a priori* judgment has been passed on the merits of a book which the critic had not read. It has been judged by its title, its contents, its preface, or its author's name. Every literary man must have seen scores of such notices, pert, opinionative, shallow, useless; or, on the other hand, fulsome, and therefore worse than useless. They are a disgrace to journalism; and unfortunately some persons who have no other vocation—or who have failed in one or more—fancy that they can, as a sort of *dernier resort*, be one of the critics of the hour! 'Have you never learned the art,' a distinguished literary official once said to me—he was speaking satirically—'Have you never learned the art of reviewing a book you haven't read? It's very easy; as easy as it is to examine on a subject you know nothing of!' This was more than twenty years ago. I was amazed, and declined to believe that such malpractices were within the limits of possibility. Since then I have been occasionally undeceived.

As everyone knows, Great Britain, America and the Continent of Europe possess many very able 'Critical Reviews'—issued monthly and quarterly—which give to the world some of the best writing of the age; but these Reviews are sometimes handled by the weekly Press very much as the weekly journals are dealt with by the daily newspapers. Extracts by way of sample are given, which are—to all intents and purposes—thefts from the periodicals in which they first appeared; and many readers are led to expect so full, and true and good a summary of all the best things that are to be found in contemporary periodicals that they never think of looking at the originals whence these extracts have been taken. Such procedure surely justifies the title of this article, 'Criticism as Theft.'

It is perhaps easier to say what the critic's function is not than to state what it is. The difference between advertising the supposed 'book of the hour' by a string of commonplace phrases and vague compliments, and estimating its worth judiciously, is obvious enough; but it is difficult to know the purpose of many of the 'press notices' which are extracted from reviews and appended to the advertisements of new books. The other day I happened to take up a book which had neither a preface, nor a table of contents, nor an index, but which had been favoured with 'a few press notices,' amongst which I found the following: (1) 'The latest book of which

\* One recalls Carlyle's indignant protest, 'Is a thing nothing because the "Morning Papers" have not chronicled it? or can a Nothing be made a Something by ever so much bubblement of it there?'

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\* This is often neither more nor less than piracy, and is pursued by people who never make even a pretence to criticism.



people are talking : this new book is very much up to date.' (2) 'Ere long every body who is anybody will read it.' (3) 'Eminently readable, and we should say will be read.' (4) 'The book is a novelty in the best sense of the term.' Of what possible use can such notices be, either to the author, the writer, or the public ? To my mind they are worse than useless ; and are nearly as bad as that coterie-reviewing, which has played such havoc with books of real merit written by outsiders to the ring.

But the thefts of criticism are not seen only in the appraisal of literary work. They may be detected in reviews of the Art, the Drama, and the Science of the period.

As to Art in particular, is it not a fact that some critics are (without any exaggeration) hirelings ? It is well known—although perhaps only a reflection of the spirit of the hour—that many writers are invited to attend private views in studios before they write their notices of the pictures of the year. From the way in which such things are arranged, impartiality in criticism is impossible. This, of course, does not apply to artists of established fame. They would decline to be 'interviewed' by any salon critic. But there are many others who have been asked to allow the interviewer, and the critic, to come, with a sort of literary kodak, and to send out to the world a preliminary photograph of what is in store for the novelty-hunters of the season. The fulsome praise of the interviewer is much worse than his censure ever is, and it does more harm ; for all genuine merit is, in the long run, sure of recognition ; but the temporary loss and pain, caused to those whose work is passing through the ordeal, are incalculable. Many an artist of rare merit has been stung to the quick by the glib and petulant notices of his work which have appeared in the journals of the day. Doubtless some may have been the better for a severity that was unjust, if it called forth new energy lying latent. That goes almost without saying ; just as, at a University examination, a young man who knows his subject, but is thrown out by some accident of the examination, or whim of the examiner, says to himself, 'I am not defeated, I know the subject, I shall go in again ;' and he does so, and passes. So it is with many a worker in Art. But, on the other hand, some artists have been killed by the flippancy of unjust reviewing. As was said of John Keats :—

How strange, the mind, that little fiery particle.

Should let itself be snuffed out by an article.

But so it is. Over and over again the rarely delicate artist, the originator of new ideals, with his sensitive temperament, smarts under the lash of public criticism, and succumbs to the odious treatment of the pachydermatous reviewer. It is a notorious fact that many an original author has been prematurely killed by the barbed arrows of contemporary criticism. Perhaps, on hearing of it, one of these critics may think, 'That is the Author's look-out, not mine ; I am merely the literary judge and censor of the hour.' There cannot be a doubt, however, that posterity, as well as the author, has often suffered grievous wrong in this way. There are the wasps and the gadflies, as well as eagles of criticism.

I have alluded in the previous paragraph to the indiscreet praise of reviewers as worse than their ignorant fault-finding. This deserves more than a passing notice. Every ultra-enthusiastic, and still more every indiscriminate, puff of a book written by a friend is a fraud on the public. This is sometimes done so recklessly as to warrant the severest possible rejoinder. Some writers have been known to solicit reviews of their books. They, happily, share the fate of those who solicit academical degrees. But another hypothetical case may be mentioned. Suppose a college lecturer has a distinguished and favourite pupil, a docile, receptive, assimilative hero-worshipper. He publishes a book, and his teacher writes a letter in which he says that he doubts if anything so good has been written on the subject. Is this fair either to the writer of the book or to the public ? No doubt his teacher is able to see more in a pupil than the outside world, or the random writer of reviews ; but, in his case, impartiality and a just verdict are almost impossible.

In the matter of indiscriminate praise on the one hand, and biased censure on the other, the modern English critic of the Drama will be found to have erred quite as much as the critic of Literature, or Philosophy, or Science. It is needless to particularise instances of unfair judgment in any department ; but, whenever jealousy exists in any school or coterie, in any profession or social circle, unjust criticism will be its outcome, and all injustice is theft, although it cannot be overtaken by the law. The robbery of a just reputation is much more serious than is the theft of money, or of material property ; and the unjust praise, and the false dispraise, of the critic is one of the worst kinds of theft that this world has had to endure.

I return to the remark with which I started. I do not disparage the function of the genuine critic ; that is to say of the man who has sufficient knowledge of the matter in hand to have an opinion worth recording, and who has a high standard of honour and of honesty in the expression of it. On the contrary, I magnify it in every possible way. The just, clear-sighted, impartial, trenchant critic, who knows how and when to use his rapier, how and

when to put his sword into its sheath, who knows that there is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak, a time to expose and even to slay, as well as a time to appreciate and to praise, is a great public benefactor. The literature of the world would soon become an undifferentiated mass of puerilities were it not for the winnowing process by which the wheat is separated from the chaff ; and it is a real kindness to teach those who have no vocation for authorship that they ought not to write books. But the qualifications of the critic are as great, and are perhaps rarer, than those of the original author. Chief amongst them is a knowledge of the subject discussed, as full as, if not fuller than, that of the author : next, the power of sifting materials, and a sense of proportion ; in addition, judicial impartiality and the power of appraisal, of which fair-mindedness is the dominant note ; and, finally, the readiness to appreciate what is new, if it be a genuine development of tendencies which have been lying latent for a time. It is the function of the true appraiser to discover merit under guises which at first conceal it. As Robert Browning put it—

If what shall come with the season's change

Be a novel grace, and a beauty strange,

the genuine critic should be the first to discern it.

Without such preliminary diagnosis—accurate, appreciative, and thorough—the acutest and most nimble-witted criticism, be it scientific or literary or philosophical or political or religious, is absolutely worthless. With it, and after it, the severest possible censure, or the most enthusiastic (if discriminative) praise, are the greatest gifts which a critic can bestow, alike on his contemporaries and his successors.

—The Nineteenth Century.

### WHY NOT LIVE A CENTURY ?

"IN the coming time," said a famous English poet, "a man or woman eighty or one hundred years old will be more beautiful than the youth or maiden of twenty, as the ripe fruit is more beautiful and fragrant than the green. These ripe men and women will have no wrinkles on the brow, no grey hair, no bent and feeble bodies. On the contrary they will have perfect hearing, clear eyesight, sound teeth, elastic step, and mental vigour."

Does this sound absurd and impossible ? Why should it ? People over one hundred years old are frequently met with in these days, as they have been as far human records go back. A man is of no real value until he is past fifty and gained control of his passions and acquired some practical wisdom. After that he ought to have from fifty to seventy-five working years before him. Who so dies short of one hundred (bar violence) dies of his own folly or that of his ancestors, one chief thing, however, we must learn. What is it ? Take an illustration—such as we see multitudes of on every side.

Mr. Richard Leggate of New Bolingbroke, near Boston, Lincolnshire, is a man now somewhat over seventy. He is a farmer, well known and highly respected in his district. In the spring of 1891 he had an attack of influenza from which he never fully recuperated. The severe symptoms passed away, of course, but he remained weak. No doubt food would have built him up, provided he could have eaten and digested it. Yet here was the trouble, his appetite was poor, and what little he took, as a matter of necessity rather than of relish, seemed to act wrong with him. Instead of giving him strength it actually produced pain and distress in the sides, chest, and stomach.

Then again—which is a common experience—he would feel a craving for something to eat ; yet on sitting down to a meal, in the hope to enjoy it, the stomach would suddenly rebel against the proceeding, and he would turn from the table without having swallowed a mouthful.

Nothing could come of this but increasing weakness and it wasn't long before it was all he could do to summon strength to walk about. As for working on his farm, that to be sure, was not to be thought of. He had a doctor attending him, as we should expect. If the services of a learned medical man are ever needed they must be in such a case—when nature seems to be all broken up, and the machinery runs slow, as our family clocks do when we have forgotten to wind them at the usual hour.

Well, Mr. Leggate took the prescribed medicines, but got no better. He asked the doctor why that was and he appeared to be puzzled for an answer at first. Naturally enough a doctor doesn't like to admit that his medicines are doing no good, because he expects to be paid for them ; and then there is his professional pride, besides.

However, he finally said, "If my medicines fail to make you better it is owing to your age." That idea was plain as a pikestaff, and if the patient had never got any better afterwards, why who could dispute what the doctor said ? Nobody, of course. It would look just as though Mr. Leggate were really going to pieces from old age. But something subsequently happened which spoils that easy theory of the case. What it was he tells us in a letter dated February 3rd, 1893.

"After doctoring several months without receiving any benefit, I determined to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I got a bottle from Mr. G. H. Hanson, Chemist, New Bolingbroke. After taking the Syrup for a week I was much better. I had a good appetite, and what I ate digested and strengthened me ; and by the time I had taken two bottles I was well and strong as ever. You may publish this statement if you think proper. (Signed) Richard Leggate."

So it proved, after all, that Mr. Leggate was not suffering from old age (at seventy ? Nonsense !), but from indigestion and dyspepsia. When Mother Seigel's great discovery routed that, he felt "well and strong as ever."

Now for the moral : It is not Father Time who mows people down thus early in life ; it is the Demon of Dyspepsia. Keep him away and—barring accidents—you may live a century.




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to Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.  
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## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine in the *Indian Civil Service* is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 218.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE LAST WALK.

BY B. SIMMONS.

OH lost Madonna, young and fair,  
O'er-leant by broad embracing trees,  
A streamlet to the lonely air  
Murmurs its meek low melodies ;  
And there, as if to drink the tune,  
And mid the sparkling sands to play,  
One constant sunbeam still at noon  
Shoots through the shades its golden way.

My lost Madonna, whose glad life  
Was like that ray of radiant air,  
The March-wind's violet scents blew rife  
When last we sought that fountain fair.  
Blithe as the beam from heaven arriving,  
—Thy hair held back by hands whose gleam  
Was white as stars with night-clouds striving—  
Thy bright lips bent and sipped the stream.

Fair fawn-like creature ! innocent  
In soul as faultless in thy form—  
As o'er the wave thy beauty bent,  
It blushed thee back each rosy charm.  
How soon the senseless wave resigned  
The tints, with thy retiring face,  
While glassed within my mournful mind  
Still glows that scene's enchanting grace.

Ah ! every scene, or bright or bleak,  
Where once thy presence round me shone,  
To echoing Memory long shall speak  
The Past's sweet legends, Worshipped One !  
The wild blue hills, the boundless moor,  
That, like my lot, stretched dark afar,  
And o'er its edge, thine emblem pure,  
The never-failing evening star.

The lawn on which the sunset's track  
Crimsoned thy home beside the glen—  
The village pathway, leading back  
From thee to haunts of hated men—  
The walk to watch thy chamber's fay  
'Mid storm and midnight's rushing wings—  
—These, these were joys, long passed away,  
To dwell with Grief's eternal things.

My lost Madonna, fair and young !  
Before thy slender-sandalled feet  
The dallying wave its silver flung,  
Then dashed far ocean's breast to meet ;  
And further, wider, from thy side  
Than unreturning streams could rove,  
Dark Fate decreed me to divide—  
To me, my henceforth buried Love !

Yes, far forever from thy side,  
Madonna, now forever fair,  
To death of Distance I have died,  
And all has perished, but —Despair.  
Whether thy fate with woe be fraught,  
Or Joy's gay rainbow gleams o'er thee,  
I've died to all, but the mad thought  
That what was once no more shall be.

'Tis well :—at least I shall not know  
How time or tears may change that brow  
Thine eyes shall smile, thy cheek shall glow  
To me in distant years as now.  
And when in holier worlds, where Blame  
And Blight, and Sorrow, have no birth,  
Thou 'rt mine at last—I'll clasp the same  
Unaltered Angel, loved on earth.

—Blackwood's Magazine.

## WEEKLYANA.

ATHENS has set up a statue of Lord Byron with the pedestal inscription "Hellas to Byron." The King of Greece unveiled it. Of fine marble, it is the gift of the late M. Skylitsis and the work of the late French sculptor Chapu who could not give it his finishing touch.

THE students of Princeton University, New Jersey, burnt the King of Spain in effigy and dragged the Spanish flag through the street and tore it up in the centre of the college quadrangle.

OWING to heavy rains, the Tigris overflowed its banks in Mesopotamia, drowning, among others, a nomad tribe of six hundred Arabs.

A PROPOSITION allowing women to take the B.A. degree was rejected by the Oxford University as represented by its congregation.

THE Judicial Committee of the Privy Council have reported on the validity of unmixed and mixed marriages in Malta. They have advised that the unmixed marriages celebrated in Malta by English clergy, Presbyterian ministers, and Wesleyan ministers are valid, as also mixed marriages by ministers other than those of the Roman Catholic Church. They are also of opinion that marriages celebrated by non-Catholic ministers, contracted in good faith, but in such circumstances that the validity of the ceremony may be open to question, should be validated by legislative declaration.

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Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

THE personal estate of the late Lord Leighton has been sworn at under 50,000*l.*, and that of the late Alexander Macmillan, head of the publishing firm of that name, at 180,000*l.* The net value of the estate belonging to the late Sir Julian Goldsmid, Bart., upon which duty has been paid at the rate of 8 per cent., amounts to 1,093,493*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

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THE Stanhope Gold Medal has been awarded by the Royal Humane Society to E. A. Hatton, of Dover, who, on March 3, 1895, rescued J. Smith, carpenter, *Dunbar Castle*, who was washed overboard at sea off the coast of South Africa. The ship was under steam, running ten knots an hour, there was a fresh head wind with a high sea, darkness was setting in and the water was swarmed with sharks.

...

THE following obituary notice of Dr. Rost is from *Luzac's Oriental List* :—

"One of the greatest and most distinguished of our Orientalists has passed away in Dr. Reinhold Rost, who expired at Canterbury on February 7th. Rost, who was born at Eisenberg on February 2nd, 1822, devoted himself to the study of the Old Testament and the Oriental Languages, reading with Stuckel and Gildemeister. In 1847 he came to this country, and in 1850 was appointed Professor of Oriental Languages at St. Augustine's College at Canterbury, where a large number of pupils were enabled to benefit by the rich store of his learning. Not only the Indo-European languages, but also Arabic and Syriac formed the subject of regular lectures, and it was never without the greatest satisfaction that he expressed himself on his good fortune in having been actively engaged in educational work. Fortunately he never quitted his post as a lecturer and examiner, although in 1863 fresh duties called him to London on his appointment as Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society. On June 24th, 1869, he became Librarian of the India Office and held this important position till 1894, when by the law of superannuation he was forced to retire. Besides some contributions to an earlier volume of the Journal of the German Oriental Society, we owe to Dr. Rost new editions of Horace Hayman Wilson's *Work* (Essays and Lectures on the religions of the Hindus, [1861-5]), and of Hodgson's *Miscellaneous writings on Indian subjects* (1880) and *Papers relating to Indo-China* (1886). He also published a *Collection of simplified grammars* and for some years conducted Trübner's *Record*, during which time in my papers in that periodical were written by himself. Special attention and care he bestowed, since its very beginning on *Luzac's 'Oriental List'* and the publishers can here only express their sincere acknowledgments for the many valuable contributions which have regularly appeared from his pen. But it is not in these various papers and articles that Dr. Rost's influence as a scholar was confined; his personal qualities, his self-denying devotion to every literary enterprise within the field of Oriental research, his unbounded kindness and readiness to help, will ever be remembered by all those who were fortunate enough to meet him. And there is hardly one Oriental scholar who has come to this country with the intention of working at the vast collections of the India Office or the British Museum, who is not in some way or other under obligation to Dr. Rost, hardly one who has not taken back with him the happiest remembrance of his home-life and hospitality.

Science has lost in him one of her most distinguished representatives, England one of her best workers, his family and his friends an *anima candida* in the purest sense of the word."

"J. S. C." writes in the *Academy* :—

"Dr. Rost has not long survived his retirement from the India Office. He died, very suddenly, on Feb. 7, at Canterbury, whither he had gone on duties connected with St. Augustine's College. He had just completed the seventy-fourth year of his age.

Reinhold Rost was born in 1822 at a little manufacturing town in the Duchy of Saxe-Altenberg, where his father was a Lutheran minister, holding the office of Archdeacon. After being educated at the Gynnasium in the capital of his native state, he proceeded to the neighbouring University of Jena, where he graduated as Ph.D. in 1847. Having already determined to devote himself to Oriental studies, he came at once to England, the great storehouse of Sanskrit MSS. His first post was that of Oriental lecturer at the missionary college at Canterbury, with which he remained associated till the last. For a short time he acted as Secretary to the Royal Asiatic Society; and in 1869 he was nominated Librarian to the India Office, in succession to Dr. Füzeward Hall, who survives him. This is one of the few posts in England that may be regarded as an endowment for Oriental research. The official duties are not heavy; but the collection of MSS. is one of the largest in the world, and their custodian is necessarily brought into contact with students of all countries. In addition, he acts as adviser in philological matters to the Secretary of State for India, who still dispenses some of that literary patronage in which the old Company was so profuse.

Dr. Rost will long be remembered as the ideal librarian to the India Office. If he left it to others to catalogue and edit the MSS., this was not through incapacity for either task, but because he thought himself better employed in placing his materials and his knowledge at their disposal. Though primarily a Sanskritist, he had to consider the claims of Arabic and Persian, of Pali, Burmese, and Sinhalese, of Tibetan and Malay, and of countless vernaculars. Of all those languages we have mentioned, he possessed a competent knowledge; and he had further to give his attention to questions relating to archaeology, ethnology, and Indian history. In brief, Dr. Rost elected to turn himself into an Oriental encyclopedia, which no one ever consulted in vain. Through his initiative, MSS. were lent freely to foreign scholars; and it is hardly too much to say that on the continent he was regarded as the steward of Oriental knowledge in

England, to whom every one appealed for assistance and advice. This feeling was strongly expressed in a testimonial presented to him in 1892, when it was rumoured that he was to be retired compulsorily from his post. Frenchmen joined with Germans in testifying to the kindness and impartiality which he had always displayed towards fellow-students. The Government allowed him one year more of office, and of work, but he was superannuated—surely against the grain—in 1893.

Dr. Rost wrote little under his own name. His first publication was, we believe, an essay on the Hindu sources of Burmese law (1850), and he also compiled a catalogue of the palm-leaf MSS. in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg. He was content to be known as the editor of H. H. Wilson's *Selected Works*, of Brian Hodgson's *Collected Papers*, and of four volumes of *Miscellanies* relating to Indo-China. In conjunction with Nicholas Tübner, he planned and edited a series of *"Simplified Grammars"*; and for some time he conducted *Trübner's Oriental Record*, now continued by Luzac & Co. But his modesty did not deprive him of all public recognition. Edinburgh made him LL.D., and Oxford conferred on him the rare distinction of honorary M.A. He was an honorary or corresponding member of many learned societies, on the Continent and in the East. Prussia, Russia, and Sweden gave him decorations; and our own Government appointed him Companion of the Indian Empire in 1888."

Dr. Rost was a man who pursued learning for its own sake. If he were otherwise minded, he could have created a halo of literary fame around his name on which he might have grown fat and prosperous. Besides regularly writing for Luzac's monthly, Dr. Rost occasionally perpetrated small articles for the *Athenaeum*. We do not think that it is full justice to the deceased to say that "if he left it to others to catalogue and edit the MSS., this was not through incapacity for either task, but because he thought himself better employed in placing his materials and his knowledge at their disposal." He had never, we believe, in all the variety of his official duties, to resort, like many better known to fame, to the aid of other savants. If the cataloguing of the oriental MSS. at the India Office had to be entrusted to specialists, it was because Dr. Rost had absolutely no time for the work.

THE *Athenaeum* writes :—

"Prof. Cowell, of Cambridge, who has just completed his seventieth year, was presented on birthday with his portrait, which has been painted at the cost of fifty-six of his old pupils and others who in maturer years have continued to work with him at any of the numerous languages—Sanskrit, Persian, Pali, Old Welsh, to say nothing of Italian and Spanish—in which the veteran professor is thoroughly versed. The portrait is the work of Mr. C. E. Brock, a rising young artist, who has painted several Cambridge scholars, including the Master of St. John's, Dr. Jebb, and Dr. Sandys. It will be placed in the Hall of Corpus Christi College. The presentation was made by the Master of Christ's College on behalf of the subscribers. Prof. Cowell made an admirable reply, which ended with a characteristic Sanskrit 'śloka' of his own composition. The translation, also by the professor, may be appended :—

High on his rock the lonely scholar stands,—  
A mountain pine that spreads no sheltering shade :  
Rather grow old amid fresh student bands,  
A banyan with its native colonnade."

The professor has still many pupils in India who love and cherish his name. They also should come forward and give a sign of their regard for the man who loved his flock and loved to teach.

MADRAS had a Duke for its ruler. At the present moment, a son of a Duke is on the personal staff of the Governor. Lord Herbert Scott, a younger son of the Duke of Buccleuch and a nephew of Lady Lansdowne, is A.-D.-C. to Sir Arthur Havelock.

THE Lieutenant-Governor returned to Calcutta on Wednesday. His was not an uninterrupted journey from Darjeeling. The ordinary mail train in which he travelled had to be detained at Porada for a goods train from Gwalundo had been derailed at Halsa, the next station. The *Englishman* reports :—

"Mr. Adie, the District Traffic Superintendent, and Mr. Pughe, the Inspector-General of Railway Police, who were escorting the Lieutenant-Governor, at once went off in the engine in the scene of the accident, and seeing that it would be several hours before the line could possibly be cleared, wired to Kuchrapara for a 'special' to take the passengers on to Calcutta. In the meanwhile the Lieutenant-Governor and party and the other passengers proceeded to Halsa, where they had to wait on the platform for nearly three hours. The first train to arrive on the Calcutta side of the accident was a goods with a few third class carriages attached. These were detached at once and took the passengers on to meet the 'special.' His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor travelling in the break van, and the rest of the passengers, including their servants, in the third-class carriages, Mr. Adie himself driving the engine, and Mr. Pughe acting as guard. The 'special' was met at Bogula and got in to Sealdah at 12-45 P.M., thus making up more than an hour and-a-half from Halsa."

When Governors travel by ordinary trains, it is an advantage to the public in many ways.



## NOTES &amp; LEADERETTES,

## OUR OWN NEWS

&amp;

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH  
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

MR. CURZON, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, on Mar. 20, said that no information had been received by the Government regarding the construction of a railway from Nertchinsk to Vladivostock and Port Arthur via Tsitsihar by the Russo-Chinese Bank. In view of the great increase in Japanese trade with China, Mr. Brennan, the British Consul in Canton, had been instructed to visit the treaty ports in China, Japan and Corea, and to report on the manner and extent to which British trade had been affected by the late war. Meanwhile, it would be premature to consider the proposal to appoint a commercial Attaché at the British legation at Tokio.

In reply to other questions, he said that the Government were making representations to China regarding the terminal tax on British goods in the Southern provinces, and were pressing for the strict observance of paragraph 29 of the Treaty of 1858. The Government, he said, were also negotiating for ports open to trade where Consuls may reside on the West River.

It is reported from Peking that, yielding to French pressure, Imperial orders have been sent to the Governor of Kwangsi to construct a railway from Lungchow northward. The French thus neutralize the expected British advantages by the opening of West River by diverting the traffic towards Tonkin.

MR. CURZON, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that he proposed to issue a reminder to all Consuls abroad of their duty and instructing them to forward samples and details of foreign articles displacing British ones in their districts. Replying to a further question, he said that the Government were awaiting the views of France regarding the foreign treaty of rights in Madagascar.

TELEGRAMS from Yokohama state that the rebels have attacked the Japanese troops near Fusan, and that, after continuous fighting, the rebels were repulsed. Several Japanese have been murdered in the districts in Corea. Warships have been despatched to the scene of action.

REPLYING to Mr. Morley, Mr. CURZON said that it was proposed to resort only to the smaller Egyptian Reserve Fund for the Dongola Expedition. This fund, he said, can be disposed of by the majority of the Powers under the decree constituting the Reserve Fund.

The debate on the Egyptian question was resumed on the 20th of March when Mr. Morley introduced a motion to reduce the foreign vote for the purpose of directly challenging the policy of the Government in respect to the Dongola Expedition. He asserted that the reasons given by the Government were the flimsiest and only re-opened the occupation question again.

Mr. Chamberlain said that the vast majority of Englishmen were convinced that England's work in Egypt was not yet complete, and that it would be dishonourable to leave the country until it was. The majority of members of the House of Commons had also determined that the British should remain in Egypt until their withdrawal was safe. He had no reason to doubt that Russia and France would finally give their assent to using the Egyptian Reserve Fund for the Expedition, which, he said, aimed at no great operations in the desert, but the building of a railway to Akaseh, which meant that Egypt was going to remain wherever she went. Mr. Balfour, in winding up the debate, announced that the cost of the Expedition would be entirely defrayed out of the Egyptian funds, and affirmed that there was nothing in the action of the British Government to excite the smallest suspicion of any Frenchman, and that the demolition of the power of the Mahdi would remove an insuperable barrier to the withdrawal of British authority in Egypt. The motion on being put to the vote was rejected by 288 against 143.

THE CAISSE de La Dette has voted half a million towards the Dongola

expedition. The Russian and French delegates opposed the vote and lodged a protest, after which they withdrew. The French Bondholders' Committee immediately instituted an action against the Caisse.

THE Italian Chamber of Deputies, on Mar. 21, voted by a large majority a credit of one hundred and forty million lire to continue the war with Abyssinia. The Marquis di Rudini said that the friendship with Great Britain which would henceforth be traditional completes Italy's alliances. Friendship, he added, was inspired by a feeling prompted by mutual interest, and Italy had testified to the value she attaches to it by agreeing to advance from the Egyptian reserve the funds for the Dongola expedition.

On the 25th, ex-Minister Blanc made an important speech in which he said that the contingency of the Italian evacuation of Kassala had led to definitive public proofs of an alliance with Great Britain which was founded on an effective community of interests extending to the security of Italy as a maritime Mediterranean Power.

Duke Sermoneta concurred in M. Blanc's remarks but said that the alliance was one of sentiment. He observed that in the event of the reconquest of the Soudan the Italians must relinquish Kassala. The Marquis Rudini dwelt upon the friendship with Great Britain, and said that the Government would continue the war if unable to conclude an honourable peace.

THE Sultan is irritated against the Khedive and England because he was not consulted regarding the Dongola expedition, and has reproached Mukhtar Pasha for not preventing it. He has appealed to France and Russia to intervene, and has asked for the good offices of Germany. Representations have also been made to Lord Salisbury. It is said that this action is due to the counsels of Russia and France.

The latest news is that a very friendly exchange of views has taken place between Lord Salisbury and the Turkish ambassador regarding the expedition.

PRINCE Ferdinand is going to Constantinople to pay homage to the Sultan, and afterwards goes to St. Petersburg.

THE American Senate have re-committed the resolution in favour of American intervention in Cuba. There is renewed excitement in Spain over the Cuban question. The Spanish newspapers say that it would be better to have war with America than American interference in Cuba.

THE Indian rupee has been admitted into circulation at Mozambique.

A REUTER'S correspondent at Capetown in a telegram of the 26th March, states that a rising has taken place in Matabeleland in the Inseza and Falabusi districts, and that a number of Whites have been massacred, as well as Mr. Bentley, the native commissioner.

The Whites are flocking into Bulawayo and Gwelo for protection.

Seventy-five volunteers with a Maxim gun have been despatched to the scene of action.

Later news states that the mounted patrol had a sharp fight with the Matabeles five miles from Bulawayo on the 26th.

LORD Elgin left Calcutta on his journey to the summer capital yesterday afternoon. He does not visit Allahabad but goes direct to Bareilly.

NOW that the offices of the Government of India are leaving Calcutta for Simla, the *Statesman*, in a leader not devoid of force, summarises the principal arguments against the annual exodus. Apart from its cost, which is always officially put down at a figure very much lower than the actual, the interruption to work that is inevitable, and the isolation it involves from the centre of public opinion, are powerful arguments against the continuance of the practice. By far the strongest argument, however, was furnished some time ago by Sir Alexander Miller. In a letter to a Calcutta journal, in answer to our review of his now celebrated lecture on the origin of the jury, Sir Alexander made the confession that at the summer capital of the British Indian empire he could not obtain a copy of *Howell's State Trials* for verifying a reference. No more humiliating confession

could come from the legal member. Considering that the work named is by no means rare, and the necessity there always is for books of reference for conducting the government, no stronger condemnation could be pronounced upon the practice of making Simla the capital of India for nine months of the year. We publish elsewhere "A Plea for Calcutta: A Question of the Hour" from the pen of the late Dr. Sambhu C. Mukherjee. Though written in 1876, these twenty years have made no change in the policy of shifting the capital.

At the sitting, on Thursday, the 19th of March, of the Supreme Legislative Council, the Law Member presented the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882, otherwise known as the Jury Bill, intended to further enucleate the system of jury trial in India. It was at one time understood, as it was semi-officially announced, that the Bill would be dropped. With the return, however, of Government to Calcutta, the Bill was revived. The most objectionable clause, which provided for the requiring of special verdicts on issues of fact, was eliminated. The other portions of the Bill were accepted by the Select Committee with very little amendments. The new section added by them extending by six months the period of exemption from attendance of a common-sensational juror is a doubtful advantage. The material alteration relates to section 327 of the existing Code. The Committee report—"we have endeavoured to place it beyond dispute that it is not necessary that a verdict should be actually perverse in order to justify its being made the subject of a reference to the High Court, and further that it is the bounden duty of the High Court on receiving such a reference to take fully into account the opinion of the Sessions Judge as well as that of the jury and the evidence on which both should be based." The section as amended runs thus:

"If in any such case the Sessions Judge disagrees with the verdict of the jurors, or of a majority of the jurors, on all or any of the charges on which the accused has been tried, and is clearly of opinion that it is necessary for the ends of justice to submit the case to the High Court, he shall submit the case accordingly, recording the grounds of his opinion, and, when the verdict is one of acquittal, stating the offence which he considers to have been committed."

Whenever the Judge submits a case under this section, he shall not record judgment of acquittal or of conviction on any of the charges on which the accused has been tried, but he may either remand the accused to custody or admit him to bail.

In dealing with the case so submitted the High Court may exercise any of the powers which it may exercise on appeal; and subject thereto it shall, after considering the entire evidence and after giving due weight to the opinions of the Sessions Judge and the Jury, acquit or convict the accused of any offence of which the jury could have convicted him upon the charge framed and placed before it; and, if it convicts him, may pass such sentence as might have been passed by the Court of Session."

The italics are the alterations made. They replace the words "so completely that he considers it" and "but it may" respectively.

On Thursday, the 26th of March, when the Council met for the last time at Calcutta, the Bill was taken into consideration and passed without any discussion or amendment.

The Code has already been amended empowering the Local Government to appeal to the High Court from an original or appellate order of acquittal passed by any lower court. The present amendment authorizes an intermediate appeal by the Sessions Judge when he differs from the Jury or disagrees with them.

THE House of Commons has resolved upon the opening of Museums and Art Galleries on the day of rest. Sunday has ceased to be a *dies non* in India. A memorial has gone up to the Viceroy praying that an Act be passed declaring Sunday to be both a legal *dies non* and a public holiday on which none may be compelled to work or to attend to official duties other than those which the Act may specify.

IN the House of Commons, on Thursday, March 5, Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India:

"If he is now able to lay upon the table any papers or correspondence relating to the disputes between the Government of India and the Maharaja Rana of Jhalawar; and if it is the intention of the Government to grant the request of His Highness that the charges brought against him by the Political Agent should be made the subject of a public inquiry, in which he may have the advantage of legal advice."

Lord George Hamilton:

"I must invite the attention of the hon. member to my reply on Feb. 24. Until I have received by mail the final orders and papers from the Indian Government relating to the case, I cannot say what papers I can produce. I am informed by telegram that

the inquiry has resulted in the deposition of the Maharaja Rana, and that this decision has been made known in Jhalawar. The charges brought against His Highness have been fully explained to him, and his written answers received. There has been no restriction upon his seeking advice, and the inquiry has been conducted according to the usual practice, which I am not disposed to modify."

Dr. Clark wished to know

"Whether the noble lord the Secretary of State for India had any further information to give the House with reference to the deposition of the Maharaja of Jhalawar. He also wished to know whether Indian Princes were to be deposed without fair trial or any inquiry being made into the charges brought against them. This was a very serious matter, affecting the loyalty of a large number of our fellow subjects in India. He had heard the facts of the case, and he maintained that independent rulers ought not to be deposed as the result of a secret inquiry."

Lord G. Hamilton said that

"It was perfectly true that the Maharaja of Jhalawar had been deposed. He was deposed in 1884 by Lord Ripon, but subsequently he was partially reinstated with limitation to his powers. That limitation was withdrawn two years ago. In consequence of the state of affairs which had since arisen it was necessary in the interest of good government that he should be deposed. When papers arrived from India he believed it would be seen that the Indian Government had no alternative but to act as they had done."

As Dr. Tanner's enquiry when the papers were expected, Lord G. Hamilton said he could not answer.

It is not likely that the papers will be published while the interest in Jhalawar lasts, or until Prince Zalim has sunk into nothingness. From the replies of the Secretary of State, it does not appear that the prince has been deposed for good, or that he will not be reinstated once more in power. He also says that the prince was informed of the charges against him, that he was free to consult his advisers, that he gave his written replies to the charges, that the explanation was not deemed sufficient, and that he deserved the sentence passed on him. Lord G. Hamilton accepts both the finding and sentence of the Government of India. At any rate, he is not disposed to question or modify, if he has not already confirmed, them. It is difficult to suppose that the Government of India could act on their own responsibility in a matter of this kind. At the same time it is not impossible that the view derivable from papers by the mail may be different from that formed on telegraphic messages. It is best therefore to wait till the publication of the papers. But how long? Prince Zalim may have deserved his fate. It must, however, be patent to all that he has been justly punished.

MR. JOHN A. BAGGOT writes to the *Times*:

"I am glad that Mr. Lauchlin has asked a question about the statue of my father in the central hall of the Houses of Parliament. I am reluctant to say any thing unpleasant to those who subscribed towards it with a desire to do honour to my father's memory or annoying to the distinguished sculptor who made it, but it is so totally unlike my father in almost every respect that to look at it is painful to my brothers and myself. I think the committee who ordered it would have done much better if they had given the commission to the only living sculptor who had made a statue of my father from life or, failing him, to some one who had often seen my father. I believe that in this case the sculptor had never seen him, excepting once from a distance, and that he had to make what likeness he could from photographs. He might possibly have been more successful if he had felt that hints from some member of my family would have been of service to him, but apparently he did not. The result is a figure which if it was not so painful for me to see, I should call grotesque."

The same is the case with the marble figure at the junction of College Street and Harrison Road, Calcutta. Though unveiled by the Viceroy, it is no likeness of him whom it is intended to honour. As a false representation it ought to be removed and replaced by a true one. The bust of the native Judge at the Calcutta Small Cause Court was so renewed. The so-called statue of Kristolas Pal may represent anybody other than a Bengali or Hindu. Of the known persons in Calcutta, it most counterfeits in features the Attorney Baboo Ashutosh Dutt. He or his family may buy up the statue, thus enabling the family and friends of the late Kristolas Pal to look upon his like or likeness again in another figure.

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AFTER preparations made, it is a disappointment that the Conversazione of the Mahomedan Literary Society is not to be held this year. It was to have come off on Monday next. On Wednesday last, the Calcutta Corporation informed the Society that, "in the present state of the roof of the Town Hall the building should not be used for public meetings of any kind either on the upper or the lower floor." The next place thought of was the Dalhousie Institute, but it could not afford the necessary accommodation for the various exhibits and experiments. Another suggestion was the Indian Museum. It too had to be abandoned, for it was not possible that the Trustees could agree to its new use. There being no other available building which the Society could think of, the members have most reluctantly been obliged to abruptly put a stop to the entertainment. Accordingly,

"The Committee of the Management of the Mahomedan Literary Society regret to state that

The thirty-second Annual Conversazione fixed for Monday the 30th instant cannot therefore be held at the Town Hall and as there is no other suitable place where it could be held, the Committee of Management have, with very great regret to announce that the Conversazione is postponed *sine die*."

This inability to hold the Conversazione is a positive loss to the public of Calcutta. It is here that the newest discoveries in science are exhibited and explained to the ordinary public. This year, as a special novelty, there would have been an exhibition of the latest inventions in agriculture and sericulture. The Society has been unremitting for the last 31 years in its efforts at general instruction and cultivation of good feelings between the different communities. Let us hope the unexpected breakdown, at the last moment, of the *soirée* will be more than made up next year. It is, indeed, a disgrace to the Calcutta administration that the Town Hall is not fit for use during the season, as there is no other place for a large gathering. We understand that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the patron of the Society, has expressed through his Private Secretary his regret at the postponement of the annual entertainment under such circumstances.

A DEVASTATING fire, breaking out in a *busti*, committed great ravages on Tuesday last at Kidderpore in the southern suburbs of Calcutta. With a high wind blowing, and not enough water available, the engines could not extinguish the rapidly advancing fire till it had completed its work of destruction and purification. The Police have calculated the loss of 102 huts in Watganj and 1,125 tenements in Ekbalpur. In all, six *bustis* have been completely burnt and 6,000 persons rendered homeless. The scene of destruction and desolation covers an area of about a mile in length and 600 yards in breadth. Three women and four children lost their lives, and a number of cattle, chiefly cows, were burnt. The visitation has evoked public and private charity. Of the public bodies, the Chamber of Commerce, as befitted their position, took the lead, and held a meeting at their rooms to consider measures for the relief of the sufferers. They formed committees to raise subscriptions and render relief. Mr. Risley represented the Bengal Government. He expressed the sympathy of the Lieutenant-Governor who, he said, had been greatly shocked at the extent of the disaster and was prepared to make a grant from the Provincial funds. The Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad was the first to subscribe Rs. 250. The Maharaja of Darbhanga has offered Rs. 2,500. An anonymous sympathiser has forwarded a cheque for Rs. 5,000.

ON Monday next, at 4-30 P.M., there will be a free public meeting, at the British Indian Association rooms, under the presidency of Raja Peary Mohun Mukerjee, C.S.I., in connection with the question of Medical Reform in India. Dr. K. N. Bahadurji of Bombay, who has studied the subject and has the knack of explaining matters lucidly in a few words, will address the meeting. It will be a treat, indeed, to hear him.

THE Indian Association gave, on Thursday last, an afternoon-Evening Party to the native members of the Viceregal Council from Madras and the Central Provinces. Rai Bahadur Ananda Charju could not be present as he left for Madras the same afternoon. But Rao Sahib Bulwant Rao Bhushkutay was there. It is satisfaction to know that our Calcutta people are beginning to learn the duties of hospitality.

THE Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation has issued invitations for a Garden Party, at his residence, 21, London Street, on the 1st of April, to meet the Lieutenant-Governor.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, March 28, 1896.

RAGHUNATH SIROMANI.

THE FOUNDER OF THE NAYA SCHOOL OF NAVADWIP.

It is to be regretted that the people of India never paid much attention to the claims of either history or biography. The Puranas, and the two great epics, *viz.*, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, are believed to contain some biographical accounts of kings, heroes, and Rishis. But those accounts exist in such a form, in other words, they are so indissolubly mixed with poetic exaggerations, that the true facts are difficult to find out. Some years ago, a Bengali critic of some pretensions observed that, perhaps, this neglect of history and biography has not been altogether baneful. His argument was that the world gains nothing from the small beer that makers of history and biography delight in chronicling; that, after all, no advantage is to be reaped from a detailed account of the campaigns of Asoka or the wars of Alexander; that if Ferishtah had omitted ten out of the twelve famous expeditions of Mahomed Ghazni, in India, men would not have lost anything. The Puranas, according to the critic, do contain biographical accounts. Only the quintessence of the lessons to be drawn from biography is enshrined in them. The life, day to day, of no chaste woman may occur in those books, but the chastity of Savitri has been recorded there in undying letters. The true utility of biography consists in the models of character it presents for imitation. Hence, he observed, no useful purpose is gained by recording all the acts of even the greatest man of any age or country. He read, he thought, he ate, he slept, he moved from place to place, he did good to some, and injured others. The details of his dinners, or slumbers, or journeys, do not deserve to be recorded. The curiosity is morbid that the world manifests in such particulars. The very name of the hero may, according to him, be allowed to be forgotten. It is only with an account of his virtues that we are concerned. Many such accounts occur in the Sanskrit epics and the Puranas. As biographies, therefore, they are better, because the useful only has been retained, than even Boswell's Johnson which is full of frivolous details.

Plausible as the above view is, it is essentially incorrect. Mere accounts of virtues can never engage the interest of mankind. They must necessarily assume the character of didactic precepts or abstract disquisitions. Example is more efficacious than precept. Burke finely said that "Example is everything. Example is the school of mankind, and they will learn at no other." Ten sermons on the sacredness of animal life cannot move the heart so powerfully as the ten lines of Sterne where he tells the story of the dead ass mourned by its owner at the village inn. Take up any biography and see what the difference is between such a book and an

### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1895-96.)

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Wednesday, the 1st April, at 6-30 P.M. Subject: Optical Instruments (continued).

Lecture by Babu Syamadas Mukerjee, M.A., on Thursday, the 2nd Inst., at 3 P.M. Subject: Analytical Conics.—Reciprocal Polars.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 2 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAT. SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

March 28, 1896.

abstract disquisition, in the chastest style, on all the cardinal virtues, from the pen of an eloquent writer. The curiosity is not morbid that man feels in the doings of men raised above the common level. The anecdotes illustrative of Johnson's impertinence and arrogance and narrowness and unseasonable wrath are not without their usefulness. They serve to explain the anatomy of the man's mind. In an account of Johnson's life they are as necessary for the purpose of bringing out his virtues as shades are necessary to set off the lights of a picture. Then, again, the shortcomings of great men serve as warnings to others, even as their merits operate as examples for imitation. They are beacon lights showing the dangers ahead.

Every student of Indian literature and history must, therefore, deplore the total absence of materials from which biographies can be constructed of eminent Indian scholars of former times. Who is there that would not like to know more of the life of that brilliant Bengali logician, Raghunath Siromani of Nadia? As long as the Naya School of philosophy will be honoured in India, so long will Raghunath's name be remembered with veneration. He may be looked upon as the founder of the great university of Nadia or Navadwip. It was Raghunath who first won for that university the privilege of bestowing titles. The commentaries he wrote on the Naya are held in the highest esteem. Kant himself, if he had known the man would have honoured him for the vigour and subtlety of his intellect. Yet, sad to reflect, we know almost nothing of that great thinker, beyond a few incidents which rest on tradition and about whose genuineness there is considerable doubt.

Raghunath lost his father while he was three years old. His father was a very poor Brahman. At his death, accordingly, he could leave nothing for the support of his widow and child. The widow, seeing no other means for rearing her son, was obliged to depend upon eleemosynary alms. By this, however, she could not make the two ends meet, although she was diligent in her daily rounds. The poor woman at last became a serving maid at a *Tole* (*chatuspathi*). She used to wait upon the students. Her occupation was to rub and scrub the mud-floors of their rooms, to scour the brass utensils belonging to them, to do their marketing, to make the fires needed for their cooking, to wash their clothes, and, lastly, to sweep the yard. Her earnings as a serving woman barely sufficed to keep her and her little child alive.

One day, when Raghunath had attained his fifth year, his mother sent him to the *Tole* for fire needed for her own cooking. A student was cooking his food. The Brahman students in large *Toles* did and still do their own cooking. There is no disgrace for a Brahman in preparing his own food. In fact, the rules of purity require it. *Swahastapaka* is always laudable. One unable to cook one's food may take food cooked by one's *swagotra*. A *swahastapachin* is looked upon as purer than a *swagotrasin*. The student, when asked by Raghunath, brought out of the oven a quantity of fire with his iron ladle, and, as a practical joke, said,—“Here, boy, take what you want.” Raghunath had brought no vessel of earth or iron with him. He was not, however, to be non-plussed. He joined his little palms together, took up a quantity of dust, and requested the student to place the living charcoals on it. The incident was observed by the other students.

They all admired Raghunath's readiness. Their Professor, Vasudeva Sarvabhauma, heard of it and resolved to teach young Raghunath. Vasudeva asked the widowed mother to give the child to him. She was delighted at the idea that thenceforth her child would not only be fed and clad, but also educated, by a Pandit like Vasudeva. The child was transferred to the care of Vasudeva who began to treat him as his own.

Raghunath was endued with extraordinary intelligence. Within a short time he succeeded in mastering Sanskrit grammar and law. It is said that, while labouring with the Sanskrit alphabet, Raghunath gave great trouble to his teacher. He enquired why *ka* should be the first letter and not *kha* or *ga*. This obliged his instructor to explain to him, even at that stage of his study, the organs and the efforts necessary to pronounce the several letters. A child who had to be taught the difference between palatals and gutturals and labials and dentals and nasals, while still engaged with his letters, could not be instructed in grammar and law by an ordinary teacher. Vasudeva had to summon all his learning for explaining to his pupil even the most ordinary aphorisms of grammar. When the *smritis* were taken up, the task became still more difficult.

After Raghunath had studied grammar, poetry, rhetoric, and the *smritis*, he took up *Naya*. Soon enough he finished the few treatises that were then current. It should be observed that in those days, of all the universities in India, that of Mithila alone was famed for the thoroughness with which *Naya* was taught in it. To keep up the supremacy of Mithila, the Pandits of that university took great care to prevent their students from taking away with them manuscripts bearing upon the *Naya* philosophy. When a student completed his studies and passed the final public examination, he received a title such as Tarkalankara; Tarkabhusana, Tarkapanchanana, Nayalankara, Nayabhusana, &c. Leave was granted to him to return to his native province and open a *tole*, but then his baggage was carefully searched so that it was impossible for any one to take away from Mithila a single work on *Naya* or a single commentary. Vasudeva had finished his study of *Naya* in Mithila. Endowed with an extraordinarily retentive memory, he had got by heart the contents of every work on *Naya* that he had read. Dismissed by his preceptor with the title of *Sarvabhauma*, he came home, and the first thing he did was to reproduce the treatises on *Naya*. This enabled him to open a *tole* in Nadia with the object of teaching *Naya* better than others, along with the other branches of learning such as grammar and poetry and rhetoric and law. There were preceptors in *Naya* before Vasudeva in Nadia, but none of them had been so famous as he. The fact is, Vasudeva derived great advantages from the books he had reproduced from memory before setting himself up as a teacher. Raghunath, having finished the works on *Naya* which his master had reproduced, found that to become a thorough master in it, he should have to go to Mithila. Besides, he was resolved to win for his *alma mater* the privilege of granting titular distinctions. Not that the Nadia Pandits did not confer titles on their students who completed their courses under them; but then the titles they gave were not recognised in Mithila or any other part of India. Unless and until a Nadia Pandit could vanquish one of the great teachers of Mithila, the privilege of Nadia



to grant titles could not be undisputed. Moved, therefore, by the generous impulse of becoming a thorough master of Naya and of winning for Nadia the undisputed privilege of granting titles, Raghunath, with the blessings of Vasudeva and of the other venerable teachers of Nadia, started for Mithila.

It is not difficult to imagine what the thoughts were of the young student as he journeyed on to that ancient and famous seat of Naya philosophy. Communications in those days were very difficult. After great trouble, Raghunath reached Mithila and got himself admitted in the *tole* of Pakshadhara Misra, the most famous of the Mithila preceptors. It is said that Pakshadhara had more than a thousand pupils. Raghunath joined the very last class. Within a few days he succeeded in attracting attention. He was able to vanquish in disputation all the advanced pupils of Pakshadhara. His fame spread all over Mithila as the brightest of all the students of Naya that had ever visited the country of Janaka. Raghunath challenged the accuracy of the comments that were current in Mithila on the Gautama Sutras. This led the great Pakshadhara himself to enter into a disputation with him.

The day was fixed for that grand intellectual gladiatorship which was to terminate in the victory of Raghunath and of his *alma mater*. Learned Mithila took an interest in the disputation that can be easily imagined. Raghunath was blind of one eye. His fellow students made themselves merry over this fact. The senior professors, however, trembled for the reputation of their university. The disputation was conducted with sobriety on both sides for two days. On the third day, however, Pakshadhara, finding himself beaten, had recourse to abusive declamation. He represented that Raghunath was an impostor in learning, that he had not been able to penetrate the system of Gautama, that, in fact, his arguments were so shallow as not to deserve reply. The assembly broke up with shouts of derision directed against the poor friendless student from Bengal. The prospect before him was utterly cheerless. Dismissed from Mithila with ignominy, where could he go and set himself up as a teacher? Life seemed to him to be a burden. How would Nadia receive him? How could he show his face to his own loving teacher, the venerable Vasudeva? Conscious of his own powers and fully persuaded of the insincerity of Pakshadhara, the indignation he felt was extreme. In the maddening frenzy of the hour, he resolved to do a desperate deed. He would first kill Pakshadhara Misra and then put an end to his own existence. He had taken no food that day. He felt no appetite. Evening came. He did not light his little room, but sat brooding over his wrongs. Midnight came. Every one had retired to rest. Raghunath silently issued from his chamber, armed with a deadly knife. Slowly he proceeded to the house of Pakshadhara. The season was autumn. The moon was at her full. We will not endeavour to depict his thoughts. It was a fit of madness that had seized him. The enormity of his intended crime, one may be sure, was not present to him. The house was reached. Pakshadhara was lying on a mattress, on the terrace of the house, his wife sitting beside him. Raghunath managed to enter and creep up the stair-case. He heard voices. Pausing to listen, he caught the words. The wife, struck by the beauty of the moon, admiringly asked her husband as to whether there could be anything

brighter. Pakshadhara was silent. Offended at this, she repeated her question, when Pakshadhara, roused from his reverie, replied, saying,—“I have seen something brighter than the autumnal moon. The splendour of the intelligence of a student from Bengal, by name Raghunath, overshadows the splendour thou admirest!” The knife dropped from Raghunath's hands. He ran and threw himself at the feet of his preceptor and confessed, with convulsive sobs, the crime he had planned. Pakshadhara raised him from the suppliant posture, and embraced him with tears of affection. The next day all Mithila was summoned. In the presence of all the professors and students, Pakshadhara fully confessed that he had been beaten by Raghunath and that Raghunath's views were undoubtedly correct. The title of Siromani was conferred upon him. He was allowed to take away what manuscripts he chose. The privilege of Nadia of bestowing titular distinctions was recognised.

Congratulations poured on Raghunath from his fellow students as also from all the great preceptors of Mithila. Hearty was the welcome that awaited him at Nadia. Old Vasudeva embraced him with tears in his eyes. It was the proudest moment of Vasudeva's life. He soon after started for Benares to end his days in that sacred city. High though the fame was of Raghunath as a *Naryayika*, he was as poor in earthly goods as a church mouse. With such assistance as he could get, he set up a *tole*. Students flocked to him from every part of India. Unable to build a house, he used a large cow-shed belonging to one Hari Ghosh as his lecture-hall. The din of voices was very great in that shed all day long, in consequence of the disputations of his pupils. To this day, any place where a large number of people congregate and talk aloud is spoken of as a “Hari Ghosh's gowal” (gowal meaning cow-shed.)

Of Raghunath's later life we have no details. He composed thirty commentaries on the Naya system of philosophy. They were far superior to those then existing. All of them are now studied at Nadia. Later Pandits have commented on his commentaries and kept his interpretations alive. In fact, Nadia to this day retains her supremacy in Naya. The great teachers of Mithila are gone. Students desirous of mastering the Naya philosophy flock to Nadia from every part of India. The supremacy of Nadia is entirely owing to Raghunath. “Dhiman Raghunath Siromani” (the highly intelligent Raghunath Siromani) is the appellative by which he is cited to this day everywhere in India.

#### A PLEA FOR CALCUTTA.

##### A QUESTION OF THE HOUR.

Which is the capital of India? The question may well be resented as suggesting a doubt that is not. Is there a doubt? Seikh and Sikh, Mogul and Maharatta, Parsee and Parhan, have none—have had none, these hundred years. Ask sober historians—ask disinterested foreign travellers; ask dull statisticians—ask geographers; do they give any uncertain sound? Listen to indifferent Goa and Tranquebar and Pondicherry! With them all, the Government of India is the Government of Calcutta. For the rest, benighted Mull or aspiring Duck never seriously contests the *status quo*, however bitterly the one may complain of his lot, or the other lose no opportunity of preferring, for the future, the claims of his favoured abode. Why, indeed, ask? Look around and—confess!

Neglected of course Calcutta has been for a series of years; all but most shamefully divorced without offence, on a frivolous pretence. Neglected, while she has put forth all her resources—developed all her capabilities—made the most of her great advantage of situation, and abated all its drawbacks, setting her house in order and beautifying it, at great expense of toil and trouble and substance, sinking her *stridham* (*peculium*) and perhaps im-

poorish her children for ever, to fit it for the reception and permanent residence of her Lord Saheb. Yes! she has made proper harbour for his barks---his men-of-war, merchant-men, and pleasure-yachts---has provided landing places for his embarkation and debarkation, jetties and wharfs and warehouses and counting-houses for his commerce with the world, and bureaus for the administration of his vast estates in *her* right---the right of the Great Mogul's daughter, his wife---has in ten years conjured up a fairy city, pulled down houses and opened shady squares and paved arcades and perfumed groves---raised palaces in stucco or stone in forms fantastic---laid out parks and gardens and green walks and embowered retreats---put up statues in every corner and lighted up the whole, night after night, all to please her Lord! For he, base man, leaving a few miserable discontented small fry of agents to look languidly after the estates as may be, beyond the master's eye, like a veritable Koolin---lord of a hundred consorts---roams the country over, now flirting with the immodest wench with her tinsel airs, Lucknow, in the mock-Kaiser Bagh, now to the interesting elderly widow, Agra, whispering tenderness in the moonlight under the Taj, now courting that used up proud old queenly termagant, Delhi, whose embrace is death, and anon, in sheer disappointment or sad satiety, retreating in haste from the world to shut himself up within the everlasting hills, and the eternal snows, in the shadow of the Almighty Himself---not alas! to pray in sack-cloth and ashes, but---but. Neglected indeed, but not repudiated yet. By all law, human and divine, Calcutta is the lawful wife---the true and only capital of India.

Time was when Calcutta was better regarded. When she was, indeed, indispensable. When the Lord Saheb was a raw and unknown and uncared for knight, without the present aristocratic or high-Brahmanic pretensions. When he had not conquered the dames of the North, when his addresses would have been rejected with scorn as the crazy aspirations of a sturdy but penniless adventurer without connections. It was his first easy success with the famous brunette of Bengala indeed, that urged on his ambition to universal empire in the East; his connections here that facilitated his views against the other Peria.

Calcutta has no doubt, manifold imperfections---her own manifest disadvantages. It was not the best site to found a city on. Calcutta was a child of necessity. Not in pleasure or in pride was the idea conceived, nor even in fair weather carried out. It was a heaven of a place compared to Injelli, at the mouth of the river where the English held on to Bengal, after being forced to shut up shop at Hooghly and flee. Deadly as the Salt Water Lake might have proved in that century, to the hard-drinkers, voracious eaters, and day-sleepers of the period, the Lake as a nuisance has been almost suppressed. Lord Wellesley rendered Calcutta a tolerably habitable city of palaces.

Calcutta has had her detractors. Lord Ellenborough contemptuously spoke of the "Commercial Capital of Bengal." It may well be doubted whether his Lordship realized the full import of his words. Those who have no great respect for the deceased Governor-General may even urge that the haughty loneliness of the Laws which he inherited, and which probably cost him his domestic happiness, was ill able to sympathise with the larger interests of the profane vulgar; while the strange femininity of his soul which preferred epaulettes to plain clothes and delighted in the theatrical, hankered for the historical. But take the proud scoffer at his word! Even such as he puts it, the position of Calcutta is not one to despise. To be the port and emporium of that kingdom of the Indian Continent which was the nucleus of the British possessions---which maintained the Court of Delhi and supplied the successors of the Moguls with the sinews of war to make the whole empire their own---that Bengal which has made up, from her abundance for the annual loss by reckless conquests and imprudent responsibilities selfishly or ambitiously undertaken---is not exactly a fitting butt of statesmanlike derision. More to the point was Lord Hardinge's disappointment. "I must go back to Cairo," said the simple soldier, after his first week at Government House, "I must go back to Cairo to see the East!" That, however, came of Calcutta being the British capital in the East---a European city planted in the midst of Asia. For the rest, it came of driving about Government-Place and the Esplanade, or sailing straight up the grand Wellesley Road---through fields and orchards, straggling hamlets and uninhabited wastes---to Barrackpore and back. Or, if he had ventured out of the English settlement in the true Eastern direction, he might have seen a few mosques and *Mandirs* to remind him of the quarter of the globe he had been exiled to, of his own free choice. But these architectural monuments are but the prominent drapery of the East---not of its essence. That consists in its profound sincerity and humanity and repose---a sincerity which is above taking superfluous pains to conceal and varnish vanity as if it were a grave reproach of our poor human life---a humanity which does not despise the meanest, which postpones beauty and comfort to benevolence---a repose which gives happiness under the greatest trials---all together causing that exhibition of squalor and dirt side by side

with barbaric pearl and gold, and of great works run to decay, which so disgusts the restless European, with his veneers and French polishes and portland cement to look like stone and his shirt-frills and cuffs of paper sold separately from shirts. Now, this essence of the East Lord Hardinge might have inhaled, if properly directed by his Baboo instead of his A. D. C---within a mile or so of his residence.

Calcutta, indeed, is at once a European and an Asiatic city. That, for all human purposes of the present, including even æsthetic, is an advantage over her prouder rivals up the country. Calcutta is the modern Delhi---the Indraprastha of the Kali Yug---the Empire City of the British World in the East---the seat of England as the greatest Asiatic Power.

Yet is Calcutta continually taunted as a City without a past or a future.

On either side the idea is a grievous wrong to Calcutta. She has, God knows, need to apologise for enough substantial shortcomings to be able to bear an unmerited odium. But first as to the worst imputation. No worse abuse than the curse of death! Life may be supported without a pedigree, but the threat of death is such that one must look about. But, is there ground for alarm? The Government of India has, indeed, proved faithless to its Lakshmi---Goddess of Fortune; and statesmen have generally lost their heads. What then? Calcutta does not wholly depend upon the smiles of power. Calcutta has indeed been systematically neglected for a great many years, and of late almost deserted. Yet she has not been reduced. She has been rising, steadily if slowly. She has, during all this neglect, been cleansing and beautifying herself at enormous cost. If not the political capital, it will be enough if she remains the commercial emporium of Bengal, styled by the great Aurungzebe, the Paradise of Nations. Is there any danger to that alternative prospect? There, I should hope, under Providence, the youthful Queen of the East is tolerably safe.

From time to time, indeed, we are troubled by the auguries of envious outsiders, and the fears of too pessimist insiders, that the Hooghly below the town is silting up, that the Mother of Waters---holy Ganga---shall soon leave the City of Palaces in the lurch, as so many cities have before been forsaken by their guardian Naiads. I believe there is no ground for such an apprehension within some generations to come. The calamity when it does impend, may surely be avoided, or at least to some extent abated, if not indefinitely postponed, by human ingenuity. With the progress of science the impossible has more than ever been abolished; and even the ruder engineering of the past has succeeded in diverting the course of streams. The Suez Canal which has changed the climate of the Egyptian desert and the commerce of the world ought to make us hopeful. Our ancestors did not easily sink under difficulties. The remains of stupendous public works shew how manfully, and not unavailingly, they grappled with the disadvantages of climate and soil. We, their degenerate descendants of these latter days, less accustomed to see man control the grander forces of Nature, are profoundly impressed with the truth that there is no power like divine power. We are prepared meekly enough to resign ourselves to the inevitable, when it does overtake us. Not before that evil time, however, will we listen to the tempter. Not before that will the prophet of evil drive us to give up our legitimate claims. Nevertheless, we shall not be let alone. The minds of our citizens are unsettled by all manner of suggestions and rumours. It is a mercy that the chief owners of Calcutta---the Mullicks, Bysaks, &c.---are not adepts in deciphering letter-press. They knew not a thousandth part of what they were hourly threatened with, or they might have committed suicide, or at least quickly disposed of their properties for a song and gone to end their days in holy retirement at Brindaban.

This Age prides itself upon being the Positive Age. It is not to be done out of its wits by any metaphysical farrago, or to be bequiled by any alluring speculative prospect. How it deceives itself! Look at the thousand and one grounds, good, bad, and indifferent---an impracticable and imaginative for one prosaic and sober---for removing the capital to---the Lord know where! It might be Blazes, for anything that the proposers particularly cared. A thousand and one places were pointed out in almost all parts of India, each of which would incontestably make not only a better capital than Calcutta, but absolutely the best. But, for better or for worse, it seems essential, in the view of the agitators, that the experiment should be made and at once. It is the misfortune of India that European political speculators, hardly excepting even any Anglo-Indian ones in their wildest dreams, their most foolhardy measures, incur no personal risk for themselves or their own.

The whole map has been ransacked to supply a plea for humbling the pride of Calcutta, and all manner of queer suggestions have been made. Some would take us up above the clouds in the Himalayas in Tartary---for Simla is Tartary rather than India. The wiser Mr. Smith of the *Friend of India* was more kind; he was convinced that an unheard of village among the Ghonds is

Nature's Capital of India.\* Others would have it higher up; some in the Dehra Doon, some in the Doab. The go-a-head Panjabees of course set their heart upon Lahore, but might put up with Delhi. And Delhi, doubtless, is the historic capital of India--the true City of Palaces as of the Peacock Throne--the Paradise on earth which has inspired the song of poets of all climes. Russophobists, in anticipation of the inevitable advance into Central Asia, would move towards the Frontier. Others, on a variety of reasons, historical, topographical, sanitary, military and so forth, would take nothing less than the City of Akbar--the Great Mogul, *par excellence*. Bombastes Furioso of the West cries himself hoarse for Bombay--the queen of harbours, in direct communication with Europe. But his satisfaction at the unique possession is short-lived, for soon others, on all his grounds, and many more, set up the claims of Kurrachee. The do-nothings and know-nothings and care-nothings of the Services--the triflers whom all play, and no work has demoralized--would as I have said, locate the capital up above the clouds, and make-believe to govern Supreme from the peaks of Chinese Turkestan.

With a host of publicists like Sir George Campbell the capital ought to be any where--Poona, Nagpore, Umballa, Delhi, Agra, Allahabad--but Calcutta. Such speculators, however, in their vanity of innovation or lust for symmetry, forget the obvious. Thus, the advantages of a central position are counterbalanced by the dangers of possible isolation--the attractions of mountain air and scenery are, of course, an irresistible diversion from work. Did the foreign politics of the Empire demand the moving of the seat of Government west-ward, Delhi or even Lahore would be a faint hearted compromise. Why not go the whole hog and start shop or rather stall at heart! Under such a view, Kurrachee, which is also a harbour in the Arabian sea, as being nearer to Khelat, would seem entitled to preference over Bombay. As to proximity to Europe, the capital may better at once be removed to Aden or Alexandria. For that matter, indeed, our concern is vain; has been rendered superfluous by the calm wisdom and disinterested policy of Great Britain. The capital *de facto* of India for some years past has been London, and the growing disposition is to perpetuate the unblushing arrangement. Strategically, economically, socially and historically, Calcutta is, nevertheless, the true capital. Calcutta and no other! Bombay would leave the Empire too far in the rear. Calcutta commands Bombay as being on the way to Europe. Bombay would be a more efficient auxiliary than a powerful mistress. History has ratified the conclusion of *a priori* reasoning as to Bombay's usefulness as a subordinate administration in time of trouble. For, with for less incentive to exertion than the Punjab, whose own safety was at stake, Bombay rendered invaluable service to the Empire in the crisis of 1857. History has yet to disprove the presumptions against Bombay's superiority as seat of Supreme Government. With regard to moving higher up, in view of recent events and those coming events which have cast their doleful shadow before--the capital may be too near the frontier, and, of course, in danger from surprises. Higher up, in fact anywhere in Northern India, more particularly towards the Punjab, it would be liable to attack. I refer not to external foes alone. Danger may arise where least looked for--in the very province. Among a material and excitable people, Government could not repose in the unclouded serenity of Lower Bengal. Government in such a locality could not divest itself of the possibility of being cut off from communication with the provinces and the mother-country. Such a capital would be exposed, if not to sudden capture, at least to constant panics,--so fatal to sound administration or calm policy. But if a change to Agra or Delhi or Lahore may have its honest, however more or less modest, recommendations, Simla is utterly indefensible. This, to begin with, not in India: It is "out of humanity's reach." It is a place more suited to the cloister-life of pensioned Emperors than to hurry and bustle of actual administration. It is fit retreat indeed for "monarchs retired from business." Such, at all events, the envy (if you will) of the scorched plains will always imagine the Hills! If it is not a Land of Lotus Eaters, where life itself is an exertion, it is admittedly a delicious Capua where business is an imperfection. Separated by hundreds of miles and by great geographical barriers, from the people and the country for whom Government exists and who maintain it, Simla can never be a natural seat of power--never aught but a capital *per force*--more *zid*. Government in such a phantasmic situation, so dissociated from the nation, so far above all mundane interest, so far beyond the reach of advice or influence of every kind, unless it be that of the moon, to which it is so much nearer, must tend to be, even in the best hands, spasmodic, abnormal. So radically false a position, so anti social without the elements for a mutual understanding between the Governors and the governed, may, possibly, produce a philosophy of the unconditioned, but not a useful sympathetic human rule.

Government from such a place must be a series of leaps, more or less, in the dark. Nothing can compensate the want of the criticism of a free and instructed press and the co-operation of an

intelligent public--the advice of independent public men. These advantages cannot be had for the asking; they cannot be improvised even at the fiat of absolute power. They grow at natural seats of government, under favourable conditions; or *where* they spontaneously grow, Governments make their seats. Government to be sound and efficient must needs sympathise with the people, as it must, in some measure at least, depend upon its sympathy. This sympathy comes of contact and communion. Cut off from sympathy, Governments must be doubly a failure. Sympathy on the one side blunts the edge of folly and absolute wrong, as on the other, it receives folly and wrong even with kindness. Sympathy is often a better enlightener of the statesman's mind than stiff "proud reason." This inestimable two-fold advantage can be had only at such a place as Calcutta or Bombay. They are not available in anything like equal quantity or of so good a quality at any of the dozen and one places proposed, which have no commerce of their own, or are not, on independent grounds, the seat of a thriving, intelligent, leisured population. Least of all are they to be thought of in connection with such an out-of-the-way region as Simla.

The same remark applies to a travelling Government. An equestrian politician or a movable column of administration would be a worse sham than the ruler who "Far in a wild, unknown to public view, from youth to age a revered Hermit grew." The difficulties of carrying on the huge and complicated machinery of a modern state by functionaries oscillating between camp and bivouac are so enormous as almost to shame the most enthusiastic of our Anglo-Indian Abipones. The alleged advantage, for a peripetetic Downing Street, of thorough acquaintance with all parts of the Empire, of sympathising with, and drawing the sympathy of, all races and provinces, is a mere pretence. Under the interrupted exigencies of daily business there is no time, in such journeyings, for communion or knowledge. The false lights in which, under such circumstances, facts must present themselves, are more misleading than mere ignorance.

A locomotive Government or a Government skulking the greater part of the year from its true Head Quarters, must necessarily be an ignorant one in the regular sense. Its coolest, most protracted deliberation might appear hasty, for its mature decisions must often be formed on insufficient data. The Government of India has been fitly called a government of paragraphs. So it is, of necessity, under present circumstances. Even the Government of Russia, whose procedure one might suppose more simple as her forms ruder, is no less so as Mr. Schuyler tells us. Every civilized government must needs be a gigantic court of record. The anomaly of such a court, great or small, divorced from its records is a type in miniature of the immeasurable absurdity of the Government of India pretending to administer India from the table-land of Kasheer or the borders of the desert of Gobi, with all its archives left thousands of miles far behind, on the shores of the Bay of Bengal. The official sophists who, goaded on by influences which cannot be avowed, to the desperate defence of an untenable position, talk grandly of the telegraph and the railroad having rendered distance of no account, deceive themselves. So far as one important element in right government is concerned, these powerful motors of matter and mind--steam and electricity--have practically no influence. They cannot supply the absence of libraries and record rooms. It is hardly necessary to insist on the value of these. Modern administration is, for the most part literary work--modern statesmanship, in each instance, argument on a particular history. Not a step is, or can be, taken without blotting quires of foolscap or spilling printer's ink. The events and incidents, the successes and failures, the thoughts and arguments, the wishes and even the very musings of each day are carefully storied and preserved for future guidance and use. These monuments of the past prevent waste of energy, time, brain, and of course money, all which might be better employed. *Res judicata* is a plea not oftener heard in courts of justice than in the great court of politics. We are warned against founding mistakes, told not to trouble ourselves about exploded theories, or to go in search of proved will-o'-the-wisps. Above all, we need to keep clear of vested interests. At any rate, it is most important to know the state of facts, of every question. Hence the need of unsightly dusty shelves in every office, spacious lumber rooms in every department, vast repositories at every capital. These neglected treasures of the Government of India are only at Calcutta. They are not, and cannot well be, transported to any other place, not to say Simla. But beyond these special depositories of a veritable lore, a modern government is ever in need of general literature of all kinds--from pamphlets of the hour and octavos of the day to folios of the past. Government in these days, to be not only satisfactory, but barely instructed, must be continually assisted by well informed men and well-stocked and ever-supplied libraries. Not to speak of such men, who must always abound only in cities with great natural advantages, steam could not transport, as required, collections of books or papers, nor electricity reproduce their contents; if they could, they could not supply the means of reference at large store-houses. How often have the most

\* See Art. "Amarakantak, the capital of India."

deliberate consultations of Simla been discredited by their *prima facie* absurdity! How often has the most undoubted cleverness gone for nothing, in that proud Olympus! How often have the most brilliant minutes admired in the Hills been laughed at in down country for crudity! How often have we had to lament the ignorance which has detracted from the practical value of the most humane proceedings conceived and matured in the lone heights of the Himalayas. The Government of a great and distant empire by a handful of foreigners aliens in everything but the common humanity, unacquainted with the language, manners, customs, feelings and traditions of the people, never brought in familiar social contact with them, and, as regards the chief ruler, not remaining long enough in the country for tolerably superficial acquaintance with the country, is peculiarly exposed to the weakness and vices of ignorance. It is a crime to increase wilfully, that is without ample necessity, the normal certainties of that ignorance, as the Government has been doing by keeping itself out of the way of all help, of all books, of its own records. That Government is itself sore at the Secretary of State's interference with its own functions. It argues that the Government on the spot is a better judge of matters than the minister in London. The Minister laughs at the pretension! The reasoning might have some chance, coming from a Government of Calcutta, or, in right earnest, of anywhere in the plains--anywhere in India. The Minister knows that the Government is *not* on the spot. If the Governor-General can govern India through the telegraph from Simla, it is but a slight stretch of the pretension to govern with the same instrument from London. I believe that the Secretary of State at the India Office is better able to do justice to Indian questions than a peripetetic Viceroy wandering over the country, portmanteau in hand, and finally lost, the greater part of his time, in the clouds, surrounded by a few rolls of paper, a book or two, beyond the reach of opinion, necessarily at the mercy of his loudest colleague, or of a somewhat long-memoried clerk at head quarters. These successive Governors General who have succumbed to the blandishments of Simla little know how much they have contributed to degrade their high office; how they have supplied Home politicians with arguments for making the whole administration of India, with its details and patronage, an appanage of the Home Government of India; how they are playing into the hands of British Statesmen without a political conscience.

So far from Government at Simla being advantageously placed to initiate a sound policy at home,--or to direct active operations on the frontier, its familiarity with model administration by ukases of Deputy Commissioners, under the law of Military Squires, is a positive evil and may yet end in disaster. The non-regulation air of the neighbouring provinces--must be hurtful to a constitutional ruler. Already Simla threatens to overturn the entire glorious fabric of British constitutionalism, while the Government there labors under the permanent risk of being any moment cut off from the sources of its strength. Calcutta, on the contrary, is a power in the midst of men, enlightened and courageous enough to advise honestly, whose opposition itself must have a purifying strengthening effect on the half a dozen lone old gentlemen who govern. Calcutta is in fertile, industrious, easily governed Bengal which has made up for so much folly, extravagance, and loss. With a well disposed population able to support armies, Bengal may, at the worst, be maintained by British valour and statesmanship, against the rest of India and the world, and the British should never forget that Fort William is the last stronghold of their dominion in the East as it has been the first. As for all the talk about the demands of frontier policy, the work may be done more coolly, surely, firmly, from a distance than at or near the frontiers. *There* all sense of proportion is apt to be lost, even the correct relations of things missed. We should take care to be not too far off. With the magic wire to pull and all ready, and the iron horse in full harness hissing impatiently at the door, Calcutta is as near the remotest corners of the Empire as need be, in spirit and sufficiently distant in the flesh for serenity of thought and conduct as well as substantial safety. And then, from the way some people talk, it would seem as if all our frontiers are converged to the North West. No! India like other countries has boundaries in all directions of the compass, and vulgar wisdom commands us to look behind as well as before. The Empire seems destined to develop or at least to be recollected, more surely in a direction different from, indeed opposite to, that of Central Asia. The proud old empires of Burmah and China are restless under the wrongs we have inflicted on them, or the indignities to which we have put them, and Calcutta is the best and most natural base of operations against them. Nor are our most formidable enemies in the future expected by land. For such a contingency Calcutta is extremely well situated. It is just the London in the East of a great naval power like Great Britain. We need scarcely point out the impolicy of shifting the seat of government with every change of frontier, or every addition to its possessions. A capital is not only a city--a mere cluster of houses, however magnificent--but a moral entity--a being of power,

calling up associations, exercising a spell by its very name. A capital perpetually on the wing--on the *qui vive* to pack up for another province on every change of fortune, can never settle down into such a glorious institution--such a dearly beloved personage as Paris or Vienna. Such a capital for the British in the East, Calcutta had very nearly become when the unstatesman-like mania for Simla and Ootacamund and the Lord knows where else, born of ease and indulgence, unchecked by effective public opinion, shook it to its centre.  
--*Mockerjee's Magazine.*

### HOW DID THE THIEF GET IN?

YOU wake up some morning and miss your watch, your purse, your best clothes and other valuables. Yet neither you nor any member of your family heard a sound during the night. Neither is there a sign of how the thief got into the house nor by what road he decamped. You rush round and tell the police, and also decide to keep a dog and a shot gun. You will let thieves know they mustn't come fooling around your premises after this. A sensible procedure. Meanwhile your watch, your money, &c., are gone. Quite so.

Now suppose I should tell you that the thief who stole your property never entered your house at all; that he was born in it; had lived twenty years in it; never had been out of it till he went off with your things, albeit not a soul of you had ever seen or heard of him. What would you say to me? You would call me an idiot and threaten to have me sent back to the asylum. But don't be too sure.

"Later on," says Mr. Heakin, "rheumatism struck into my system and I had pains all over me. I was confined to my bed for three months with it and could not dress myself. In this general condition I continued for five years. One after another I was treated by *fourteen* doctors in that time, but their medicines did me little or no good. At one time I went to the Infirmary at Shrewsbury, where they treated me for heart disease; but I got worse and feeling anxious, returned home."

How he was finally cured we will mention in a minute. First, however, about his rheumatism. Every intelligent person knows that rheumatism and gout (its twin brother) is virtually a universal ailment. It does its cruel and body-racking work in every country and climate. No other malady causes so vast an aggregate of suffering and disability. Whatever will cure it is worth more money in England than a gold mine in every country.

But does rheumatism "strike into" the system as a bullet or a knife might strike into it? No. Rheumatism is a thief who steals away our comfort and strength; but it is a thief, as I said, who is *born in the premises*. In other words, it is one--and only one--of the direct consequences of indigestion and dyspepsia. And this is the why and wherefore: Indigestion creates a poison called uric acid; this acid combines with the chloride of sodium to form a salt; this salt is urate of sodium, which is deposited in the form of *sharp crystals* in the muscles and joints. Then comes inflammation and agony, otherwise rheumatism. Thus you perceive that it doesn't come from the outside but from the inside--from the stomach. Our friend's cold, caught in the mine, didn't produce his rheumatism, it clogged his skin and so kept all the poison in his body instead of letting part of it out.

Here is our very good friend Mr. Richard Heakin, of Pentrevel, Salop, who expresses an opinion in this line. Let us have his exact words. He says: "*Rheumatism struck into my system.*" Of course we understand that he speaks after the manner of men. You know we talk of being "attacked" by this, and the other complaint, as though diseases were like soldiers or wild beasts. "Doesn't make any odds," do you say? Beg pardon, but it does--heavy odds. *For it teaches us to look in the wrong direction for danger.* Do you see now?

Thirteen years ago, in the spring of 1880, whilst working in the Roman Gravel Lead Mines, Mr. Heakin took a bad cold. He got over the cold, but not over what followed it. He was feeble, without appetite, and had a deal of pain in the chest and sides. His eyes and skin were tinted yellow, and his hands and feet were cold and clammy. Frequently he would break out into a cold perspiration, as a man does on receiving a nervous shock caused by something fearful or horrible. He was also troubled with pain at the heart and had spells of difficult breathing--what medical men call asthma.

Mr. Heakin adds: "I was cured at last by Mother Seigal's Curative Syrup, and without it I believed I should have been dead long ago."

Very likely, very likely; for this thief, although he may wait long for his opportunity, isn't always satisfied to run away with our comfort and our money; he often takes life too.

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to Banerjee, Babu Satodrasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chelu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
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to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
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from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
to Mitra, the late Raji Dr. Rajendralala.  
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakshinarajan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.

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to Rao, Mr. G Venkata Appa.  
to Rao, the late Sir T. Madhava.  
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Roy, Babu Sirat Chunder.  
Sanyal, Babu Dinabandho.  
Savitu Library.  
Tippera, the Bara Thakur of.  
Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
Vizianagum, the Maharaja of.

**POSTSCRIPT.**

After paying the expenses of the publication, the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal of the family of the deceased man of letters.

Orders to be made to the Business Manager, "An Indian Journalist," at the Bee Press, 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

**OPINION ON THE BOOK.**

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmy days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—The *Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—The *Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—The *Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahmin of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—The Pioneer, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.  
The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—The Muhammadan, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man. Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—The Englishman, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—The Times, (London) October 14, 1895.

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*Scientific American.*

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DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY.

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 719.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE SOLDIER LAD.

(From the Swedish of J. L. Runeberg.)

My father was a soldier young, as handsome as could be ;  
At fifteen years he shouldered arms, at seventeen man was he :

His world entire the field of fame,  
Rejoicing wheresoe'er he came,  
In hunger, frost, in blood and flame—

He was my father, he !

A child was I when he marched off, departed peaceful days ;  
I recollect his haughty step, I dream of him always :

His hat and plume, his sun-burnt hue,  
The shadow which his eyebrows threw,  
Can never vanish from my view,

So steadfast was my gaze.

And when our army, facing round, advanced, the news was brought,  
How brave he was, how strong he was, how stubbornly he fought ;

And then how he a medal gained,  
Then two, it soon was ascertained,  
" How happy it would be to stand

Beside him ! " thus I thought.

Then winter fled, with lusty spring the snowdrifts disappear ;  
Then news was brought : of glorious wounds is dead thy father dear !

I cannot what I felt explain,  
Was proud, but soon was sad again ;  
Three days my mother wept and then

Was laid upon her bier.

Beside his standard fell my sire on Lappo's bloody plain ;  
The first time, it was said, he blenched—he ne'er did so again.

For King Gustavus and his land,  
My grandsire perished sword in hand,  
His father died at Willmanstrand ;

Was one of Charles's men.

Such were my forefathers : for aye they bled, from sire to son ;  
Indeed they lived a gallant life, a glorious death they won.

Oh, who would creep, an aged thing !  
No, take the field in life's warm spring,  
And die for Honour, Country, King ;

'Tis thus it should be done !

I'm nothing but a beggar lad, by other folk am fed ;  
No home or relative have I, because of parents dead.

But grumbling is not my desire,  
I daily grow up higher and higher ;  
The son of such a doughty sire

Can never want for bread.

**DEAFNESS.** An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

And should I live till I am grown, and fifteen years complete,  
The self-same hunger, self-same strife, and self-same death I'll meet :  
Where bullets sing and thickest fly,  
I also shall be present, I,  
The same career to seek and try ;  
My father's life repeat !

H. S.

—The Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine.

## WEEKLYANA.

PHOTOGRAPHY has, as our readers are already aware, found a fresh development in the discovery of Professor Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen. By radiation or his X rays he has enabled the human sight to look through darkness. The light penetrates various opaque substances rendering them transparent, such as ebonite, carbon, vulcanised fibre, copper, aluminium, and iron. The photographs of human hands and feet show the shape of the bones with their joints.

The following lines are from *Punch* :

O Röntgen, then the news is true,  
And not a trick of idle rumour,  
That bids us each beware of you  
And of your grim and grave-yard humour.

We do not want like Dr. Swift,  
To take our flesh off and to pose in  
Our bones, or show each little rift  
And joint for you to poke your nose in.

We only crave to contemplate  
Each other's usual full dress photo ;  
Your worse than "altogether" state  
Of portraiture we bar in toto !

The fondest swain would scarcely prize  
A picture of his lady's frame-work ;  
To gaze on this with yearning eyes  
Would probably be noted tame work.

No, keep them for your epitaph,  
These tombstone souvenirs unpleasant ;  
Or go away and photograph  
Mahatmas, spooks, and Mrs. Besant.

THEY have enriched (or shall we say endangered?) the Madras Botanical Garden with a Burning Tree from Burma. The name is a misnomer, for the tree stings rather than burns. Beneath the leaves are stings, which pierce the skin which, again, secretes a fluid with a burning sensation. The irritation may last for a long time, even for months. The effect is sure on damp days or when the affected part is bathed in water. The Burmans are in dread of the tree. They fly from it if they smell its peculiar odour. Chancing to touch it, they fall on the ground and roll over with shrieks. Under its bite dogs yelp and run, tearing the part stung.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

A horse coming in contact with it, also runs mad, biting everything in its way. A missionary at Mandalay, while investigating the effect of the leaves, suffered from agony for several weeks, an occasional darting pain in his finger lasting for ten months. May not the juice or the tincture of the leaves be a remedy for burns or the bite of scorpions?

THE *Scientific American* of February 22, 1896, reports that a large aerolite exploded with a vivid flash and a loud report over the city of Madrid, at 9-30 in the morning of Feb. 10, when buildings were shaken and many windows shattered. The concussion was so severe that the partition wall of the United States legation building collapsed and nearly all of its windows were broken. The Madrid Observatory report states that the explosion occurred twenty miles above the earth.

THE success of Japan in the late war with her Continental neighbour China, and the enormous war indemnity have spurred her to greater activity in the improvement of her military resources. The Japanese are going to build a dry dock at the naval port of Kure, 464 ft. long, 69 ft. wide and 42 ft. deep, a dimension which would admit a 15,000 ton battleship. They have made arrangements with the firm of Sir W. G. Armstrong & Co., Newcastle, England, for the erection of a steel foundry in Japan on the following terms: 1. The material shall for the present be imported from England. 2. Of the workmen to be employed, 20 per cent. shall be English and 80 per cent. Japanese. 3. When a new arm is invented in England, it shall be manufactured at the works in Japan. 4. For a stated number of years the Japanese Government shall give a fixed subsidy to the company. 5. On the expiration of the period the works shall be sold to the Japanese Government.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to nominate and appoint His Excellency Nubar Pasha, C.C.M.G., to be an Honorary Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.

THE Government of the North-Western Provinces have been empowered to appoint any Subordinate Judge, being a member of the Provincial Civil Service and a Native of India of proved merit and ability, to be also an Assistant Sessions Judge.

SIR F. W. R. Fryer, K.C.S.I., goes on leave of 3 months and 15 days from the 18th April. During the period, Mr. D. M. Smeaton, C.S.I., Financial Commissioner, will officiate as Chief Commissioner, of Burma.

BABOO Khogendra Nath Roy has been made a Presidency Magistrate for the town of Calcutta.

THE last number of the *Empress* gives the portrait of Mr. F. H. Skrine, the late Collector of Customs, who has just left us. It is followed by an account which we reproduce:—

"Francis Henry Bennet Skrine, Esq., C.S., our popular Collector of Sea Customs, is the scion of an ancient Somersetshire family, lords of the manors of Warleigh and Claverton, in the beautiful valley of the Avon, near Bath. He was educated at Blackheath School and passed the Indian Civil Service examination by open competition in 1868, arriving in India in November 1870. He received his first appointment of Assistant Magistrate of Rajshahi under Mr. Wilfred Heeley. After the usual vicissitudes undergone by junior officers, he found himself in charge of the Chuadanga Sub-division in Nuddea, where he obtained the thanks of Government for a system of embankments constructed in order to preserve the country from floods. In 1877 he volunteered for famine service in Madras, for which he received the special thanks of the Madras Government; but the exposure and overwork caused a complete breakdown, necessitating a very long period of furlough at home. On his return in 1881 he was posted to Jessore, and served successively as officiating Magistrate of Murshidabad, Gaya, Howrah, Tipperah, Birbhum, Rangpur, Shahabad, and Bhagalpur, officiating as Commissioner of the latter Division before his departure for Europe on furlough in 1894. His services attracting the attention of Government, he was placed on special duty to prepare for the Secretary of State for India a memorandum on the condition of rayyets and the labouring classes during the decade ending with 1891. In nearly all the districts in which he served he has left permanent memorials of his stay,—a great drainage canal at Rangpur and perfectly-installed water-works at Arrah being some of the more important ones. His services in the Calcutta Custom House are too well known to need recapitulation; and now he has earned a well-merited promotion to the Commissionership of the Chittagong Division,

which he is on the eve of joining. Outside the sphere of official duty, his time is well employed in the public interest. He is the Secretary of the Bengal Branch of the Lady Dufferin Fund, the Vice-President of the Sailors' Home, and an active member of the Corporation of Calcutta and the Port Commission: and, notwithstanding his multifarious avocations, he finds time for a considerable amount of literary work.

In 1887 Mr. Skrine married the youngest daughter of Colonel Stewart of Ardvorlich, the head of a well-known Highland family, and has one son."

It is a meagre record of a life full of events and incidents which has yet to be written. The transfer of Mr. Skrine, though on promotion, is a distinct loss to Calcutta. His administration of the Customs Department was vigorous. The many reforms he introduced in the brief space of ten months, if maintained, will be a great convenience to the trade of Calcutta. In spheres other than official, his energy and activity were equally marvellous. He always delighted to do good, not only to his own countrymen but to the children of the soil. He helped in no small degree to make the stay of "Mark Twain" at Calcutta agreeable to him. Wherever he has been, Mr. Skrine has left his mark. His sympathies for the natives and his efforts to improve them have endeared his name to this country. If there were a dozen European officials like him, the British rule would have been more popular. It may be truly said of him that he is a battalion himself. Before leaving for Chittagong he gave a dinner to the superior subordinates of the Custom House, an account of which will be found elsewhere and which shews the man in one of his many phases.

GOVERNMENT has at last acceded to the prayer of the Memons to be recognized as thorough Mahomedans. The following Bill has been introduced in the Supreme Legislative Council:—

"Whereas there is in the Presidency of Bombay and elsewhere a class of persons known as Memons, and questions have from time to time arisen as to the law by which such persons are in certain particulars governed;

And whereas some of such persons consider that they are, or desire that they should be, governed in those particulars by the Muhammadan law as established in the Hanafi School;

And whereas it is expedient to provide a procedure whereby the applicability of that law to such persons in those particulars may be placed beyond dispute;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Memons Act, 1896; and  
(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. (1) When any Memon who has attained his majority has declared in manner next hereinafter provided, that he desires to be governed by the Muhammadan law as established in the Hanafi School, that law shall thereupon, any custom to the contrary notwithstanding, apply to him, and to his children (if any), being minors at the time of such declaration or born thereafter, and to all property of which he or they shall then be or thereafter become absolutely entitled, in each part of British India, in the same particulars and to the same extent as it applies in the same part of British India to other Muhammadans and their property.

(2) No declaration made as aforesaid shall be capable of being revoked.

3. A declaration to take effect under section 2 shall be made by a written instrument signed by the declarant and in the form set forth in the schedule or in a like form, and shall,—

(a) if made in any part of British India in which the Indian Registration Act, 1877, is for the time being in force, be registered under that Act during the lifetime of the declarant; and,

(b) if made elsewhere, be executed before, and authenticated by, a notary public or a Court, Judge, Magistrate, British Consul or Vice-Consul or representative of Her Majesty or of the Government of India.

4. When declarations under the foregoing provisions have been made by a Memon and by any one of his sons, the Muhammadan law as established in the Hanafi School shall thereupon, any custom to the contrary notwithstanding, apply to all the lineal descendants of such son in the same manner and to the same extent as to other Muhammadans governed by it in the same part of British India.

5. Nothing in this Act shall be construed—

(1) to prevent any person being or becoming subject to any form of the Muhammadan law in any manner other than that herein provided, or

(2) to affect the rights of any member of a declarant's family other than such children and lineal descendants as are referred to in sections 2 and 4.

#### SCHEDULE.

##### FORM OF DECLARATION.

I, A. B., son of C. D., being a Memon and of the age of not less than years, hereby declare that I desire to be governed, to the extent provided by the Memons Act, 1896, by the Muhammadan law as established in the Hanafi School.

Given under my hand this            day of            , 18            A. B."

Originally of Hindu extraction, the Memons have taken to Islam. They believe themselves to be Mahomedans and are anxious to be governed by the Mahomedan law. But the courts having held in some



instances, that certain sections of them are in some particulars still governed by Hindu custom, and the Government being appealed to to declare by legislation that Memons are governed by the Muhammadan law of the Hanafi School, it has been thought desirable, instead of a wholesale declaration, to take a middle course—to provide a means for such of the Memons as may wish it, to have their own way in matters of inheritance.

#### NOTES & LEADERETTES,

#### OUR OWN NEWS

&

#### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

A CAMPAIGN is a campaign, whether a march over or bloodless. The first Ashanti expedition was distinguished for the capture of King Caffee's umbrella. The second is noted for the absolute submission of King Prempeh without even a show of resistance. Greater therefore the glory of the second. So the Commander, Colonel Sir Francis Scott, has been appointed a Knight Commander of the Bath, and raised to the rank of Major-General. We may hear by and bye of a medal specially struck for the second Ashanti War.

THE situation at Bulawayo is grave, and a general rising of the Natives is feared. The Matabele are massing their forces in the Matopo hills. Communications with the south are threatened, and the country outside fifteen miles from Bulawayo has revolted. The defenders of Bulawayo are short of arms, and have only one month's supplies. The Matabele, on the other hand, have plenty of arms.

Captain Spreckley and Mr. Selous have each defeated the rebels in the neighbourhood of Bulawayo, killing many of them. The Native police induced the Matabeles to rise, and then joined them with a supply of rifles and ammunition. One thousand women and children are in danger. Captain Gifford, with a force of the Chartered Company's men, relieved forty persons who were laagered at Inseza, after repulsing a determined attack of the Matabele. All the Whites in the Filibus District have been murdered and mutilated, and their faces burned. The natives are assembling in force to attack Bulawayo which is well equipped.

GENERAL Kitchener has arrived at Kerosko, and the second Egyptian column has reached Akasheh.

Mr. Curzon, speaking at Southport, defended the Dongola expedition which, he said, had an additional advantage of relieving the Italians, the friends of England, at Kassala. There was, he said, no design to reconquer Sudan, but it was a forward step towards Egypt recovering her lost province—a distinction with little difference. No provocation was intended to France, and he hoped France would view the question differently when she had closely examined it. With regard to South Africa and America, he said, that they still required vigilance and careful steering, but he was hopeful of weathering the storm.

The Russian press entirely support France in the Egyptian question.

Mr. Curzon, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that the Khedive had informed the Sultan that the expedition had been despatched to restore Dongola to Egypt.

Advices state that Osman Digna with a large force is marching on Sinkat, and it is supposed that he intends investing Tokar. A Sudanese battalion has been ordered there. The Dervishes are preparing to resist the Egyptian advance, and are reinforcing Suardet and El Debbel.

The Dervish garrison at Dongola numbers six thousand men. Four Egyptian battalions defend the Suakin district.

The Sultan is thoroughly satisfied with Lord Salisbury's explanations as to the legitimacy of the expedition.

Masses of dervishes attacked the Italian position at Kassala on Saturday. The Italians suffered slight loss.

Mr. Curzon, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that the Government had no intention to send a British expedition to the Sudan in the autumn, nor to ask for a vote for the present expedition.

M. BERTHELOT has resigned the portfolio of Foreign Minister owing to ill health. The real reason is believed to be the attacks made upon his management of the questions arising out of the Dongola expedition and the threatening note he sent to Lord Dufferin, of which, however M. Berthelot was not the author.

PRINCE Ferdinand has arrived at Constantinople and met with a splendid reception.

FOLLOWING the advice of the *Times*, the Duke of Cambridge has withdrawn his claim on the estimates for an extra allowance on his retirement made by the Government.

MR. Balfour stated that the army was satisfied that cordite was the best smokeless powder in the world.

FRANCE is willing to grant Great Britain favoured nation treatment in Madagascar relative to other countries, but not to France herself.

LORD George Hamilton, replying to a question, said that the Government of India was considering what measures were possible to mitigate the serious growth of disease in the British Army in India without infringing the resolution of the House of Commons on the subject.

DURING a debate in the House of Commons on the Anglo-Turkish relations, Mr. Curzon stated that the Sultan had not performed the obligations imposed by the Cyprus Convention. Therefore Great Britain's obligations in the same treaty had lapsed, but the Government adhered to the obligations contained in the treaties of 1856, 1871, and 1878.

M. BOURGEOIS, the French Foreign Minister, has notified to the Madagascar Committee that Foreign goods will be admitted into Madagascar free, and foreign goods under the French tariff of 1892.

THE British revenue for the year amounts to 109 millions sterling. The principal increases are in estate and stamp duties.

M. BOURGEOIS, speaking in the Senate, said the agreement between France and Russia was never more complete or more cordial than at present, and that Russia firmly supported France in regard to Egypt. Negotiations with Great Britain, concerning the Dongola Expedition, he said, were still proceeding.

IN the House of Commons Sir John Gorst introduced the new Education Bill, the main features of which are increased aid to voluntary schools and the provision of separate religious instruction if required.

THE new Chinese loan has been largely covered in London and Berlin.

THE following verses are offered as a tribute to the memory of Dr. Rost by Pandit Ram Nath Tarkatna, the poet of *Vasudeva Vijayam*, *Vilapa Lahari*, &c. The metre of the first stanza is the beautiful "Sardula-vikriritam," that of the second and third is "Arya" and that of the last "Upajati."

विद्यानां निजयेन येन सुधिया सख्यतेनामिदं

नि.स्वार्थेन परार्थतत्परतया कीर्तिचिरं बद्धिता ।

किञ्च आ चमयाब्धः समतया मर्यादयाभीनिधि-

कीर्ति कीर्तिनिधितदिभिरसी कस्याख्यं न सुते: ॥ १ ॥

वेग जता सपत्न्याः प्रयवतो मे सुधीरवेति ।

हृदायां लयि कमले रटः कटं चिरं प्राप ॥ २ ॥

माकुच रोषं कमले पूज्या सुलभैः सदैव सा देवी ।

निधयमान ब्रह्माद्या सुखा विद्यानिधे. किमु ते ॥ ३ ॥

सद्व्यवस्थिकीचरतेरनुच बन्धुनिधानं चिरनितदक्षि ।

समर्थतयाः सुपदिय ब्रह्मद सख्यभारः परतोऽपि भूषन् ॥ ४ ॥

Here is an English translation of the above :—

## I.

Who is there that will not sing the praises of him who continually enhanced his fame by his disinterested readiness in serving others, who was a receptacle of all kinds of knowledge, who was blessed with high intelligence, who was devoted to Truth, who in forgiveness equalled the Earth herself, who in impartiality resembled the clouds, who in gravity came up to the Ocean, and who was graced with dozens of other virtues?

## II.

Thou wert angered with him, O goddess of Fortune, at the thought that, endued with intelligence, he persistently paid his adorations to her that is thy rival in thy lord's love. As the consequence of thy wrath, Misery marked Dr. Rost as her own.

## III.

Do not give way to wrath, O goddess with the lotus for thy throne! Thy rival, shining in heavenly splendour, deserves the tribute of adoration from every one of exalted soul. Thine are the gems known as *Sankhu* and the rest. Are they, however, the peers of the treasures that Knowledge bestows?

## IV.

Ever disposed to teach the world by books, even this is the foundation of his high fame, *viz*, that he readily placed his own rich stores at the disposal of struggling merit and instructed mankind more through others than himself.

IN view of the prevalence of disease and distress due to absence of rain, the Bengal Government have revived their remarks about the water supply in the resolution on the working of the District Boards during 1894-95, and have urged the Commissioners of Divisions to see that the instructions contained therein are carried out:

"In order, however, to secure that something, however little, should be done every year, it seems to His Honour that every District Board might properly set apart at least the sum of Rs. 5,000 a year for the improvement of water-supply to be spent either in the digging or improvement of wells, or in the excavation or restoration of tanks to be reserved for drinking purposes only. The amount suggested is rather more than double the amount actually spent during the past year; but it is very small when compared with the urgency of the want and the extent of the area to be served. The Boards will doubtless find means of making the money go as far as possible by enlisting the aid of voluntary Committees, as is done in Noakhali, or by distributing their allotments in the form of grants-in-aid of village funds, as is suggested by the Commissioner of the Presidency Division."

In the Circular No. 20 L. S. G. dated Calcutta the 2nd of April 1896, from Mr. Risley to all Commissioners of Divisions, fresh suggestions are made to meet the immediate wants :—

"Complaints have reached Government that owing to the unusual dryness of the season, the ordinary sources of water-supply in several districts are becoming exhausted or reduced: that people have to go long distances to fetch drinking water; and that the use of polluted tanks and wells is likely to lead to outbreaks of epidemic disease. I am accordingly to request that the District Boards in your division may be urged to take at once such action as may be possible to relieve the existing distress. What that action should be will depend to a great extent on the nature of the soil and the sources from which the ordinary supply of drinking water is derived. When the soil is loose and sandy, it is believed that use may with advantage be made of Norton's tube-wells, which have been found to work well in several districts of Bengal, and have yielded specially satisfactory results at Snidpur."

Where tanks have dried up, it is suggested that wells be sunk in the beds of the tanks, or where wells are failing, it may be useful to run galleries out from the bottom so as to increase the area of infiltration. For laterite and clay soils where tube-wells cannot be sunk or for places near the sea where the water is brackish, the letter makes no suggestion. It is left to the District Boards "to consider what measures, if any, can be adopted at once with the object of increasing the available water-supply or guarding against its pollution."

The letter concludes with an offer of loan for carrying out the objects indicated :—

"I am also to invite your attention to section 4 of the Land Improvement Loans Act of 1883, and to request that it may be made widely known in all the districts of your division that loans will be readily given under the rules in force to individuals or to bodies of villagers binding themselves jointly and severally under section 9 of the Act for the construction of wells, tanks and other works for the storage, supply, or distribution of water for the use of men and cattle employed in agriculture."

THE tenth Annual Report of the Bengal Branch of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund has been out some time. There can be no doubt that the Lady physician's report places the utility of the Victoria Hospital in a clear light. It brings relief to a very large amount of suffering endured by a peculiarly helpless class. The number of in-patients increased from 304 to 520 in the year under report, that is, more than 70 per cent. There was a fall in the number of out-patients, due, as the Committee explain, to the greater care exercised in restricting the benefits of the hospital to the class for which it was founded. The receipts, in 1895, were Rs. 13,000, of which no more than Rs. 3,171 represent subscriptions from the public. The expenditure was Rs. 14,900, including nearly Rs. 10,000, the cost of maintaining the Victoria Hospital. Other recurring charges are Rs. 1,065 on the Surnomoyi Hospital, where young female Christians receive a sound medical training, and Rs. 1,620, representing grants to branches in the interior, subordinate to the Committee. The excess of expenditure over income was met by appropriating extraordinary receipts which should be added to the invested funds. The Committee think that an accession of about 2 lacs to the invested funds is urgently needed. It is not to the wealthy alone that they have appealed. "Every one who has the welfare of his fellow creatures at heart may fairly be invited to contribute, according to his means, to an organisation which has evinced so great a capacity for promoting it." The Committee rightly observe that in a province like Bengal, there are many residents who can individually defray the entire expenditure of the fund without curtailing a single personal luxury. Unfortunately, it requires some education, of the heart if not of the head, to feel for distress that is not always exposed to the sight. The manner, again, in which some men back out of promises of help deliberately made, is astonishing for effrontery. A titular Raja, having earned from the English press the high compliment of being a second Mæcenas by a promise, not kept, of substantial aid to a literary undertaking, and who, without compunction, has broken similar promises made to others, had, it is no secret, offered a lac of rupees to this very fund. A very hasty and very inconsiderate promotion, however, of the individual to a higher grade in the supposed peerage of the realm, at once absolved him from this and other liabilities he had voluntarily incurred. We think the fact is not unknown to the Lieutenant-Governor. The audacity of the man in question, as also of the clever official who has been backing him since some time, passes belief, for at this moment a scheme is being hatched for wheedling Sir Alexander Mackenzie into a visit to the man's country residence. We hope the Lieutenant-Governor will be able to maintain his dignity.

THE City College wants a building. The managers, headed by Mr. A. M. Bose, have issued a printed appeal. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has very kindly allowed his name to be used in the connection. It is satisfactory to note that Kumar Upendra Chandra Chowdhury, the son of the late Raja Hurrish Chandra Chowdhury of Mymensing, has responded to Mr. Bose's appeal by subscribing Rs. 5,000. Was it not Raja Hurrish Chandra that contributed about half-a-lac of rupees towards the Industrial polytechnique of the Indian League? That handsome donation was followed by Rs. 6,000 in aid of a local hospital and dispensary. The son is endeavouring to imitate the liberality of the father. He has recently been elected a Life Member of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. An eminent official, who knows something of the country, referring to a donation of the Kumar to a poor struggling Sanskrit scholar, has paid him the graceful compliment of saying "I wish that there were more of your fellow countrymen who thought of something beyond their own silly ambitions."

THE Kumar (who purchased 20 copies of the book) having sent a copy of the Life and Letters of Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee to Sir John Budd Phear, the retired Indian Judge, has received the following letter in acknowledgment :—

"My dear Sir,—Pray, accept my very cordial thanks for your kind letter and your very agreeable present of Mr. Skrine's Life of Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee. My own personal acquaintance with Dr. Sambhu Chunder was slight. I only remember meeting him once or twice at Baranagore. I have, however, seen enough of 'Reis and Rayyet' to recognise the editor's great ability, and his extraordinary command of good nervous English, and I look forward to reading his Life and Letters with pleasure and profit."

I quite agree with you in looking upon the publication of this book

as a valuable effort at narrowing the social gulf between the two races and as expressive of a growing community of interest and sympathy, so difficult to foster. The prejudices and faults of my own countrymen, perhaps, do more to block the way of progress in this respect than any other cause, but the diversity in the social and domestic habits of the two peoples must always, I am afraid, do much to keep them apart. Still I am sanguine that even these barriers, strong as they are, will not always blind the two sides to a generous perception of each other's merits. And I like to think that the cultivated among your countrymen and my own have already come to know and esteem each other much more justly, than was the case 30 years ago, when I first became interested in this momentous question.

With reiteration of my best thanks for your kind letter and thought of me, I am, my dear Sir, yours sincerely,

J. B. PHEAR."

No one is entitled to speak with greater authority on the all-important question of bridging the gulf between the two communities in India than Sir John Budd Phear. In the midst of his harassing official duties as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, he found time to cultivate the acquaintance and friendship of many natives of Calcutta and the suburbs. As president of the Asiatic Society, the Bethune Society, the Bengal Social Science Association, and other Societies, and as chairman or lecturer or speaker at many meetings temporarily called in this or that connection, Sir John did solid work in this direction. As a Judge, an official, or a citizen, he knew no distinction between Government and the people, between European and native. His hospitable board was free to all comers. By his attentions to the native, as by his independence on the Bench, he incurred the displeasure of his colleagues and superiors. He showed how possible it is for even eminent officials to mix freely with the natives of India, to help them with sympathy and advice, and even co-operate with them in their struggles for improvement in many directions. In his noble work, he was materially and willingly assisted by his good lady who loved the natives as much as he, if not more. If after Sir John's departure from India the work had been taken up by others with even a tenth part of his enthusiasm, the result by this would, without doubt, have been satisfactory. We are enabled by the kindness of a friend to add two more letters—one from Lady Phear and the other from Sir John Phear written in Calcutta in 1876 when they retired from India. To begin with the Lady:—

"My dear Sir,—I thank you very much for the extremely handsome present which you have sent me, and which, if I may venture to say so, is far larger than the occasion needed or than I in any way deserve. The lovely views of Rajputana and Guzrat will often remind me of my wanderings in India although I hardly needed such a souvenir to remind me of friends whom I shall unfortunately leave behind me.

I assure you that both Mr. Phear and myself are most deeply touched at the kindness shewn to us on all sides, and at the warm and earnest-hearted feelings which have found voice amongst the ladies and gentlemen of this country since it has become known to them that we are going away from India. Neither Mr. Phear nor myself can bear to think that we are going away from this country for good and all, but wherever we are our sympathies will always be with our Bengali friends, many of whom I some day hope to welcome to my English home.

I thank you most sincerely for the kind wishes expressed in your letter towards Mr. Phear and myself.

The parting from all our work and interests here causes us many a bitter pang, but the kind wishes of our friends, yourself amongst the number, will help to lessen the sorrow we feel at leaving the country.

If you would write your name in the book which you have so kindly sent me, it will add greatly to its value in my estimation."

Sir John wrote:

"My dear Babu \* \* \*—I hope I need hardly tell you that your letter of yesterday's date is exceedingly agreeable to me. Mrs. Phear and myself cannot be otherwise than most highly gratified at having evoked such kindly feelings towards us as those which you express. It is with great regret that we part from many friends, yourself among the number, whom we have been so fortunate as to make in this country. We trust that for some, at any rate, the parting is only for a time, you, for instance, might very well some day come to England to see us, and we shall look forward to your doing so. We promise to give you a hearty welcome and to do our best to prove to you that time and distance are powerless to make us forget the days of our sojourn in Bengal and the friendships which date there. Accept the regards of Mrs. Phear and myself, and believe me, &c."

THE Garden Party, on April 1, of the Chairman of the Corporation went off well. Mr. Ritchie was attentive to his guests and had a word for every one of them. The attendance was not large, but the lengthened stay of the chief guest, the Lieutenant-Governor, made up the omission, if omission it was in this trying weather. The noticeable features of the outdoor entertainment were the waving of big hand punkahs, which the host with an eye to the comfort of the guests had provided, and the eagerness of some of the Municipal Commissioners and their servants to make the acquaintance of the next

Chairman of the Corporation. At the Party it was decided that the Commissioners would take the Chairman and the Lieutenant-Governor to a cruise on the river on Saturday next.

FOR the present cholera epidemic it has been resolved by the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta to appoint four medical inspectors, professing two opposite systems of faith. Two of them are of the old and two of the new school. The resolution was carried unanimously. Statistics should be carefully kept of the results achieved under each system.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, April 4, 1896.

### CHOLERA AND HOW TO PREVENT IT.

THE cholera epidemic in Calcutta and its suburbs is gradually assuming an intensity that forces a careful inspection of our habits and surroundings. Last year the metropolis suffered from a dreadful epidemic of small-pox. This year it is the visitation of cholera. Perhaps, for the next year, it would be something else productive of equal havoc. With big municipal offices, one especially for an health officer and his assistants, it is a surprise that no instructions are issued, in such distressing times, about our sanitary necessities. The chief of the health department is engaged in editing the "Indian Medical Gazette" and in Haflkinism; his first assistant finds a peaceful security in his clerical business. A medical inspector trained by Dr. Warden in the elements of chemical analysis is now the municipal analyser. There are medical inspectors, besides him, but what sort of inspection they make is known only to themselves. The bustees and the tiled huts, generally the places inhabited by poor men, require particular attention. Though, however, the outbreak of cholera has been pronounced, yet one seldom sees a medical inspector in any of the infected localities. Under the rules, subordinate attendants are to supply information: if the superior officers think fit, they may then inspect. How far the rule is observed will appear from the fact that even in cases of death they do not always make their appearance.

It should at the outset be stated that cholera is a preventible disease. The Hurdwar Kumbh Fair of 1891, proved to certainty that if precautionary measures are taken there is little chance of the epidemic breaking out, even if surrounding localities are infected. The report of the epidemic, in Germany, of 1894, confirms this view. In spite of the prevalence of cholera in eastern and western Russia, army manoeuvres on a large scale were held and no case occurred of the fell disease. Isolation cannot be practised in a large town for the claims of inland and river traffic. Other sanitary precautions should be taken. The opinion which finds favour, at present, is that cholera poison is not imbibed from the air but that it comes

### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1895-96.)

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Wednesday the 8th Inst., at 6-30 P.M. Subject: Optical Instruments (continued).—Human Eye.

Lecture by Babu Syamadas Mukerjee, M.A., on Thursday the 9th Inst., at 3 P.M. Subject: Analytical Conics.—Theory of Projection.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAI SIRCAR, M.D.,

April 4, 1896.

Honorary Secretary.

through food and drink. For this reason it is necessary to take a survey of the vehicle through which it is borne.

The articles which form our diet, are vegetables, fish, flesh, milk and water. Vegetables are generally well boiled or fried and so the mischief does not come from them. Fish and flesh are sources of danger. The tanks in the immediate suburbs of Calcutta, upon which we depend for our supply of fish, are generally distinguished by scarcity of water. For this the fish have to feed on mud and dirty water. Clothes contaminated by cholera poison are, again, washed in them. Most of the tanks are thus vitiated, for most of the places are suffering from this disease. Railway-borne fishes of the *hilsa* and other species are no better, for rivers also are dry. The only safety lies in the consumption of small fishes which can be well-fried or boiled for destroying any poison that might lurk in them. Little *batas*, *chugrees* (prawns) and *kor* fishes may be good. Large fishes, even when dressed in small pieces, are not always safe, for they can hardly be well boiled or fried. The inner portions of even small pieces remain almost untouched by the heat required for their purification. The use of decomposed fish is always dangerous and leads to sad results.

As for flesh, the different varieties supplied by the Municipal market may be better than those of other bazars. The decomposition in flesh, unless advanced, is difficult to detect. It is rather easy to find it out in fish. In vegetables it is the easiest thing to see. Again, in the hot season the wholesomeness of meat depends on the small quantity of fat that it contains. The difficulty of cooking meat is greater than that of cooking fish. For this reason great caution ought to be taken to use it for food when cholera is around us. It is not advisable to use tinned meat or fish, in which there is good chance of decomposition, for having been prepared several months before consumption. Cases are not rare, even in England, of persons suffering from the poisoning effects of preserved meat and fish. The cleanliness of the flesh and the fish, as also of the sellers, is not at all of the required measure. The butchers and their places of business are the most abominable. Only in the Municipal market is some care taken, by repeated washing, to prevent the bad odour issuing from the stalls. The worst nuisance occurs in Machooabazar and some other places.

The sweets sold in the bazar are a good vehicle of infection. The slovenly way in which they are prepared, their exposure to dust, their staleness which is scarcely regarded by purchasers, the rancid *ghee* used in their making are great objections to their use. No attempt is made to preserve them free from contamination. The display which the vendors make of their articles, is objectionable, for by this they come in contact with all kinds of foreign substances. During night time, and especially in the period before and after *dewali*, the consumer does not know how many insects are devoured by him. Surely, some kind of innovation has become necessary for preserving our food from dust and flies, especially when it is known that these are carriers of most objectionable materials, both large and microscopic, including the different kinds of bacilli.

The filtered water we drink in Calcutta is the best at present available. It has defects which can be remedied. The depository tanks want thorough in-

spection at least twice a year before and after the rains. The animal cells, finding there a safe place for breeding, furnish the inhabitants of the town with a good supply of toxins. For this reason, it is safe always to refilter the hydrant water in a Pasteur-Chamberland filter. For those who cannot afford this apparatus, it is easy to prepare a filter of two or three earthen vessels placed one above the other, the water coming through a small hole in the upper vessel containing large and fine sand. Still easier it is to place the water in an earthen jar, and after depositing it for a day, to transfer the upper half gently and gradually to another pot, for use. The remaining half containing the solid residue, should be thrown away and the vessel well cleaned and dried before being refilled.

The use of unfiltered water for culinary purposes should be deprecated. The danger lies in bearing the cholera virus to our food, directly from the Hooghly water. Persons have been seen to be attacked by the disease just after bathing in the river during a cholera epidemic. This kind of water can be used for washing latrines, or for other purposes unconnected with food, or for scouring the vessels we use for preparing our food.

In many cases, tank water is the cause. But in Calcutta, where almost all the private tanks have been or are being filled up, those belonging to the Municipality remain to threaten human life by spreading infection, and no care is taken of them. The Amherst and the College Square tanks are used for washing dirty clothes and vessels. Even bathing is allowed. Of the bathing platforms it may be said that they can spread the same danger. Clothes containing all kinds of infection are washed in the reservoirs. Some modifications in construction and use are necessary to prevent contamination.

Good drinking water is as much needed in towns as in rural areas not provided with water works. At present Bengal is suffering from a water-famine. In Hooghly, Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum, the scarcity is greatly felt. The tanks are almost all silted up. They are unable to provide any water for drink. In many places, that element so necessary for human life, has to be fetched from distances of two to three miles. Men, as well as animals, are paying heavy penalties for a transgression of sanitary laws in this direction. The silting up of tanks is due to want of local energy and money. The well-to-do generally resort to places provided with comfort, leaving their rural habitations. The rapid transmission has been made possible, by railway communications, to chief towns supplied with most of their necessities. Formerly, when railways were unknown, the wealthy used to attend to the re-excavation of tanks for both themselves and others. Their sympathies at present are more with towns than their rural homes. The good old Hindu feeling of providing water to the needy has almost disappeared. We are in the midst of a period of transition which has unsettled almost all our old ideas without even retaining the good. In this predicament, any wrong movement of the authorities would drive us from a bad to a worse position. The Sanitary Drainage Act is, therefore, productive of effects not at all desirable. The real want is a sufficient supply of good drinking water in almost every place, urban or rural. Cholera and malarious fever, the two great scourges of humanity, can be checked by only an abundance of good water. Even in water-logged places these diseases prevail. Instead of checking them by direct means



a small and distant cause only was sought to be remedied by legislation. The reclamation of bogs and marshes can yield enough revenue, but it is incompetent to remove the dreaded foe. Water, the chief pabulum of our blood, is wanted. Sir Alexander Mackenzie gave the right hint in opening the Howrah water works. Good tanks are indispensable where bigger schemes are not feasible. They are to be protected from pollution. Re-excavation of tanks is not impossible from the funds of local or district boards. Wealthy men ought to come forward to relieve this water-famine. The protection of tanks can be left in the hands of the authorities, village punchayets or other agencies. At any rate, something ought to be done for the supply of good drinking water. Words are unnecessary to make it more impressive.

The milk supply is another fruitful source of disease. No care is taken for keeping cows in a clean or healthy state. The manger is scarcely washed even once during a day. The hands of the milkmen and the udders of the cows are never bathed before milking. The rail-borne supply has other mischiefs. The milk is often mixed with tank water soiled with cholera discharges or other nuisances. The only means of safety that can be adopted is to boil the milk well by mixing with it a sufficient quantity of hydrant or any other good water.

From the washerman, again, infection is carried to his customers. The precaution which can be adopted is to expose the clothes to the sun before use. In the rainy season, the fire can replace the sun. Heat is the best disinfectant. In the proposed *dhobikhana* rooms should be constructed to store the clothes for final distribution to the owners, for if they are allowed to be taken to the *dhobi's* house, all possible mischief may arise.

Personal cleanliness should be observed at all times. Those who are in the habit of using silk, coarse or fine, should bear in mind that it requires constant washing as often as do cotton clothes.

In a case of cholera, before calling in a medical man, the first thing to be attended to is to administer four or five drops of tincture camphor, to be repeated after every stool for three or four times. Chlorodyne is a mischievous treatment, for it is a patent medicine and the medical practitioners are not expected to know its composition. In such a dreadful disease nothing should be ignorantly prescribed. Medical authorities in England have pronounced against it. It is said to contain opium and hydrocyanic acid, among others. Opium is objectionable in cholera, for it has the power to suppress urine. The preparation of tincture camphor is very easy. In an ounce of rectified spirit, four pice worth of pure camphor will dissolve within a short time to form the requisite mixture. The vehicle to administer it, is either sugar candy or *batasa* (small sugar cakes) grooved in the middle. The free distribution of this medicine may be recommended, through the police and the post office. Surely, the Local Government ought to rise superior to ancient prejudices and spend something on this head, for it is a tried remedy.

Cholera stools should be so disposed off as not to lead to any contamination. In Calcutta they are to be thrown into the house drainage pits which should be flushed immediately. The clothes and bedding of a patient should not be used again before washing and drying them well. Much importance should not be set on the suggestion of burning them. In places where there are no under-ground sewers, all

ejected matter should be thrown at a safe distance. Near a well, cholera washings are positively injurious, for percolation may carry them to the water. Even into rivers the dejecta should not be thrown for possible infection to the bathers. As for disinfecting rooms, the burning of sulphur is disagreeable to the patient. Hot lime rubbed on the floor is the best deodoriser. Pits and other places outside the rooms, can be disinfected with phenyle or carbolic powders. The sick room must be well ventilated and no crowd admitted. Any strong smell may produce difficulty of respiration. In cases of collapse hot water bottles to the extremities are necessary. No water ought to be allowed for drink and no food given at the onset of the disease. The room ought to be free from other clothing than what is necessary for the sick. Talking or any kind of unnecessary noise should be avoided. It has been seen frequently that the relatives of patients ask the opinion of the medical attendant in the patient's hearing. Such practice should not be allowed. It would not be judicious either for the doctor or for the relatives of the sick to talk on the subject of his illness before him. Any opinion about the gravity of the case should be expressed outside the room and to the persons nearly related to the patient.

## Letters to the Editor.

### LITERATURE OF BENGAL. IV.

BIDYAPATI.

DEAR SIR—I shall now try to solve the problems connected with the birth-date, birth-place, and parentage of the Poet, Bidyapati, who is commonly regarded as the Chaucer of Bengal, though some take him for a Behar man and, therefore, as having little to do with Bengali or Bengal. At one time the problems seemed insoluble for their difficulty. But after a prolonged enquiry, attended with much trouble, I have got a copy of the worm-eaten *Panji*, which contains a few incidents of the life of the Poet. This book, according to Mr. R. C. Dutt, is an authentic history of Behar and began to be written in 1248 Saka, i. e., 1325, A. D. But "Echo from the hermitage of Adwyaita Acharjya" says, in *Reis and Rayyet* of the year 1888, "they (the Maithils) have a very big book, nearly 560 years old, entitled the *Panji*, containing the pedigree of the kings and Brahmins of Mithila." My object in reproducing these is to give every argument a hearing. The following Sanskrit verse appears in the very first page of the *Panji*, from which one will be able to calculate the exact date from which the *Panji* began to be written:—

"Shakay Sri Hari Singha Deva nripati bhuparkyatulayah jani,  
Tashmadyantamitayahabdakay dijananai *Panji* probandha krita"  
From the above shloka, it is clear that the *Panji* began to be written in 1248 Saka, (1326 A.D.) during the reign of Raja Hari Sing.

I shall at the outset refer to the materials that are regarded as relevant to the enquiry as also to the opinions that are current.

(1) In the year 293 of the era of Lakshman Sen, Raja Siva Sing gave the village of Bispi to Bidyapati Thakur, which is still possessed by Banamali Thakur and Badarinath Thakur, the present descendants of the Poet. (*Vide Panji* and Tarkaratna's edition of Bidyapati, page 2.)

(2) The descendants of Bidyapati have preserved a manuscript copy of the *Srimat-Bhagvata*, written by him on palm leaves in 349 L. era (1379 Saka or 1457, A. D. *vide Panji*.)

(3) Bidyapati's *Durgabhatrarangini*, (composed by order of Rupanarayan, the son and heir of Raja Bhairava Sing) was written during the reign of Raja Bhairava Sing, which commenced in 402 L. era, (1432 Saka or 1570, A. D. *vide Panji*.)

(4) Raja Siva Sing ascended the throne of Mithila in 339 L. era, corresponding with 1369 Saka or 1447 A. D. (*Vide Literature of Bengal*, p. 27, and *Panji*) and died in 343 L. era, 1373 Saka or 1451, A. D. *vide Panji*, (Tarkaratna's edition, p. 3.)

(5) Some hold that he first saw the light in Bhursoot in Jessore in Saka 1355 and died at Navadwip in Saka 1403, and that his name was Basanta Roy, Bidyapati being only a title, conferred upon him by Raja Siva Sing in recognition of his merits.

(6) In page 43 (footnote) of *Khitchabanshabali charita*, it is said that Bidyapati was a native of Chatna in the district of Bankura.

(7) A paper in the August number of the *Bengal Magazine*

for 1874 says that Chandidas is known to have been a native of Birbhum, and Bidyapati must have lived in some neighbouring district; secondly, a teacher of the Vishnupur school has, after much local enquiry, learnt that Bidyapati was a native of Chatna in the district of Bankura and was a courtier of a petty Raja there named Siva Sing; that Bidyapati was a Brahman by caste has sometimes been disputed, but admits of no doubt. He used to be called Bidyapati Bhatyacharya.

(8) In *Reis and Rayyet* of August 18 of 1888, Babu Jogesh Chandra Mookerjee writes:—"I find in a journal that he was born at Sitahati in 1315 Saka and died at Cutwa in 1403 Saka."

(9) The Bengali hebdomadal *Somaprakash* of the *Pous* 10, 1929 Samvat (1872, A. D.) says that Bidyapati, who was the son of Bhabanunda Roy, a Brahman by caste, was born in 1355 Saka and died at Navadwip in 1403 Saka at the age of 48. His real name was Basanta Roy, Bidyapati being his title. His work goes by the name of *Basanta Kumar Kabya*.

(10) The late lamented Raj Kristo Mookerjee wrote an article on Bidyapati in the *Juista* number of *Banga Darsan* of 1282 B.E. It was afterwards collected in his *Nana Prabandha*. He says, "Bidyapati was a native of Mithila and was a Brahman of that place. He was a courtier of Raja Siva Sing who ascended the throne in 1368 (*sic*) Saka. Therefore Bidyapati saw the light about the year 1340 Saka, that is, 50 or 60 years before the advent of Chaitanya. Raja Siva Sing gave him the village of Bispi, which is situated near the present railway station of Barh on the E. I. Railway in Behar. The descendants of the Poet are still living in that village. Other accounts of the Poet will be found in the Sanskrit work the *Panji*." (*Vide Nyayaratna's Discourse on the Bengalee Language*, p. 21).

I think there are no other opinions current. It should be stated that the late Raj Kristo Mookerjee was the first scholar who gave to his countrymen a connected account, however meagre, of Bidyapati. In ascertaining the birth-date of the Poet, the English or the Hindu Era should be settled first from which the era of Lakshman Sen began to be reckoned. The whole question hinges upon it. On this the following data are available.

(1) In page 94 of *Gouray Brahman*, the author Babu Mohim Chandra Majumdar, says,—"The present Saka era, 1797, is equal to 767 of the present Lakshman era; therefore, the era of Lakshman Sen must have commenced in 1030 of the Saka era."

(2) Pandit Panchanan Tarkaratna, in his edition of Bidyapati, says,—"the Lakshman era commenced in 1030 Saka."

(3) In page 27 of *Nana Prabandha*, the late Raj Kristo Mookerjee writes,—"At present (at the month of *Juista* of the B. S. 1282) the year 767 of the Lakshman Era is extant in Mithila. Its corresponding Saka era and English year are 1797 and 1874 respectively. Therefore the Lakshman era commenced in 1030 Saka or 1107 A. D."

(4) The last, though not least, is the opinion of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, who writes, in page 256 of his *Indu-Aryans*, Vol. II., "And lastly we have the fact that the era (of Lakshman Sen) is still current (in Tirhoot), and in the present year (1878, A. D.) reckons 771. The Pandits of Tirhoot reckon the era to be a luni-solar month of Magha, and it must have, therefore, commenced in January 1106, A. D."

Another archaeologist treads on the same path. Pandit Hara Prasad Shastri says, in page 45 of his *School History of India*, "There is an era current in Mithila which goes by the name of his (Ballal's) son Lakshman Sen, and which commenced from 1119, A. D. (lines 4-7)."

As regards (1) and (2), I have nothing to say. The calculations are justifiable. The Lakshman era commenced in 1030 Saka. Regarding (3), (4) and (5), I have to say a good deal. Raj Kristo Mookerjee fixes 1107, A.D. as the current English year from which the Lakshman era commenced, by deducting 767 from 1874. But the Doctor Mitra not only deducts 771 from 1878, but to show his erudition, originality, and profound antiquarianism, and to impress the reader with the idea that he was a most accurate archaeologist lessens the number 1107 by one more. Raja Rajendralala Mitra was a very superficial scholar. His want of acquaintance with Sanskrit, at first hand, was a stumbling-block in his way. He made the calculation most perfunctorily. Instead of adding 1 to 1107, he deducted it from that number, and thus arrived at an incorrect result. I shall show the error by an example. Suppose an era has commenced in January 1890. Therefore, in 1890, its age would be represented by 1, in 1891, by 2, in 1892, by 3, in 1893, by 4, in 1894, by 5, and so on. Now if we deduct 5 from 1894, we get 1889 as the commencing year of the era, which is manifestly incorrect. It may thus be seen that one will have to add one after deducting 5 from 1895 for arriving at the correct result. Again, to calculate the corresponding English year of a Bengalee era is not so easy. The months should be taken into account. The corresponding English year of the Saka 1030 may be 1108 or 1109, if months be taken into account. The year 1108 ends in the month of *Pous* of the year 1030 Saka and the 1109 commences in the same year. But here as we have to deal with years and not months, we

may fix rightly the year 1108 A. D. as the correct year from which the Lakshman era commenced. This calculation is corroborated by the fact that if we deduct the number 78 from 1108, we get the Saka era 1030 from which the Lakshman era ran. Pandit Hara Prasad's calculation is incorrect and should, therefore, be rejected.

A few words on the former opinions: In 293 L. era, (1323 Saka and 1401 A.D.), the Poet got Bispi from Siva Sing. The bard must have made his mark when the royal favour was shown to him, and one will be justified in presuming that he was at least 20 or 25 years old at the time, that is, he was born between Sakas 1398 and 1203. The year 1303 may, therefore, be taken as the probable birth-date of Bidyapati. I have said that Bidyapati's *Durgabbakti Tarangini* was written during the reign of Raja Bhairava Sing which commenced in 1432 Saka or 1510 A.D. The Poet must have lived at the time. Now if we fix the year 1438 Saka (1516 A.D.) as the probable date of death of Bidyapati, our supposition will not be incredible or erroneous. The *Panji* does not contain the exact dates of birth and death of the Poet. Bidyapati, therefore, was a centenarian.

As regards the Poet's birth-place, there is much confusion. Pandit Panchanan Tarkaratna published an epigram in his edition of Bidyapati, which is as follows:—

Janama data mor Ganapati Thakur,  
Mithili deshakarū bhasha,  
Pancha-Gouradhipa Siva Singha bhupa,  
Kripakari layinijapishā.  
Bisafi gram, dankarala muja,  
Rahata hi layinija pasha,  
Lachima-charana dhyānay kaviṭa nikasai,  
Kabi Bidyapati vana.

The above passage cannot be found in any edition of the collected works of the Poet. It is found in the carefully preserved manuscript, written by the forefathers of Srijuta Haradhan Dutta Bhaktanidhi of Badangunje in the Hugli-Jahanabada district. The passage, quoted above, and written by Bidyapati himself, disposes off the numerous opinions about the birth-place of the poet. From it, it is evident that Bidyapati was a native of Behar. In the *Panji*, we find the following genealogy:—

1 Bishnu Sarma 2 Haraditya 3 Dharmaditya 4 Debaditya 5 Dharishwar 6 Joy Datta 7 Ganapati 8 Bidyapati 9 Harapati 10 Ratidhar 11 Raghunath 12 Bishwanath 13 Pitambara 14 Narayana 15 Dinamani 16 Tula 17 Eknatha 18 Bhayia 19 Nanilala and Phanilala 20 Banamali, son of Nanilala, and Badarinath, son of Phanilala. These two are the present living descendants.

Here is the genealogy of the kings of Mithila, in the *Panji*:—

1. Rameshwar Thakur (1301-1321)
2. Vogeshwar Thakur (1321-1325)
3. Hari Thakur (Hari Sing) (1325-1349)
4. Vobeshwar Thakur (Bhaba Sing) (1349-1387)
5. Deva Sing (1387-1447)
6. Siva Sing (*alias* Rupanarayan) (1447-1451)
7. Nara Sing (1474-1475) (married Rani Dhirmati, the daughter of Raj Pandit Rameshwar.)
8. Dhira Sing (1475-1510)
9. Bhairava Sing (1510-1524)
10. Rupanarayan (Rambhadra).

The twenty-three years' interval between the reigns of Siva Sing and Nara Sing was the reigns of Queens Padmabati and Luckhi Devi, the widows of Raja Siva Sing, and Biswas Devi, the widow of Padma Sing, brother of Siva Sing. Nara Sing was the son of Hara Sing, the brother of Deva Sing, the father of Siva Sing.

Mr. R. C. Dutt states a few facts regarding Bidyapati accurately in page 27 of his *Literature of Bengal*. The corresponding English year of 293 L. era is 1401 A.D., and can not be 1400, as Mr. Dutt makes it. The corresponding English year of Saka 1369 should be 1447 and not 1446, as has been shown above. Mr. Dutt says,—"we further learn from *Panji* that Siva Sing had three wives, Padmavati, Lakhima Devi and Biswa Devi, who after the death of their husband, successively reigned for 18 months, 9 years, and 12 years." But a different version appears in the *Panji*. The name of the last queen is Biswas Devi and not Biswa Devi. Biswas Devi was the wife of Padma Sing, brother of Raja Siva Sing and not the wife of Raja Siva Sing. After the death of Luckima Devi whose reign lasted from 1453 to 1462, Biswas Devi, then a widow, reigned from 1462 to 1474. Nara Sing next ascended the throne of Mithila. Siva Sing died childless, and the kingdom was governed by his two wives Padmavati and Lakhima successively from 1451-1453 and from 1453-1462. After him came the widow of Padma Sing who died without any issue. She was succeeded by Nara Sing, the surviving heir of the family.

It would seem that Bidyapati played the part of a modern poet laureate in the courts of Rajas Deva Sing, Siva Sing, Nara Sing, Dhira Sing and Bhairava Sing of Mithila, successively. His father, Ganapati was also a worshipper of the Muses. Bidyapati's contemporary was Chandidas. Chandidas cannot be regarded as an imitator of Bidyapati as Mr. Dutt says. No doubt, Chandidas wrote on the same subject and painted the same

picture, but contemporary poets seldom steal from each other. Besides one of the two lived in Behar, while the other lived in Bengal at a very great distance. Printing was unknown. Those inventions which have facilitated communication, were also unknown. The two poets wished to meet once and they met after many difficulties. The works of the one could not be known to the other readily. It was no case of Browning reading a copy of Tennyson's work, having got it as a present from his brother poet or purchased it of his publishers; or Tennyson reading Browning's work having got it by the same means. However popular Bidyapati might be, it took many years before copies could be multiplied of his songs. Under the circumstances, the remark that Chandidas imitated or plagiarised Bidyapati, would be as true as to say that Shakespeare imitated Marlowe and vice versa. It is a baseless assertion.

Babu Trailokya Nath Bhattacharya has brought out an excellent biography of Bidyapati. While endorsing every point of the pamphlet, I think it is my duty to point out errors which he has committed. In calculating the corresponding English and Hindu years from which the era of Lakshman Sen began to be reckoned, he takes the copper-plate (mentioned in his book) as the basis of his calculation. The last line of the plate cannot be the same as that which appears in Bhattacharya's book. The gentleman who first found the plate had not succeeded in interpreting the line correctly. Mr. Bhattacharya should know that the last letter of the Bengalee era must coincide with the last letter of the Samvat era. This is a trick from which the dates can be calculated correctly. I will show the correct form of the plate from the following list:---

| Samvat. E. | Saka. E. | B.E. | L.E.                |
|------------|----------|------|---------------------|
| 1952       | 1817     | 1302 | 787 present year.   |
| 1832       | 1797     | 1282 | 767                 |
| 1558       | 1523     | 808  | 293                 |
| 1165       | 1030     | 515  | beginning of L.era. |

From the above it is evident that the last line of the plate can not be other than "San 808, 1323 Saka, 1458 Samvat." This exactly tallies with the version of my Behari friend who has so generously sent me a copy of the *Panji*. The last line of Mr. Bhattacharya's plate is the following:---"San 807, Samvat 1455, Saka 1321." I think there are no commas in the original plate. Again, the last letter of the Samvat is markedly different from the last letter of the Bengalee era. That the discoverer of the plate had not succeeded in reading the line correctly admits of no doubt. There is another way of proving the proposition. If the years in the last line of the plate be correct, its difference from the current years must be equal, which is impossible from the following:---

| Samvat E. | Saka E. | B. E. |                   |
|-----------|---------|-------|-------------------|
| 1952      | 1817    | 1302  | the present year. |
| 1455      | 1321    | 807   |                   |
| 497       | 496     | 495   |                   |

I earnestly request Mr. Bhattacharya to think of the matter more seriously. His method of calculation, which appears in the page 14 of his book, is ridiculous. Then again while admitting that the reign of the three Queens occupied 23 years, Mr. Bhattacharya fixes 1450 as the commencing year and 1470 as the ending year of their reigns. Where are the additional three years?

The following is the list of Sanskrit works, composed by our Poet:

- (1) *Purusba Pariksha*  
(composed by order of Raja Siva Sing.)
- (2) *Sbaiba Serbaibya Sara*  
(composed by order of Rani Biswas Devi.)
- (3) *Bivaga Sara*  
(composed by order of Raja Nara Sing alias Darpya Narain.)
- (4) *Ganga Bakyabali*
- (5) *Dana Bakyabali*
- (6) *Durgabbakti Tarangini*  
(composed by order of Ruparayan, the son of Bairava Sing.)

#### FREDERIC PINCOTT.

Sir,---The obituary notice of poor Frederic Pincott, from the pen of Dr. Fitzedward Hall, in *Reis and Rayyet* of the 21st of March, is, indeed, a simple act of justice to the memory of a good man and sound Orientalist. It is very kind of Dr. Hall to write such a notice and equally kind of you to publish it. Mr. Pincott was, as is truly observed by Dr. Hall, an indefatigable worker. His is another bright example of the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties. His interest in India was not confined to her languages or literature. He truly felt for the Indian people and did his best for improving their material condition. For about the last 4 years, Mr. Pincott was engaged in publishing a monthly trade journal, entitled "Mirror of British Merchandise and Hindustani Pictorial News," in Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil and English, for inviting the attention of the people of India to the value of many

Indian products required for European and American consumption. The journal is a unique one. Printed on excellent toned paper, the short articles teemed with solid information. Miscellaneous topics of interest were sometimes discussed. I have a copy before me of number 23, Vol. I, for October 1892. Besides very interesting advertisements, the subjects treated of are 1. Manchester cotton goods, 2. A new departure in mercantile policy, 3. The Penrhyn Slate quarry, 4. Mountain climbing, 5. Cholera germs, 6. The Punjab Trade Association, 7. The Industrial Association of Western India, 8. The Shariff of Wazan, 9. Oriental Congress, 10. Our frontispiece, 11. Gold in India, 12. The Crystal Palace, 13. Poverty in the midst of Plenty, 14. Locomotive Engines in the World, 15. Diffusing coal vapours in rooms, 16. Catalogue of bulbs, 17. The Jaffa and Jerusalem railway, 18. Morocco, 19. African trade, 20. Uganda, 21. Fruit Trade, and many others. Few Indian journals noticed it or the good it was silently doing. Now that Mr. Pincott is dead, I do not know whether it will be continued.

Mr. Pincott took an active interest in the English translation of the Mahabharata published by Babu Pratapa Chandra Roy. Almost every month he used to write to Babu P. C. Roy, and since the latter's death, to me, enquiring about various particulars connected with India. On learning how the widow of Babu P. C. Roy felt a difficulty in issuing the 3 fasciculi of the English translation of the Mahabharata that would complete that publication, Mr. Pincott drew Professor Max Müller's attention to it. The latter thereupon wrote to various persons, requesting them to do what they could for removing that difficulty.

The project Mr. Pincott had formed of reha cultivation was a grand one. It will interest his friends to know that the arrangements he made were completed before his death, so that the money he has sunk, upwards of a lakh and a half of Rupees, is safe. It will yield to his heirs a proper return. The object he had in view was, as explained by Dr. Hall, to earn a sufficiency, so that he might be able to pass the remainder of his days in lettered ease in England, as also to teach the people of India a new industry. The poet has said that "the best laid schemes o' men and mice aft gang a-gley;" but the schemes themselves prove the men. There was a practical bent in Mr. Pincott's genius which deserves the highest commendation. Most of his publications proved eminently successful, as noticed by his friend in *Reis and Rayyet*. If he had lived a few more years to prosecute his studies in Sanskrit, he would undoubtedly have left his mark on the history of Oriental scholarship.

Mr. Pincott's energy was remarkable. When he came to India, he was about 60 years of age. He was of strong physique, and the hue of health in his face would strike even a casual observer. His features were certainly handsome, and his voice was strong and deep. His powers of conversation were great. It was a pleasure to talk with him. No man could pass ten minutes with him without catching a portion of his energy. While talking to me of his project of reha cultivation, he said that it was certain to succeed, and that in a few years he would be better known in India than any European had been, and that reha would be as popular as jute or cotton.

A labour of love, on which Mr. Pincott was engaged, was a complete Index to the English translation of the Mahabharata. The suspension of this valuable work will be viewed, no doubt, as a calamity to the cause of Oriental learning.

AGHORE NATH BANERJEE,  
Manager, *Datavya Bharata Karyalaya*.

#### THE NEEM TREE.

Sir,---I have read with great pleasure your almost exhaustive note on the *Neem* tree, in your number of March 21. The fact is not generally known that the flowers of the *Neem* yield a peculiarly agreeable perfume, and that the breeze that blows through the twigs and leaves of the *Neem* becomes so purified as to improve the health of the house whose inmates breathe it constantly. The Hindu physicians value the *Neem* so greatly as to ascribe especial virtues to that specimen of *Guduchi* or *Gulancha* (*Tinospora cordifolia*, syn. *Menispermum coratifolium*), which twines round the branches, or spreads itself upon the top, of the *Neem*.

The *Gulancha* is an effective febrifuge. That which grows on the *Neem* is still more so.

I am not sure that you are correct in your identification of

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*Vishalakshi*. The word, as you explain, means "the large-eyed one." But *who* is she? In certain portions of the Hooghly District, the inferior Brahmans in charge of the idols called *Vishalakshi* placed upon masonry platforms by the foot of the Neem, regard the goddess as a form of Durga. The *mantras* recited in course of worship would seem to support this view. There is a celebrated image of *Vishalakshi* near Ghatal. The goddess stands on a lion and is worshipped during the days that Durga is worshipped.

Will any of your readers throw further light upon the subject?

BHARGAVA.

## CUSTOMS DINNER.

### MR. SKRINE ON AN UNPOPULAR SERVICE.

• Mr. Francis H. Skrine, the retiring Collector of Customs, entertained the superior staff of his establishment at dinner last night at M. Bansard's Hotel de Paris, Dhurumtollah. The table was decorated with flowers kindly furnished by Mr. A. Burrup, and by Babus Hem Chunder Mukherji, Alokimohan Raha, and Gokul Chunder Goswami of the Statistical Department, which gave nearly as much pleasure as the more substantial adjuncts of the feast. The guests comprised Messrs. H. Dawson, Superintendent of the Preventive Service; Messrs. R. Amos, A. P. and C. C. Bonnaud, H. Bradbury, A. Burrup, C. A. Tweedale, R. Mendietta, H. Erskine Girard, J. Watson, Boughton Chambers, Wolferstan, S. S. Cooper, F. W. Newton, H. R. Clark, G. G. Vanspall, A. Matthieson, P. Moore, Etheridge, McKennah, Smart, MacMillan, Miller, and Captain Maffin.

Mr. Skrine, in rising to propose the toast "Success to the Administration of the Customs Department," said: My toast is one to which all my guests will join in doing honour, for it implies success to our noble selves. Each of us is a wheel in a huge machine, and it is within our power to throw it out of gear or to increase the efficiency of its working. I have called you together in order to promote the latter desideratum. A dinner is my excuse because we Englishmen have long since made up our minds that nothing good or durable can be effected without a preliminary banquet, and in view of the benefits flowing from friendly intercourse out of office hours, I trust that this may be the first of a series of annual meetings of the kind. It may be deemed presumptuous in one who, ten months ago, did not know the difference between a manifest and a bill of entry to expatiate on the principles which should govern the administration of our great office. But we all know that onlookers often see more of a game than the players. A fresh mind, and one free from prejudices, may be brought to bear on entirely new functions with great advantage to the State. It is on this principle, to compare great things with small, that our Board of Admiralty at home is constituted. It includes a "Civil Lord" who in the course of official cruises of inspection is apt to admit ruefully that, though a Briton is popularly supposed to rule the waves, he cannot always resist their effect on his own stomach.

Well, gentlemen, the first thing that has struck me is the invincible nature of our duties. However tactfully they may be performed, they can never be anything but a clog on the wheels of commerce. Hence, if we do our duty we can never really be popular. I read with some uneasiness a reference to my humble self the other day as "our popular Collector," and began to fear lest I had been, after all, too easy-going. But an antidote was at hand in a column and a half of elephantine satire in another paper. Yes, gentlemen, even a Native print, couched in what its conductors fondly suppose is English, has its uses. Like the skeleton at Trimalcion's splendid banquet, it reminds us that we are mortals. The odium attaching to our office is as old as civilisation. In the New Testament "publicans," meaning Customs authorities, are bracketed with sinners. All classes seem to regard an evasion of our dues as a proof of smartness rather than of moral obliquity. There is, probably, no one present who can lay his hand on his heart and say that he has never smuggled. I certainly cannot do so. Having a hostile public to reckon with we must "gang warily" if we would not "make the band play," as official slang has it. I have always felt it a great help in guiding my steps aright to imagine myself labelled with a ticket conspicuously inscribed "public servant." An officer of the Customs House is the servant of every taxpayer and owes him the same courtesy and consideration as he owes to his own superiors. This is an unimpeachable view of our relations with the trading classes; but how often is it ignored! "Jacks in office" are rarer in this country, in spite of the organized calumny of the Native press, than elsewhere—the United States and the continent of Europe for instance. But we should all of us be the better for keeping this golden rule in mind. It may be acted on without the sacrifice of an iota of self-respect or of the just claims of Government.

Our own position, however, is not the only factor in the problem. That of the public with whom we deal must also be kept in mind. Now, the merchants of Calcutta are second to no body

of men in culture, hospitality, and public spirit, and yet they work under most trying conditions. The climate of Calcutta unduly stimulates while it exhausts the vital functions. The great development of communications has led to "cutting" and to competition, often grossly unfair on the part of foreign rivals, for whose benefit rather than our own we appear to have accepted the burden of empire. Make allowance for the "black care" which sits behind the Anglo-Indian merchant, and remember that he is in the same plight as ourselves, who have certainly not come to India for change of air.

How far my own efforts have conduced to the greasing of the wheels of trade I leave you to determine. Strenuous efforts have been made to check the importation of fraudulent goods, and the wholesale counterfeiting of British marks. Many needless formalities have been swept away. A classification list has been issued enabling importers to discern, almost at a glance, the duty payable on any given article. A scheme involving great labour for reorganizing the establishments has been submitted to Government. Our Provident Funds have been placed on a new basis. But much remains to do ere the Custom House can be considered to be in line with modern requirements. We are living in a period of transition when "white wings" are finally giving up the struggle with steam, and we must relax no effort in order to lessen the detention of vessels in port. What has been done is due largely to the advice and co-operation of you, my colleagues. In bidding you farewell, I may say with perfect truth that I look back with pleasure on our intercourse, and that I cherish the warmest wishes for the future success and happiness of you all.—The *Englishman*, March 31.

## HOW DID THE THIEF GET IN?

YOU wake up some morning and miss your watch, your purse, your best clothes and other valuables. Yet neither you nor any member of your family heard a sound during the night. Neither is there a sign of how the thief got into the house nor by what road he decamped. You rush round and tell the police, and also decide to keep a dog and a shot gun. You will let thieves know they mustn't come fooling around your premises after this. A sensible procedure. Meanwhile your watch, your money, &c., are gone. Quite so.

Now suppose I should tell you that the thief who stole your property never entered your house at all; that he was born in it: had lived twenty years in it; never had been out of it till he went off with your things, albeit not a soul of you had ever seen or heard of him. What would you say to me? You would call me an idiot and threaten to have me sent back to the asylum. But don't be too sure.

"Later on," says Mr. Heakin, "rheumatism struck into my system and I had pains all over me. I was confined to my bed for three months with it and could not dress myself. In this general condition I continued for five years. One after another I was treated by *fourteen* doctors in that time, but their medicines did me little or no good. At one time I went to the Infirmary at Shrewsbury, where they treated me for heart disease; but I got worse and feeling anxious, returned home."

How he was finally cured we will mention in a minute. First, however, about his rheumatism. Every intelligent person knows that rheumatism and gout (its twin brother) is virtually a universal ailment. It does its cruel and body-racking work in every country and climate. No other malady causes so vast an aggregate of suffering and disability. Whatever will cure it is worth more money in England than a gold mine in every country.

But does rheumatism "strike into" the system as a bullet or a knife might strike into it? No Rheumatism is a thief who steals away our comfort and strength; but it a thief, as I said, who *is born in the premises*. In other words, it is one—and only one—of the direct consequences of indigestion and dyspepsia. And this is the why and wherefore: Indigestion creates a poison called uric acid; this acid combines with the chloride of sodium to form a salt; this salt is urate of sodium, which is deposited in the form of *sharp crystals* in the muscles and joints. Then comes inflammation and agony, otherwise rheumatism. Thus you perceive that it doesn't come from the outside but from the inside—from the stomach. Our friend's cold, caught in the mine, didn't produce his rheumatism, it clogged his skin and so kept all the poison in his body instead of letting part of it out.

Here is our very good friend Mr. Richard Heakin, of Pentern, Silop, who expresses an opinion in this line. Let us have his exact words. He says: "*Rheumatism struck into my system.*" Of course we understand that he speaks after the manner of men. You know we talk of being "attacked" by this, and the other complaint, as though diseases were like soldiers or wild beasts. "Doesn't make any odds," do you say? Beg pardon, but it does—heavy odds. *For it teaches us to look in the wrong direction for danger. Do you see now?*

Thirteen years ago, in the spring of 1880, whilst working in the Roman Gravel Lead Mines, Mr. Heakin took a bad cold. He got over the cold, but not over what followed it. He was feeble, without appetite, and had a deal of pain in the chest and sides. His eyes and skin were tinted yellow, and his hands and feet were cold and clammy. Frequently he would break out into a cold perspiration, as a man does on receiving a nervous shock caused by something fearful or horrible. He was also troubled with pain at the heart and had spells of difficult breathing—what medical men call asthma.

Mr. Heakin adds: "I was cured at last by Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and without it I believed I should have been dead long ago."

Very likely, very likely; for this thief, although he may wait long for his opportunity, isn't always satisfied to run away with our comfort and our money: he often takes life too.




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OF

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from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to, Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
to, Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to, Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to, Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.  
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to, Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.  
to, Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
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from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
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to, Mookerjee, late Raja Dakshinaranjan.  
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Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corst, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta : Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—The *Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—The *Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—The *Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahmin of the Brahmans—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness. —*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed. —*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality. —*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 720.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### RECOLLECTIONS.

#### I.

AH! Summer time, sweet Summer scene,  
When all the golden days,  
Linked hand in hand, like moon-lit fays,  
Danced o'er the deepening green.

When, from the top of Pelier down,  
We saw the sun descend,  
With smiles that blessings seemed to send  
To our dear native town.

And when we saw him rise again  
High o'er the hills at morn—  
God's glorious prophet daily born  
To preach goodwill to men—

Goodwill and peace to all between  
The gates of night and day—  
Join with me, love, and with me say  
Sweet Summer time and scene.

#### II.

Sweet Summer time, true age of gold,  
When hand in hand we went  
Slow by the quickening shrubs, intent  
To see the buds unfold.

To trace new wild flowers in the grass,  
New blossoms on the bough,  
And see the water-lilies now  
Rise o'er their liquid glass.

When from the fond and folding gale  
The scented briar I pulled,  
Or for thy kindred bosom culled  
The lily of the vale.

Thou without whom were dark the green,  
The golden turned to gray.  
Join with me, love, and with me say  
Sweet Summer time and scene.

#### III.

Sweet Summer time, delight's brief reign,  
Thou hast one memory still,  
Dearer than ever tree or hill  
Yet stretched along life's plain,

Stranger than all the wond'rous whole,  
Flowers, fields, and sunset skies—  
To see within our infant's eyes  
The awakening of the soul.

To see their dear bright depths first stirred  
By the far breath of thought,  
To feel our trembling hearts o'erfraught  
With rapture when we heard

Her first clear laugh, which might have been  
A cherub's laugh at play—  
Ah! love, thou *canst* but join and say  
Sweet Summer time and scene.

#### IV.

Sweet Summer time, sweet Summer days,  
One day I must recall;  
One day, the brightest of them all,  
Must mark with special praise.

'Twas when at length in genial showers  
The spring attained its close;  
And June with many a myriad rose  
Incarnadined the bowers.

Led by the bright and sun-warm air,  
We left our indoor nooks;  
Thou with my papers and my books,  
And I thy garden chair;

Crossed the broad, level garden walks,  
With countless roses lined;  
And where the apple still inclined  
Its blossoms o'er the box,

Near to the lilacs round the pond,  
In its stone ring hard by,  
We took our seats, where, save the sky,  
And the few forest trees beyond

The garden wall, we nothing saw,  
But flowers and blossoms, and we heard  
Nought but the whirring of some bird  
Or the rooks' distant, clamorous caw.

And in the shade we saw the face  
Of our dear Mary sleeping near,  
And thou wert by to smile and hear,  
And speak with innate truth and grace.

There through the pleasant noontide hours  
My task of echoed song I sung;  
Turning the golden southern tongue  
Into the iron ore of ours!

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'Twas the great Spanish master's pride,  
The story of the hero proved ;  
'T was how the Moorish princess loved,  
And how the firm Fernando died.

O, happiest season ever seen,  
O, day, indeed the happiest day ;  
Join with me, love, and with me say  
Sweet Summer time and scene.

v.

One picture more before I close  
Fond Memory's fast dissolving views ;  
One picture more before I lose  
The radiant outlines as they rose.

'Tis evening, and we leave the porch,  
And for the hundredth time admire  
The Rhododendron's cones of fire  
Rise round the tree, like torch o'er torch.

And for the hundredth time point out  
Each favourite blossom and perfume—  
If the white lilac still doth bloom,  
Or the pink hawthorn fadeth out ;

And by the laurel'd wall, and o'er  
The fields of young green corn we're gone ;  
And by the outer gate, and on  
To our dear friend's oft-trodden door.

And there in cheerful talk we stay,  
Till-deepening twilight warns us home ;  
Then once again we backward roam  
Calmly and slow the well-known way—

And linger for the expected view—  
Day's dying gleam upon the hill ;  
Or listen for the whip-poor-will,  
Or the too seldom shy cuckoo.

At home the historic page we glean,  
And muse, and hope, and praise and pray—  
Join with me, love, as then, and say  
Sweet Summer time and scene !

—*The Dublin University Magazine.*

### WEEKLYANA.

*THE Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine*, a monthly journal devoted to all subjects connected with Her Majesty's land and sea forces, in its new series, Vol. VI., No. 22, October 1890, wrote thus of Ayesha, the daughter of the Kexholm Regiment :—

"On the 20th June, so we are informed by the *Vsemirnaya Illustratsia* of St. Petersburg, the Kexholm Regiment of Grenadiers celebrated the leaving school of Ayesha, *alias* Maria Konstantinovna at Warsaw, where she was educated at the cost of the late Tsarina.

In 1877 this regiment, after the fall of Plevna, pursued the army of Suleiman Pasha through the passes of the Balkans. Notwithstanding the humane treatment accorded them, the panic-stricken inhabitants of Turkish origin abandoned their homes in crowds, fleeing in the direction of Constantinople. The greater part of the road from Philippopolis to Adrianople was strewn with the stiffened corpses of men, women, and children lying among the dead bodies of horses, bullocks, broken-down carts, and all sorts of rubbish. In the midst of this fearful scene, a non-commissioned officer of the military train, named Savenka, remarked a dying woman, who by signs drew his attention to a ragged little girl, her daughter, who was sitting beside her, starving and half-perished with cold. The child being no more than five years old, it is not surprising that she was totally ignorant of her own origin and history, further than that her name was Ayesha. She only knew that the dead woman was her mother, and that her father was a soldier, who, as it would appear, had been slain in action. She had no knowledge as to their place of residence.

Until the close of the war, Ayesha remained with the baggage train under the care of Captain Petersen. On the return of the regiment to Warsaw, the child was christened Maria, with the cognomen of Konstantinovna, from her godfather Konovaloff's christian name, the surname of Kexholm being added in remembrance of the regiment which had rescued her. A subscription was then made among the officers for a small fund to assure her future, and its management was confided to a committee of trustees chosen from among them. Her portrait subsequently attracted the notice of the late Emperor

Alexander II., and having ascertained from the colonel of the regiment the above details, he promised to use his influence with the Empress to obtain the girl's admission into one of the governmental institutes for the education of females. In 1880 she was installed in the Alexander-Marin Institute at Warsaw as a pensioner of the Empress, where she has completed the curriculum in a highly successful manner. This event was celebrated with high religious ceremonies and brilliant festivities by this regiment of Finlanders, which may well be proud to add this act of humanity to the roll of its martial deeds."

The account is accompanied by a portrait of attractive appearance, which lends additional interest to the daughter of the Kexholm Regiment. We long to know what became of her after leaving school. We shall be obliged to any correspondent who may supply the information.

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*THE Times* writes :—

"In connection with the approaching Millennium Exhibition, Professor Vambéry, of the Budapest University, delivered a lecture in Vienna on the history of the Hungarian nation, which he traced to a band of Asiatic nomads. He went on to say that Hungary had invariably formed an insurmountable barrier against the barbarism of the East. Had it not been for her stubborn resistance to the Turkish hordes the progress of West and Central Europe would have been retarded for hundreds of years. Owing to Hungary's perpetual readiness for war the intellectual condition of the country had remained behind. During the past two centuries this had been remedied. There is scarcely any trace left of his Asiatic extraction in the modern Magyar."

We published in our issue of the 8th of February last the prospectus of, as it is called, the Millennial Festival of Hungary. It also appeared subsequently in the *Gazette of India*, with, what we think, an uncompromising passage (as in the prospectus) against the Turk, considering that "His Imperial Majesty the Sultan will send (to the Exhibition) the precious relics of those of His illustrious Predecessors on the Ottoman Throne who, in the past, have materially influenced the destinies of Hungary." The festivities will commence on May 2, when the Exhibition will be inaugurated by the Emperor Francis Joseph.

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THERE are in London 483 newspapers and 1,357 in the rest of England. Wales has 100, Scotland 226, Ireland 169 and the British Isles only 20, making a total of 2,355. Besides these, there are 2,097 magazines, of which 507 are religious publications. Mr. Henry Sell in his "The World's Press" estimates that £4,000,000 a year is spent in advertisements, and that 1,500,000,000 copies of newspapers are sold in London alone.

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In the Swiss canton of Schwyz they are for vivisection for purely scientific purposes. Vivisectionists profess no other purpose.

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HERE is a remedy for a black eye :

"There is nothing to compare with the tincture or strong infusion of capsicum annuum mixed with an equal bulk of mucilage or gum arabic, and with the addition of a few drops of glycerine. This should be painted all over the bruised surface with a camel's hair pencil and allowed to dry on, a second or third coating being applied as soon as the first is dry. If done as soon as the injury is inflicted, says the *Medical Progress*, this treatment will invariably prevent blackening of the bruised tissue. The same remedy has no equal in rheumatic sore stiffneck."

Capsicum has been successfully tried in rheumatism in India for a long time.

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SIX sanitariums have been opened in Germany for treatment of consumptives with constant exposure to cold air. The air is passed through the bed room at night, and during the day the patient is kept in the open air. It is said that pure cold air quiets cough, lessens the temperature, arrests night sweats, improves the appetite and modifies or arrests the course of the disease. The efficacy of the treatment is not yet accepted.

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THE Government of the N.-W. Provinces and Oudh have issued fresh rules regarding the submission of petitions and their disposal. They are :

1. A petition must be properly authenticated by the signature of the petitioner ; it should be submitted through the head of the office or department to which (if any) the petitioner belongs, and the forwarding officer should submit the petition with an expression of his opinion through the usual official channel.
2. A petition must be written in intelligible, respectful, and temperate language.
3. If a petition is an appeal from, or is connected with an order passed by, a subordinate authority, copies of the orders passed in



the case must be submitted; similarly if the petition is one for mercy or pardon, or is connected with a judicial decision, copies of decisions of the courts should, except in the case of capital sentences, be submitted.

4. Petitions against orders punishing or upholding orders of punishment of Government servants must be submitted, unless satisfactory explanation is given of the delay, within six months from the date of such orders.

5. Petitions will not be accepted from one person on behalf of another unless supported by a duly executed and stamped power-of-attorney. The only exception to this rule is the case of persons in jail or other duress whose petitions may be submitted by the officer in charge of the jail or other place of duress or by any near relative.

A power-of-attorney will not be required from a Barrister-at-Law enrolled and practising as an Advocate, nor in the case of lunatics or others where the circumstances render execution of a power-of-attorney impossible. When a lunatic or minor is under authorised guardianship, petitions to Government on his behalf should be presented by his authorised guardian.

6. A petition presented to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces does not require to be stamped under Article 1 (c), Schedule II of Act VII of 1870. As it is not possible to make a distinction in the case of petitions presented to the Chief Commissioner of Oudh every petition presented to the Government will be accepted on plain paper.

7. A copy of a document referred to in Articles 6, 7 or 9 of Schedule I, Act VII of 1870, or in Article 22 of Schedule I, Act I of 1879, and accompanying a petition to Government must bear the stamp of the value indicated in the above Articles.

8. Section 6 of Act VII of 1870 absolutely prohibits the receipt of documents not duly stamped. Every such document will be returned to the sender. A petition enclosing a copy not duly stamped will ordinarily, if the consideration of the unstamped document is essential, be returned to the sender with a direction that orders cannot be passed unless it is resubmitted with the copy duly stamped.

9. A petition of any of the following descriptions will also be ordinarily returned to the sender:—

- (a) One in which the provisions of rules 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 have not been observed;
- (b) When the petition relates to a subject on which the petitioner can apply for redress to the courts of law, or amounts to an appeal against a decision or order of a court of law, these being matters in which the executive Government does not interfere;
- (c) When it relates to a subject on which the local authorities or the Head of a Department are competent to pass orders, and no previous application has been made to them.

10. An officer forwarding a petition under rule 1 should see that the orders regarding authentication, stamping of documents, &c., are observed.

11. Rule 7 applies to copies accompanying petitions to the Government of India, submitted to this Government for transmission to the Government of India.

In elucidation of rule 7, quotations are made from Act VII of 1870, Schedule I, *ad valorem* Fees, numbers 6, 7 and 9, and from the Indian Stamp Act, 1879, Schedule I, Stamp duty on Instruments (Section 5), number 22. Petitioners to Government labour under great disadvantages. The stereotyped order "Declines to interfere" is their despair. And they are further handicapped. The N.-W. P. and Oudh Government stoop to limitation. For one concession made, they impose several expensive restrictions. The patriarchal government is no longer to be the rule. Every petitioner must appear either himself or herself or employ a lawyer, and every document sent up must bear a court fee or a stamp. The documents indicated in the extracts from the Court Fees and Stamp Acts are "copy or translation of a judgment or order not being, or having the force of, a decree; copy of a decree or order having the force of a decree; copy of any revenue or judicial proceeding or order not otherwise provided for by Act VII of 1870, or copy of any account, statement, report, or the like, taken out of any civil or criminal or revenue court or office, or from the office of any chief officer charged with the executive administration of a division; copy or extract certified to be a true copy or extract by or by order of any public officer and not chargeable under the law for the time being in force relating to court fees." The charges, as fee or stamp duty, are four annas, eight annas, one rupee, and four rupees, and eight annas for every 360 words or fraction thereof. We take it that the rules require authenticated copies of documents and that no copy or extract or original for which no court-fee or stamp duty is payable will be refused for want of stamps. The rules are circulated by the Chief Secretary to all heads of Departments, Commissioners of Divisions, and District officers, N.-W. Provinces and Oudh; and managers of newspapers and periodicals; and Secretary, Bar Library, Allahabad. Is it intended that extracts from newspapers should also bear stamps?

LAST year there passed through the Suez Canal 3,352 ships, of which 2,386 were English, 296 German, 191 Dutch, 185 French, 78 Austrian, 63 Italian, 41 Norwegian, 35 Russian, 33 Turkish, 28

Spanish, 6 Japanese, 5 American, 2 Egyptian, 2 Portuguese, and 2 Nicaraguan.

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THE Hon'ble Mr. H. J. S. Cotton goes on three months' leave at the end of this month. The Hon'ble Mr. C. W. Bohn, Secretary in the General Department, will act the Chief Secretary, the Hon'ble Mr. Finucane, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, acting as Secretary to the Bengal Government in the General, Revenue and Statistical Departments, and Mr. F. A. Slack, Magistrate and Collector, Saran, officiating as Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

A RELIEF party, the number of which is uncertain, after saving several outlying Whites, was attacked and massacred by the Matabele. A later telegram says that the Matabele have massacred altogether two hundred Whites. Bulawayo and Gwelo are now impregnable. The revolt is principally confined to the Matoppo Hills. Mr. Cecil Rhodes left Fort Salisbury for Gwelo and Bulawayo with an escort of 150 men. He is down with fever. Two hundred Soudanese, who were engaged by Mr. Rhodes at Port Sud on his way out, have landed at Beira and been despatched to Bulawayo. The Hon'ble Maurice Gifford has been seriously wounded north of Bulawayo. His Horse, on April 7, engaged and drove back the Matabele. The party returned to Bulawayo on the 9th. They were hotly engaged twenty miles northwards, when the reliefs reached them. It is estimated that Gifford's men killed two hundred and fifty Matabele. Two Whites and several Friendlies were killed. Three fierce onslaughts were made by the Matabele, who were finally repulsed with a loss of hundred killed. More fighting is expected.

IN the French Chamber of Deputies, on April 2, M. Bourgeois read successive despatches received from Great Britain promising to evacuate Egypt. He insisted strongly on the international character of the Egyptian question. After an excited debate a vote of confidence in the Government was adopted by a majority of 96. The Senate, however, by a majority of seventy, have passed a vote of want of confidence in the foreign policy of the Government, and have also deferred voting the Madagascar credit. Nevertheless, M. Bourgeois and the Cabinet have decided to remain in office.

The *Times*' Paris correspondent states that M. Berthelot resigned because Baron Mohrenheim, the Russian Ambassador, objected to his making any statement in the Chamber regarding the Egyptian question without consulting Russia beforehand.

THE *Temps* states that King Humbert first proposed the Dongola expedition to Great Britain and Germany simultaneously.

Mr. Leonard Courtney, addressing the electors of Bodmin, said that the Dongola expedition was in the highest degree impolitic, and that if Great Britain really desired the welfare of Egypt she would not waste her resources needlessly by provoking a savage enemy.

The *Times* in discussing the employment of Indian troops at Suakin says that it would be a natural incident of the long existing connection between India and Africa. It proceeds then to consider the positions of the Indians in Africa, and declares that the matter must form part of a general settlement. Great Britain, when she remembers the services of her Indian soldiers in Africa, will not permit them to be deprived of the status of the British subjects. The *Daily News* states that Indian troops are being held in readiness to sail for Suakin if necessary. But, we see, no regiments have yet been warned in India for the service.

The House of Commons has resumed its sittings after the Easter vacation. The Hon. G. Curzon, replying to a question by Sir Ashmead Bartlett, said that the Government had entered into no engagement with the Powers not to advance beyond Dongola.

THE entire garrison of Kassala made a sortie in aid of an outpost at Sabderat, and defeated the Dervishes, who were 5,000 strong.

The Dervish loss was heavy, but the Italians lost only 100 killed and wounded. The fighting lasted for four hours. The garrison, on the 3rd inst., attacked and partially captured the Dervish forts at Tucuf. The Italian loss was ten officers and three hundred men. The Commandant was confident of capturing the remainder of the Dervish positions next day, but was ordered to evacuate. General Buldissera has ordered the garrison to evacuate Kassala and retire to Agordat. The evacuation appears to be uncertain. Colonel Stevan's column, which recently arrived with supplies, was ordered to withdraw, but it is not known if the garrison accompanied it.

THE Dervishes have advanced as far as Mograkeh, within twenty miles of Akasheh. The Friendlies occupy a position opposite Akasheh. The Friendlies near Suakin have defeated the Dervishes. A strong Dervish force threatens Fort Habb on the Red Sea and another force has arrived at Kokiab. This will necessitate the despatch of another Egyptian battalion to Suakin. Dervishes have also appeared at Tamanieh, near Suakin. Those at Tucuf have retreated across Atbart to Asobit, leaving their wounded and a number of mules laden with corn. Telegrams from Massowah state that King Menelik is negotiating with the Dervishes, and sending gifts to them.

THE material for a narrow gauge railway to be laid from Suakin to Tembuk is being prepared at Woolwich.

THE *Times'* correspondent at Pretoria says that Mr. Chamberlain's despatch to President Kruger is friendly but firm, and insists on the redress of the Uitlanders' grievances, at the same time affirming Great Britain's right to interfere, and requesting a reply to his invitation to President Kruger to come to England.

ADVICES from Achin state that the situation there is serious owing to the defection of the important chief Djohan, who is besieging several outlying Dutch forts, and notably the one at Olehle. The Dutch Government have decided to take energetic measures against the insurgents.

COMMERCIAL and consular treaties between Germany and Japan have been signed at Berlin. It is understood that extra territoriality is not wholly abolished, and that German imports will obtain numerous tariff reductions.

A BAND of farmers are taking refuge in Mafeking, as a general native rising is feared in the district owing to the slaughter of cattle to check widespread underpest in Rhodesia and Bechuanaland. The inhabitants of Mafeking have appealed to the Governor for troops.

THE American House of Representatives by a large majority has approved the report of the mixed Committee in favour of the Senate's resolution urging the recognition as belligerents of the Cuban insurgents. It is not expected that President Cleveland will act on the Senate's resolution which has revived the resentment of Spain.

THE Pope has approved of the decree of the Sacred Propaganda creating a separate Hierarchy for the Syrian Catholics of Malabar.

THE *Times'* correspondent at Singapore states that Li-Hung-Chang, who had arrived there, says that he is going to London after his visit to Moscow for the coronation.

THE weather throughout India, both in the hills and the plains, is reported to be abnormally hot, the greatest sufferers being the Punjab and Bengal. In the former province the day temperature is given at 8 degrees and in the latter 5 over normal. The maxima reported are 109 and 108 degrees. On the 8th, at 78 out of 130 meteorological stations in the plains, the thermometer rose to 100 degrees or over. Last week, except in Assam, there was no rain to speak of. At Cherapunji, with the highest rainfall in the world, 495 inches, only 30 inches fell between the 29th of March and the 4th of April.

**DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED!** Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

THE mortuary returns of the capital are alarming. The total number of deaths registered during the week ending 4th April was 584, against 480 and 425 in the two preceding weeks, and higher than the corresponding week of last year by 20. The mortality from small-pox last year was not therefore so great as from cholera this year. Last week there were 235 deaths from cholera, against 179 and 114 of the previous two weeks. The number is again higher than the average of the past five years by 180. There was only one death from small-pox during the past, against 4 of the previous week. The general death-rate of the week was 59.7 per mille per annum, against 35.3, the mean of the last five years.

SO there is panic in the town. The Lieutenant-Governor, although he is advised to fly the place, is not unmindful of those he leaves behind. Mr. H. H. Risley, Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Municipal Department, has addressed the following letter dated Calcutta, the 10th April 1896, to the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta:—

"I am directed to request you to report, for the information of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, what steps are being taken by the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta to prevent or check the spread of cholera in the city, and to provide medical aid for persons attacked by the disease. It is presumed that cholera pills or similar medicines are made available at all police-stations and post-offices, and at the registration stations of the Health Department, and that people are encouraged to make use of these remedies. Sir A. Mackenzie has himself found much advantage in dealing with an epidemic of cholera from the issue of a notice warning the villagers of the tract affected that they should apply to the chukidar for pills whenever the first symptoms of diarrhoea showed themselves. This saved many lives and served to allay the tendency to panic, which increases the liability to the disease. A similar notice would probably prove useful in Calcutta, the more so as the Lieutenant-Governor has been told by medical men that they are generally not called in until collapse has taken place."

AFTER the Legislative Council, the Lieutenant-Governor leaves for Dujeeing this afternoon. The departure from Calcutta and arrival at Dujeeing will be private.

MR. J. M. Rutherford, general traffic manager and acting agent, East Indian Railway, while travelling from Nawadi to Calcutta, was attacked with cholera and died in the train.

HOW to account for the unusually saltish water of the Hooghly at Calcutta? It has not been so brackish during the last 40 years.

THE Viceroy arrived at Simla in the afternoon of Thursday, the 9th of April. Lord and Lady Elgin are in good health.

AT Simla, on the 8th of April, in the forenoon, Mr. Mackenzie Dalzell Chambers, Barrister-at-law, the new Law Member, took upon himself the execution of his office under the usual salute.

THE old literary institutions and societies of Calcutta are dying out, if not dead. The Bethune Society exists in name. There was a talk of reviving the Bengal Social Science Association. The Dalhousie Institute, unable to pay the municipal rates, has been turned into a trade concern. The Metcalfe Hall languishes for want of support and threatens to tumble down. Instead, we have the Society for the Higher Training of Young Men, and the Chaitany and Cottage Libraries which the great ones of the city love to patronize. Who is responsible for the hybernation of the Bethune Society in particular?

ON the 30th of March, the Chaitanya Library and Club presented their patron, Sir Alexander Miller, the late Law Member, with a farewell address. We reproduce the reply which is valuable in more ways than one. It gives a glimpse of the working of the Viceroy's Council, and is, besides, a record of the opinion of a high functionary of State regarding the natives of this country. A jolly old soul, Sir Alexander made his career in India a pleasant one, and we are grateful to him that he left the country with pleasant reminiscences.

"Sir Alexander Miller, in the course of a lengthy speech, in suitable terms thanked them for the address with which they had been kind enough to present him, for the uniform kindness they had showed him during the five years he had been in the country, and for the opportunity the Club had given him of taking an interest in the educational work here. He was quite certain that the one great danger which this country had to meet in the future was the risk that the governing and governed classes would drift away from each other. He was told on all sides that they were now further

apart than they were thirty years ago, and it was quite certain that unless something was done to draw them together again, nothing but misfortune could be looked for in this country. It was impossible for him to look round on such a large assemblage of educated young men and see that he and others had opportunities afforded them of meeting in social converse such bodies of young men, without feeling that it must be their own fault if the two races did not agree and understand one another better. (Cheers.) Of one thing he was perfectly assured—all the friction that occurred (and he was sorry to say that there was a good deal of friction)—arose from mutual misunderstandings. (Cheers.) There was, however, nothing of which he was more satisfied than that, with all their faults, the object of Englishmen in India was to do right and justice. (Cheers.) He was also satisfied that with all his suspicion—and the Indian was very suspicious—if one could only persuade the Indian that he was desirous of doing justice, there was no man who would appreciate it more. He had had many opportunities of meeting the members of the Club in friendly converse, and he had been privileged at various times to address them, and irrespective of the high and unexpected honour they had done him, he should take leave of the Club with feelings of deep regret. They had heard from Sir Henry Brackenbury something about the peculiar difficulties, if he might say so, of the Legal Member, but Sir Henry had omitted to mention, possibly because he was not aware of it, one disability which for the last five years had pressed most strongly on the speaker's mind. He took the first opportunity of his position of freedom from responsibility of unburdening himself. The Legal Member was the only member of the Legislative Council in India who was unable to introduce a single reform, no matter how desirous he might be to do so, or how keenly he might feel that the law required alteration in one particular or another. He was not only unable to introduce it himself, but he was precluded from getting it introduced by another. Soon after he landed, his attention was called to the difficulty and enormous amount of expense which was incurred in futile attempts at partition where there was an immense number of co-sharers in a small estate, and in the exuberance of his heart he proposed to amend the Partition Law but found that he could not. After a great deal of difficulty he ultimately persuaded Dr. Rash Behary Ghose, who laboured under no such disability as himself, to introduce the Bill, which was carried through with great success. The same thing had occurred with regard to various other matters with regard to which he did not think it necessary to trouble those present.

After referring in appropriate terms to the invariable courtesy and kindness which he had experienced from his colleagues, he went on to say that he had often felt that entirely outside the sphere of one's official duty there was a great deal which a man in a high position in India could do, and ought to do. He was the more impressed with that duty because he happened to live during a great deal of his earlier life among Englishmen returned from India whose tone and temper with regard to the people of this country Sir Alexander keenly resented, and who spoke of their stay in this country as a penal servitude. He came out with a strong feeling that this must be wrong, and he was very pleased to find from the very first opportunity that he had of mixing with Indian gentlemen that those people were necessarily and utterly wrong. (Cheers.) He then gave his personal reminiscences of the occasion when he first came into contact with Indian gentlemen at the meeting of the Sylhet Union, where he first made the acquaintance of Mr. Justice Gurudas Binnerji. He was going away most reluctantly, with the earnest desire that the fates would give him an opportunity of coming back to this country again, though he feared that it would not be so. (Applause.)—*The Englishman*, Mar. 31.

Sir Alexander Miller passes over the first part of the attempt made to amend the law about partition of estates. Before he came out to this country, Dr. Rash Behary Ghose had moved in the matter; opinions were collected, but the Home Member, Sir P. P. Hutchins, was opposed to any change; and the then Law Member, Sir Andrew Scoble, allowed the matter to drop. It is to Sir Alexander Miller's credit, that he was agreeable to the introduction of a measure which has given appreciable relief.

*THE National Magazine* for December 1895 offers a varied dish, consisting of I. The Begums of Oude, by G. L. De, B.A.; II. Deva Mumledar, by Denanath Gunguli; III. The Marriage question among the Mahants, by Umapada Bose, M.A., B.L.; IV. History of Native Journalism in Bengal, by an old Journalist; V. Thy Child's Clear Eyes, by O. C. Dutt; and VI. Spring, by Thompson's Seasons. The last is a queer *nom-de-plume* for poet or poetaster. The paper on the Begums of Oude is a well-written one and will repay perusal. Bala Denanath Gunguli has given many short lives of saints belonging to Southern India. The title of "Deva Mumledar" was won by Eshwari Rao. As a member of the Subordinate Executive Service of the Government of Bombay, Eshwari Rao was honoured alike by superiors and subordinates. To the people in general his behaviour was like that of another Howard the philanthropist. Ruling chiefs delighted to honour him, but the simplicity of his disposition never abandoned him even when he was the recipient of high honours. Bibu Umapada Bose brings to notice the case of some Mahants who are not bound to celibacy. The concluding remarks of the writer deserve to be pondered over by those amongst our countrymen who are loud in their denunciations against Mahants in general for the

vicious lives supposed to be led by many of them. "Celebacy is against the law of Nature. The clergy, whenever ordained to lead celibate lives, have in all countries been more or less sinful. The reform that Luther introduced and practically enforced in his life, was a very wholesome one. He married a nun. When religion is opposed to nature, it has every chance of becoming hypocrisy." The paper, entitled "History of Native Journalism in Bengal," is not ill-written. The account given of the *Hindoo Patriot* is tolerably correct. No attempt has been made to suppress the name of Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee as the successor of Hurrish Chandra Mookerjee and predecessor of Kristodas Pal. Unlike others that come forward to enlighten their countrymen regarding the history of the *Hindoo Patriot* without knowing anything of the subject, the writer freely refers to the assistance which Kristodas used to receive very systematically in the conduct of the paper. "Amongst those," he observes, "who assisted Kristodas in the literary management of the *Patriot*, mention should be made of Bibu Juggat Chandra Bannerjee, then of the Financial Department of the Government of India, now Private Secretary to Maharani Surnomoye. Sambhu Chandra also used to contribute actively from almost the beginning of Kristodas's connection till the establishment of *Mookerjee's Magazine*, new series, the department of review having been especially his." The poetry of O. C. Dutt is always welcome. "Thy Child's Clear Eyes," from the German is a delightful little piece.

*THE Hindoo Patriot's* leader of Monday is devoted to Mr. James Kimber, the retiring Engineer to the Calcutta Corporation. It is all admiration for him. We are told "It redounds much to his (Mr. Kimber's) credit that during the last 20 years, he has had no friction with the Commissioners with whom he has been daily brought into contact." Yet they would not grant him a retiring bonus which the Chairman wanted to propose. There is not another officer of the Corporation with whom the Commissioners were more displeased than Mr. Kimber. They once wanted to get rid of him but he stuck to his post or its rupees, and for the attention shewn him, he landed his masters in difficulty.

ON the first of the present month, at the distribution of prizes to the pupils of the famous Cotton Institution of Calcutta, Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, who occupied the chair, brought that interesting ceremony to a close with, among others, the following observations:—

"He was glad to find that the Institution was prospering. He was glad also to express the great debt of gratitude which the Institution owed to the Maharaja of Rungpore for the extremely munificent manner in which he had endowed the Institution."

So, we have it, on the authority of the Chief Secretary of the Bengal Government, that Govindalal Roy is not only a Maharaja but the Maharaja of Rungpore. Maharaja Sir Luchmeswar Sing Bahadur is still Maharaja Sir Luchmeswar Sing Bahadur of Durbhanga. The very representatives of the house of Burdwan, to speak with reference to living memory, have only been Maharaja Mubtaz Chand Bahadur, and Maharaja Aftab Chand Bahadur, of Burdwan. None of them, in official correspondence, was ever referred to as the Maharaja of Burdwan. The lucky Govindalal, however, is a very much greater personage. He is not Maharaja Govindalal Lal Roy of Tajhat in Rungpore, but the Maharaja of Rungpore. Rungpore is a large district. The head-quarters also go by the same name. Whether it is the district or the head-quarters that the name may imply, the fortunate Zamindar of Tajhat must, therefore, be held, on semi-official authority, to be a territorial Chief or Maharaja like the Maharaja, for example, of Gwalior or Indore, Biroda or Travancore, or, for that matter, of Cashmere or Mysore. As such, "His Highness the Maharaja of Rungpore" should be his designation. It is impossible to suppose that the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Political, Judicial and Appointment Departments, does not know the distinction between "Maharaja so and so of Rungpore" and "the Maharaja of Rungpore." The expression, therefore, was evidently complimentary, intended to express the deep gratefulness of the speaker for the benefaction of Rs. 18,000 or so towards housing the Institution that goes by his name. The gift, instead of being an absolute one, has been guarded by conditions, for the house is to return to the giver in case the Institution ceases to exist. It is for a dish of porridge, therefore, that the Chief Secretary blows the pæan of praise for one whose munificence is remarkable, if not for degree or measure, at least for judiciousness of direction. The

friends, however, of the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton allege that the date of the utterance should be remembered for its justification.

THE rage for biography, in Bengal, is alarming. Within a month after Pundit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar had breathed his last, a good, readable biography of his was given to his countrymen by his third brother, Pundit Shambhu Chandra Vidyaratna. The style is delightful in its simplicity. Every important fact connected with Vidyasagar is recorded there. No signs are visible in it of what is called the *furor biographicus*. What Macaulay said of Boswell applies with peculiar force to Vidyaratna's life of his brother, *viz.*, that his book resembles nothing so much as the conversation of the inmates of the Palace of Truth. The slightest attempt has not been made to conceal anything. The harrowing poverty of the father, the joy he felt at obtaining an appointment on a pay of Rs. 2 a month, the many acts of naughtiness which Vidyasagar committed in his childhood, have all been described with a simplicity that is remarkable, considering that the narrator is an intimate blood relation of his subject and, therefore, equally exposed with him to the derision the narrative is sure to inspire in the generality of his readers. Poor Vidyasagar died leaving a will by which he had disinherited his only son. The latter, it is said, could not bear to see his sire done by his uncle. Accordingly, a Brahmo gentleman, of the name of Chandi Charan Binerjee, was selected to do another life of Vidyasagar, the materials being for the most part supplied by the son. When this pretentious book came out, it was found to be mainly based on Vidyaratna's work, though some discursive chapters were inserted upon a few subsidiary matters. Many material errors were also committed. Vidyaratna issued a supplementary volume pointing out and correcting these. Not content with the two big volumes of Vidyaratna and Chandi Charan, another gentleman, Babu Behary Lal Sircar, has come forward with a third biography. Babu Sircar has told nothing that had not been said and said well by his two predecessors. It is true Sircar presents full 28 heads of *additional* information, but then it is easy to issue a fourth volume with four times as many heads of new topics connected more or less directly with Vidyasagar's life and character. We are surprised at the audacity of those who proceeded, after Vidyasagar's death, to demolish his Bengali reader called *Bodhodaya* or the rudiments of knowledge. The intrigue which has led to the supplanting of this little book is despicable for the reasons publicly assigned. A few expressions were culled from this primer with great diligence and placed before the public with a view to attract the attention of the Central Text Book Committee. These, it was argued, were difficult and incapable of being thoroughly understood by those for whom the book was intended. Then, again, the material objects that surround us have been classed by Vidyasagar under three heads, *viz.*, animate, inanimate, and vegetables. For all practical purposes such a classification can scarcely be objected to. It is very true that vegetables have animation or life. Comparative anatomy and physiology have shown that they have organs for taking sustenance and digesting it, and even of generation. But all this may surely be left to be learnt at a more advanced stage of the Bengali boy's progress. The use of the word *padartha* for material objects, and of *jantu* for animated creatures, has also been objected to. But this is hypercriticism which deserved to be treated with contempt by those who have it in charge to select our text books. Another heavy accusation against poor Vidyasagar's book is that it makes mention of the Supreme Being as "bodiless spirit." This, it is said, no boy can understand. Granting that it is so, does the occurrence of this single expression make the book valueless? The Derty is incapable of being referred to without the ascription of attributes belonging to visible existences. Vidyasagar's *Bodhodaya* had kept its ground for years together. Tens of thousands of Bengali children learnt something of their mother tongue from it. The wise men of the Text Book Committee thought otherwise. Speculations on the Derty must always be unintelligible to young minds. The fiat has gone forth that children's books should contain no reference to Him or His nature. Instead, we must have plain, scientific truths, such as would not tax the child's imagination or reason in the least. Gradgrindism is the order of the day. If a list were drawn up of the Bengali books in use in our schools, setting forth their authors the printing establishments in which they are printed, the relations between the authors on the one side and School Inspectors and gentlemen of the Text Book Committee on the other, and finally,

the appointments the authors hold in the Education Department, it would be a very telling commentary on the educational system pursued in Bengal. From its very nature the question is such that Sir Alfred Croft, with all his shrewdness, and desire for reform, can do nothing to remedy the abuse of patronage.

*Erratum.*—In our leader on Cholera, in the last issue, p. 161, line 37, for Russia read Prussia (.)

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, April 11, 1896.

### CHITRAL:

OR

### SEARCH AFTER A FRONTIER.

IN one of his finest orations, Burke said that "in large bodies, the circulation of power must be less vigorous at the extremities. Nature has said it. The Turk cannot govern Ægypt and Arabia, and Kurdistan, as he governs Persia; nor has he the same dominion in Crimea and Algiers, which he has at Brusa and Smyrna." Whatever the truth, in the past, of this law of dominion with either the despotisms of the East or the milder and constitutional Governments of the West, the latest inventions of science, it is believed, by annihilating both distance and time, have falsified it. An order of the British Cabinet, notwithstanding the extent of territory over which it watches, is as well obeyed in London as on the banks of the Indus or the Irrawady. One of the swiftest forces of Nature has been enlisted for bearing messages from one extremity of the world to another. Less than forty minutes would suffice to put a girdle round about the earth. The art of offensive and defensive war has been so far improved that the barriers put up by Nature, in the form of mountains and broad, unfordable pieces of water, are no longer looked upon as the best of obstacles against outside aggression. The disciples of Vauban, with the aid of only human hands, can create barriers more insurmountable than those which earthquakes and other convulsions of Nature have thrown up. The earth-hunger of powerful nations, therefore, has become practically unappeasable. History says that on the death of the emperor Augustus, when his testament came to be publicly read in the Senate, it was found that he bequeathed, as a valuable legacy to his successors, the sound advice of confining the Roman empire within those limits which Nature seemed to have placed as its permanent bulwarks and boundaries, *viz.*, on the west by the Atlantic Ocean; the Rhine and the Danube on the north; the Euphrates on the east; and towards the south the sandy deserts of Arabia and Africa. The exigencies of frontier policy and the inability of barbarian neighbours to appreciate the power of Rome, did, indeed, sometimes compel the Imperial lieutenants to undertake punitive expeditions and in isolated cases to even subjugate and annex new territories, but Hadrian deliberately abandoned many of those acquisitions for re-establishing those boundaries upon which Augustus had insisted. The successors of Hadrian, *viz.*, the two Antonines, respected the same policy. The historian of the Roman Empire gives us a graphic picture of these times, which deserves to be transcribed for the lessons it teaches. "They presisted in the design of maintaining the dignity of the empire, without attempting to enlarge its limits. By every honourable expedient they invited the friendship of the barbarians, and endeavoured to convince mankind, that the



Roman power, raised above the temptation of conquest, was actuated only by the love of order and justice. During a long period of forty-three years their virtuous labours were crowned with success; and if we except a few hostilities that served to exercise the legions on the frontier, the reigns of Hadrian and Antoninus Pius offer the fair prospect of universal peace. The Roman name was revered among the most remote nations of the earth. The fiercest barbarians frequently submitted their differences to the arbitration of the Emperor; and we are informed by a contemporary historian, that he had seen ambassadors who were refused the honour which they came to solicit, of being admitted into the rank of subjects."

What a commentary does the above passage afford on the policy of the British Government of India! A company of merchants, coming to trade to the East, stumbled upon empire, favoured by a strange combination of circumstances, chief amongst which, of course, was the degeneracy which time had brought upon the Pathan, the Mogul and the Mahratta who had been feebly contending with one another for dominion over this vast southern peninsula of Asia. Inspired by their instincts as traders, they took great care to impress upon their servants in India the desirability of not extending the boundaries of their conquests and protectorates. Events, however, proved more powerful than their well-reasoned despatches. Accordingly, under successive Governors-General, the limits of British dominion increased. Those amongst them that were most disposed to peace and that paid some attention to the orders of their masters, terminated their reigns by at least increasing the sphere of British influence, which, in time, led to new complications ending in accessions of territory. Province after province came to be marked with red on the map of India; chief after chief submitted to the military power of the prince merchants of Leadenhall street, aided by a diplomacy noted for its tortuousness and for the little regard it shewed for some of the commandments of the decalogue. The British empire of India at last got for its boundaries those grand barriers which Nature has thrown up for marking the country off from the rest of Asia. On the north the Himalayas constituted an impregnable wall; on the east the hills and forests that divided it from Burmese territory; on the west by the mountain ranges that cut it off from Afghanistan and Beluchistan; for the rest, the wide ocean girts it all round. Within these magnificent barriers is an empire that might have gratified the greed for dominion of even the most ambitious of ministers and proconsuls, especially as barbarous tribes, congregated beyond particular points of the frontier line, give abundant opportunities to the British power for keeping its regiments well employed. The territories beyond the Indus and within the mountain ranges of the borders of Cabool and Beluchistan in particular, have always been a fruitful source of trouble. As successors of the power which the Lion of the Panjab had erected, the British statesmen of the forties could not make up their minds to accept the Indus as the western limit of British India. Ranjit's trans-Indus conquests followed the fate of the Panjab proper by submitting to the civil administration of the British collector and the protection of the British red-coats. If the cost be estimated, in both blood and money, that has been incurred for upholding British prestige within this strip of land, it would come up to an appalling figure.

The advance of Russia on the east and the gradual consolidation of her Asiatic empire have powerfully influenced the frontier policy of the British Indian Government. The suspicion has never been abandoned that the occupation of India is the ultimate goal of Russian ambition. How best to check her further expansion and meet her in her war trail, has for more than half a century been the problem with which British statesmanship is occupied. Refusing to make anything of the boundaries which Nature has set up, a scientific line of defence has been the object of search. The beauty of this line is that it exists only in the imagination of statesmen fired with ambition or blanched by fear. No wonder, therefore, that this line should advance or recede as circumstances may favour or restrain the assertion of power. The policy of masterly inactivity beyond our own definite frontier and of subsidizing neighbouring chiefs for making their dominions a buffer, as understood sometime ago, has been materially modified if not practically abandoned. British diplomacy is trying its best to create a new Rubicon for the Indian empire which Russia will not be able to cross without being taken for a belligerent. To-day it is the western and the north-western boundary of the Amir's dominions that is to furnish us with such a Rubicon. Tomorrow, it is the southern and south-eastern limits of the Pamirs, or, if possible, some line traversing through them, that is to achieve the great desideratum. Enormous sums of money have been spent on this search after a boundary. And yet British statesmen are as far off from it now as when they first set about the business.

The game of finding a permanent border line of the British Empire in the east is not likely to end without serious troubles. The two banes of earth-hunger, *viz.*, expenditure of men and money, will reach proportions yet more alarming. Impelled as the search is by earth-hunger, by the desire, that is, of territorial aggrandisement, and not by the honest wish to defend or maintain acquisitions already made, the consequence we point out is inevitable. Judged by this, the retention of Chitral, instead of being the end, is only the beginning of the end. The history of this new acquisition far beyond what had only a decade before been regarded as the extreme line of British influence, is by no means singular. The large tracts of unexplored land lying between the extremities of Russian and British spheres of influence, are dotted with little kingdoms or chieftanships. Hostilities between them are chronic. It is easy for ambitious politicians placed in situations of trust to take advantage of those feuds and enter into relationships that are certain to lead to the march of British troops for offensive or defensive warfare. Nothing is heard by the outside public of those relationships until they result in actual trouble calling for armed interference on a grand scale. As a consequence of this mischievous policy, a small British garrison under a gallant officer found itself besieged in the little fort of Chitral by a swarm of men following the lead of an injured chief. We had no business to convert these men into foes. When intelligence came of the danger to which British prestige was exposed in that remote region, the rescue of the gallant band at any cost was naturally regarded as the first business. Then was seen the superiority of civilisation over a state of nature. Science prevailed over ignorance. The discipline of British troops, black or white, aided by arms of precision and

the appliances of knowledge for overcoming all obstacles in the shape of pathless hills, steep peaks, snow-covered steppes, and swollen rivers, made light work of every opposition which mere courage, entirely reft of such helps, was able to offer. Neither the fanaticism of the tribes along the line of march, nor the despair of Umra Khan in Chitral territory, could resist the steady progress of our troops. Chitral was reached. The besieged were rescued. The British flag waved over Chitral, and scared every thought of opposition from the hearts of the children of the soil.

The relief of Chitral having been undertaken and accomplished by one Cabinet, the question of abandoning or retaining the place came to be solved by another whose political views are diametrically opposed to those of their predecessors. Before yielding up the reins of power, the Liberals had come to the conclusion of abandoning this easy acquisition. The Conservatives felt bound in honour to oppose it. Accordingly, when the actual settlement came to depend on their will, the retention of Chitral was resolved upon as a master stroke of policy. The strategic importance of the place, it was urged, should of itself justify the retention. The increase of civil and military expenditure is not a point of much consequence to a Conservative cabinet. When to this is added the ingenious forecast of Lord George Hamilton about the country overrun being able to yield a revenue both direct and indirect, the case for the retention becomes as strong as that for the retention of the Punjab itself. Chitral with the whole tract of land intervening between it and the line that had so long formed the Indian frontier, is as fertile as any portion of India. There are roads and even irrigation canals extending on all sides, representing the civilisation of some people whose history is lost. The inhabitants are not the rude barbarians that many people thought them at first. There is a fine field for the consumption of Manchester cottons and Sheffield cutlery. An extension of the excise alone may bring an abundant income to the Indian treasury, for the Chitralis and their neighbours must be credited with the possession of intelligence sufficient to discriminate between the obnoxious liquor on which they now make themselves merry and the superior products of British Indian distilleries. The school-master and the school-mistress, and the druggist and the physician will soon be among them. A very short time will be needed to give them a taste for the benefits of civilisation. They have beaux and belles among them who will require to be only told of western essences and perfumery in order to popularise those articles in their country. Protected by the British rifle and bayonet from external aggression, and by the batons of Panjabi or Pooroobia policemen from internal enmities of every kind, their swords and spears will very soon be converted into ploughshares, and they will be as regular in the payment of their taxes and other dues as the inhabitants of the most peaceful portions of Hindustan itself. Some of the tribes along the way to Chitral have already been so favourably impressed with the consequences, immediate and remote, of loss of national freedom, that they sent delegates to Simla for soliciting the Viceroy to take early steps for the despatch of the British tax-gatherer among them. It is the Secretary of State himself that said so from his place in Parliament, and he must be a bold man who would curl his lip in doubt or disdain. Lord

George Hamilton is a man of parts and great cleverness of reasoning. In defending the retention of Chitral, on the last occasion in the House of Commons, he made as excellent a speech as anybody could be expected to make in such a cause. There can be little doubt, however, that he overshot his mark. If his reasoning be correct, every fresh accession of territory in Central Asia is capable of being justified. The swallowing up of Siam and Cochin-China may, on the same grounds, be upheld as a master-stroke of policy. Why stick to the Himalayas as the northern boundary of the empire? Pretexts for quarrel are not difficult to find. Why not overrun Thibet and Chinese Tartary till the southern slopes are reached of the great Altai range?

### MARK TWAIN IN MADRAS.

AN INTERVIEW IN THE HARBOUR—HIS OPINION ON MR. SKRINE'S BOOK "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST."

The British India Company's S. S. *Wardha*, which arrived off Madras about eight o'clock on Monday night and was piloted into the harbour at day-light yesterday, carries the immortal Mark Twain and Mrs. and Miss Clemens away from India to Cape Town *via* Colombo and Port Louis. A Calcutta daily giving him the tip as to the celebrated humourist's departure from the City of Palaces on Thursday night last, a representative of the *Madras Standard* proceeded on board yesterday afternoon to interview him. Our Reporter confesses to a sense of disappointment as he first set eyes upon the distinguished globe-trotter because of his advanced years and a drawn paleness of countenance that suggested anything but the aspect of an active tourist anxious to take graphic notes of all he saw and heard. So far from impressing him with the vigour of middle manhood at least, and an active desire to know all about everything around him, Mr. Clemens appears to have given his interviewer the idea that he meant to take the rest of life as easily as surrounding circumstances would permit. The veteran author, then, was on the saloon-deck buried behind the pages of a Madras paper, reclining in an attitude of repose well into a deep cane-bottomed chair. It seemed almost a cruelty to disturb this *dol e far niente*, but pabulum the pressman must have when he has set his mind upon it! And this is how the ice was broken:—

"Mr. Clemens, I presume," said our representative laying his card upon a handy tea-stand within focus of Mark's glasses.

"The same, sir; glad to meet you, I am sure; sit down."

"Not wearied yet with interviewing, I hope."

"Well, no, I have had the last three or four days myself

OCCUPIED NURSING A COLD,

and I don't mind meeting press people anywhere. We are brought up to regard interviewing across the water as part of our lives, you know. Yes, thank you, my daughter has much improved, but I cannot make out why I am so troubled with this cold. It has stuck to me in spite of everything, even two weeks spent in bed, but I must say that, notwithstanding this inconvenience,

I HAVE ENJOYED MY TOUR.

When this boat leaves Madras to-day, I suppose I will be leaving India quite behind me. Let me see, I landed at Bombay in the middle of January and here is the 31st of March. It seems such a short time and India is such a large place to study. You are right, we call at Colombo and Port Louis and then push on to Cape Town. All going well, I hope to reach America again next September. Ah! about the price I have been offered for my book. It is not true that I have been offered £10,000 for it, because no publisher, at least I have never heard of one, offers what he considers an author's possible share in a lump sum, but the statement may have grown out of the fact that a publisher offers you in advance one-fourth of what he considers will be your ultimate profit on the book. I said in Calcutta that I was offered that quarter, but I have not and shan't make any contract. I don't usually make a contract as regards a book yet to be written. That £10,000 you speak of would not be good business—it wouldn't be wise of the publisher to offer it, but to offer you one-fourth would be rational, and it would be also rational to the author to have it—rational because it protects his book from being neglected.

A PUBLISHER IS ONLY A HUMAN BEING.

He might get a book worth pushing more than yours and the chances are that he will neglect your book if no money has been paid, and so silence his conscience; he won't attempt to do that if he pays you down something.

Did I find India precisely the place it was represented to be? Well, hardly. You seem to know of course that this is my first

visit to India. I came here like many others with only a very vague idea of the country, and I am bound to confess that I did not find it the immensely wealthy place it has been described as. But I am not surprised at that at all, because it is the showy side of the globe that reaches the remotest region, whether that showy side exists or not. In California, for instance, people have an idea that the gold dust is merely to be scooped up. Go there and you realize the nakedness of things. A feature that has struck me very forcibly in India is

#### THE POVERTY OF THE COUNTRY.

'This was something I knew of only vaguely before. It is poverty compared with the poverty I have been acquainted with, and it is also a poverty based upon a certain value which does not exist in the country I come from. Somebody on this very ship told me that it doesn't make any difference how low wages in India are, the working-man will save something out of it. He said don't deceive yourself when people talk to you

#### ABOUT LOW WAGES.

'Take the case of a man who earns Rs. 7 a month—he pointed out one to me—and lower than that sometimes, I should think it would cost that man all that to live and yet leave him something to lay by. Wherever that is the case, then I would not say it was abject poverty, but then this is looking at it all through a false medium—the values are not the same here as they are in other countries. We think the Italians are very poor until we have lived in Italy; then we readily find that there are really no poor Italians. When you come to examine their circumstances they have enough in life to live upon and to save. It is not possible for a stranger to tell what wide-spread poverty is. I know though from reading Buckle on India that it is

#### THE VERY HOME OF POVERTY

and he's an authority, I suppose, we should respect. All the aspects of the country are poverty; a stranger could never mistake it for anything but poverty. It is the Anglo-Indian who calls your attention to the fact that the wages do not prove poverty. It would be the same in Europe or America as here if the conditions were the same. You can't create a famine in Europe or America, but you can here, and the people die off from actual want of food, a thing which can't happen in Europe or the United States—only in Ireland! You want to know how

#### FAMINES CAN BE CREATED?

I mean that in those countries there is no failure which is universal—no failure of foods which keep people alive. Here the failure of the crops is universal at times and when a district can't be approached in time by railway, famine prevails and the mighty masses die of sheer starvation. Here is Madras with a population of 35 millions, I think,—that means half the population of the United States, and I consider the area they occupy would represent about half the territory of the United States; now fancy that great mass to have to supply food to! I took particular interest in the appearance of the land between Bombay and Calcutta and I do not think that much of it is allowed to go waste. Wherever water is accessible

#### THE SOIL SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DILIGENTLY TILLED,

and as regards General Booth's scheme, I have read something of it, but I do not think he can hope to succeed if he means to sandwich the religion of the Salvation Army with his peasant-settlement scheme. It may amuse you to know that I first believed General Booth's scheme was intended to import paupers and the milder sort of criminals from among the surplus population of England. I do not think any country would like that unless the settlement was removed some considerable distance from decent habitations.

(A slight fit of coughing here interrupted the interview, then Mr. Clemens proceeded:) I am killed with this cold since morning. We went ashore and breakfasted at the hotel near Spencer's shop intending to drive around Madras afterwards, but I could not manage it. I wasn't equal to the heat with this cold, so I left my family to do that. By the way, who is the Roman General on horseback on one of your broad roads? Sir Thomas Munro, did you say? Ah, that takes one way back in your history to Clive. Yes, I recollect now, he was one of your early Governors. And that just reminds me

#### LORD WENLOCK WAS YOUR LAST GOVERNOR.

I remember reading of him in the *Pioneer* and one or two other papers. The *Pioneer* made him out a failure. I think it a mistake myself to send out your landed noblemen to administer this vast country. They are not cut out for administrative work and are better left on their wealthy estates. You want men who are born to govern and who have made statesmanship a life-long study. Your new Governor comes up to that mark, I am told. And what is that very telling structure there by that lighthouse? The High Court of Madras? Ah! it is so pleasant to see that. It has a proper look, as if it belonged to the country. This distinctly European architecture over here (the G. P. O.) is a false note, too European altogether. I like Oriental architecture in its place. You ask me a very large question when you say 'have I made the acquaintance of

#### THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

as an Indian institution?' Well, I have read of it, here a little and there a little, and all I can understand is that the men composing it, want a little more independence than they now have. I know little of their aims, but with

#### THE SCHOLARLY QUALIFICATIONS OF THE HINDUS

who sit in this Congress, I have been very much struck. I have recently read a book by Mr. Skrine, who has just been promoted to a Commissionership in Burma (Chittagong), dealing with the merits of a Hindu friend of the higher caste. Mr. Skrine makes certain quotations from letters written by his friend and that Hindu was so much a master of our language—he went into such excellent niceties—which you couldn't expect except in a man born English and bred to his own mother tongue. Now this Hindu was a born native of this country, and educated in this country; he was very learned in Western educational sciences and his English was flowing, easy and ever so idiomatic. This great aptitude on the part of the native of this country to excel in the English language is what one is confronted with all the time. There is, however, one good quality they lack as a nation—I believe they like to be called a 'nation'—and that is,

#### INVENTIVE GENIUS IN THE VARIOUS PRACTICAL ARTS.

England, as you know, has attained greatness chiefly on account of the inventive genius of her sons. There are many who suppose that America is the home of inventions. This is a mistake. We rank, but falsely, as the inventors of the world, but we do what is worth a great deal more; we take up an invention and work at it till it results in something perfect.

#### 'PROMOTERS OF INVENTIONS'

would be the proper way of describing us Americans, and there is a reason for it. England invented Colt's revolvers three or four centuries ago; she invented the application of steam power to machinery way back in Charles the Second's time; England invented the telegraph 60 years ago, but she has

#### THROWN AWAY HER GREAT INVENTIONS

for the reason that she has had no patent law to protect them. England had Wheatstone's system of telegraph, but because she did not stick to it, Morse in America worked at it, and a hard time of it he had too, till he developed the present electric telegraph, but then he had the patent law to protect him. It was only during the past 15 or 20 years that England has had a patent law worth anything. It is true that

#### MEN IN AMERICA WASTE FORTUNES ON PATENTS

that turn out failures, but it is also true that they make larger fortunes on patents that turn out successful.

Yes, I have been interested in the recent

#### 'SITUATION' BETWEEN ENGLAND AND AMERICA,

but I never doubted for a moment that the warlike talk was based upon nothing. The latest news is, I see, that they are getting into a rational and satisfactory state. Arbitration is to be resorted to after all. I knew that

#### COMMON-SENSE WOULD GET THE ADVANTAGE

of all concerned presently. It was absolutely silly to think that America and England would ever fire a shot at each other.

I hope to reach Colombo on Friday. I am engaged for two 'at homes' there I believe—not three. Thence I go on to Mauritius and South Africa. This boat I am in, just suits my mood at present. I am

#### IN NO HURRY TO GET ALONG.

The more salt air I breathe the better I feel. We had a fine passage down from Calcutta except for a current that took about 30 miles off the rate of our travel each day. The *Wardha* is not one of those boats that cover 500 miles a day, but without running away from herself she keeps in the neighbourhood of 200.

Thank you very much for your kind wishes. I have had nothing else all over India, and will carry the best recollections of this country home with me."

Concluding the interview thus, Mr. Clemens strolled to the other end of the deck to watch Harmsen's menagerie being hauled inboard.

The *Wardha* left on her voyage in the course of the afternoon. —The *Madras Standard*, April 1.

#### THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TURKISH QUESTION.

(Dedicated to the *Travancore Times*.)

"I've just returned from Constantinople," said Mr. F. Hopkinson Smith, the author and artist, to a *Boston Herald* representative in New York, two or three days ago. "While there I had an opportunity, through talks with Minister Terrell and two of the Sultan's aides, to learn all the inside facts about the Armenian atrocities. The whole matter has been grossly misunderstood. The root of all the trouble lies in the missionaries sent out to Armenia from England and America. Instead of trying to help the people they teach them that they are ill-treated, and sow the seeds of discontent and rebellion. They have started all the difficulty, and, when the blame is properly placed, it will rest upon their heads.

"We hear a great deal in this country about 'the barbarous

Turk.' Now, I have travelled and painted all over the globe, and know pretty well the inhabitants of all countries; and let me tell you that I never met a more civilised, humane, intelligent, cleanly, pious, and chaste man than the typical Turk. He is quiet and respectable; he is pre-eminently kind and good to his family.

"See how humane the Turks are to animals. I don't know how many hundred thousand dogs there are in Constantinople, but probably there are fifty to each block. Every few minutes, if you are watching what goes on round you, you will see a Turk go over to a baker shop, buy a bit of bread or something else that the dogs will eat, and feed them. Nobody owns these creatures. They have been common property for a thousand years, I suppose; yet, ugly and mangy as they are, they never go hungry. Nor do they ever suffer violence. Striking a dog in the streets of Constantinople means imprisonment for a year. Why, I've seen a team come along one of these narrow streets when a dog was lying in the way, and the driver would stop his donkeys and lift the dog out of the way, rather than run the risk of hurting him. I never saw anyone beat or kick a donkey in Turkey. The people recognise that these creatures are their faithful servants, and treat them kindly. The love existing between the Turk or the Arabian and his horse is proverbial.

"What have we in the way of religion to teach these people? Nothing. It's pure bumpiousness for us to try to 'convert' them. They neither want nor need our religion. They've got a better one of their own.

"Another point. What order of men are they whom the English and the American religious bodies send out as missionaries? If you have ever noted closely the students in our training schools for the ministry, you must have discovered that, as a class, they are far from representing the best, or even a very good, type of American manhood. Many of them are young men from country towns and villages who would not make a decent living in any other calling. They hear a sermon by some returned missionary who wishes to arouse interest in the country in which he has lived, and straightway they are called to labour in the same field. Such sermons are apt to take hold of the less intelligent and more impressionable men; and it is often the men who are not fitted to take high rank among the ministry in their own country who feel themselves drawn to work in a foreign land. The result is that we send out the most incapable specimens of our rural population—men of uncouth manners, who have learned a little Latin and Hebrew, the representatives of half-a-dozen religious sects, which are at constant war with each other about their creeds—to convert a cultured, courteous, pious, humane, temperate race, whose unified religion enters as much into the life of its members as does their business.

"Now and then we hear of some girl in a country town who thinks that she has a mission to do good to the heathen. She had far better go down to the factory in her village and minister there; but no, there is no glamour about that. Imagining that she is a new Joan of Arc, our hysterical friend tells some missionary body all about it, and they send her over to Turkey. You can picture to yourself the amazement and the disgust with which the Turks regard such missionaries. Superb specimens of physique they look upon these little wizened, dried-up, spectacled women with infinite contempt; just as they scoff at the idea of adopting a religion about which the various schools cannot agree.

"Well, colonies of such bores and cranks go over to Armenia and found schools. The children come to be taught, and eventually they join some one or another Christian church. They are pariahs as long as they live—marked boys and girls, branded men and women, who have lost caste among their fellows. What have they gained? 'Christianity,' you say. Very true. But if they would lead pure and noble lives under the religion of Muhammed, how are they better off? We surely cannot believe that heathens who lead good lives according to their lights do not go to heaven.

"Pretty soon someone comes along and hits an Armenian over the head. The missionaries keep telling their converts and the poor people that the Turk did it. They tell them that they are abused, and stir them up to rebellion. The result is bloodshed, as you have seen. So far as can be learned not one American missionary has been injured.

"But our missionaries and those sent out by the English can, if they will, do immense good. They can teach the races, among which they make their homes, to plough, to harrow, to make and to use tools, and innumerable other things, in which they are far behind us. There is very little use to carry our knowledge of medicine to the Turks, because the latter are never sick. They are temperate in all things; they drink no wine (their religion forbids it) and they eat very little meat. Above all, they are the cleanest people on the globe. Your orthodox Turk bathes three times a day. When you enter a restaurant in Constantinople the first thing they bring you is a bowl of hot water and some fresh towel to wipe your hands on. Then they bring you cold water and a fresh towel. Now, disease is bred by dirt and intemperance, and in the absence of these there is health.

"But although Turkey is not one of the countries to which we can with advantage send missionaries with a knowledge of medicine, we can really benefit the Turks and the Armenians by teaching them the mechanical arts and agriculture. And in that direction lie our rightful activities in their behalf, not in the way of religion. For a people whom you can hardly induce to go to church once a week, save to hear a sensational sermon, to teach religion to a race who go gladly and enthusiastically to worship the Jehovah whom they believe to be behind the blank wall on the Meccaward end of their mosques, is the most arrogant bumpiousness."

### HOW DID THE THIEF GET IN?

YOU wake up some morning and miss your watch, your purse, your best clothes and other valuables. Yet neither you nor any member of your family heard a sound during the night. Neither is there a sign of how the thief got into the house nor by what road he decamped. You rush round and tell the police, and also decide to keep a dog and a shot gun. You will let thieves know they mustn't come fooling around your premises after this. A sensible procedure. Meanwhile your watch, your money, &c., are gone. Quite so.

Now suppose I should tell you that the thief who stole your property never entered your house at all; that he was born in it; had lived twenty years in it; never had been out of it till he went off with your things, albeit not a soul of you had ever seen or heard of him. What would you say to me? You would call me an idiot and threaten to have me sent back to the asylum. But don't be too sure.

"Later on," says Mr. Heakin, "rheumatism struck into my system and I had pains all over me. I was confined to my bed for three months with it and could not dress myself. In this general condition I continued for five years. One after another I was treated by *fourteen* doctors in that time, but their medicines did me little or no good. At one time I went to the Infirmary at Shrewsbury, where they treated me for heart disease; but I got worse and feeling anxious, returned home."

How he was finally cured we will mention in a minute. First, however, about his rheumatism. Every intelligent person knows that rheumatism and gout (its twin brother) is virtually a universal ailment. It does its cruel and body-racking work in every country and climate. No other malady causes so vast an aggregate of suffering and disability. Whatever will cure it is worth more money in England than a gold mine in every country.

But does rheumatism "strike into" the system as a bullet or a knife might strike into it? No Rheumatism is a thief who steals away our comfort and strength; but it a thief, as I said, who *is born in the premises*. In other words, it is one—and only one—of the direct consequences of indigestion and dyspepsia. And this is the why and wherefore: Indigestion creates a poison called uric acid; this acid combines with the chloride of sodium to form a salt; this salt is urate of sodium, which is deposited in the form of *sharp crystals* in the muscles and joints. Then comes inflammation and agony, otherwise rheumatism. Thus you perceive that it doesn't come from the outside but from the inside—from the stomach. Our friend's cold, caught in the mine, didn't produce his rheumatism, it clogged his skin and so kept all the poison in his body instead of letting part of it out.

Here is our very good friend Mr. Richard Heakin, of Pentrevin, Silup, who expresses an opinion in this line. Let us have his exact words. He says: "*Rheumatism struck into my system.*" Of course we understand that he speaks after the manner of men. You know we talk of being "attacked" by this, and the other complaint, as though diseases were like soldiers or wild beasts. "Doesn't make any odds," do you say? Big pardon, but it does—*heavy odds*. *For it teaches us to look in the wrong direction for danger.* Do you see now?

Thirteen years ago, in the spring of 1880, whilst working in the Roman Gravel Lead Mines, Mr. Heakin took a bad cold. He got over the cold, but not over what followed it. He was feeble, without appetite, and had a deal of pain in the chest and sides. His eyes and skin were tinted yellow, and his hands and feet were cold and clammy. Frequently he would break out into a cold perspiration, as a man does on receiving a nervous shock caused by something fearful or horrible. He was also troubled with pain at the heart and had spells of difficult breathing—what medical men call *asthma*.

Mr. Heakin adds: "I was cured at last by Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and without it I believed I should have been dead long ago."

Very likely, very likely; for this thief, although he may wait long for his opportunity, isn't always satisfied to run away with our comfort and our money: he often takes life too.

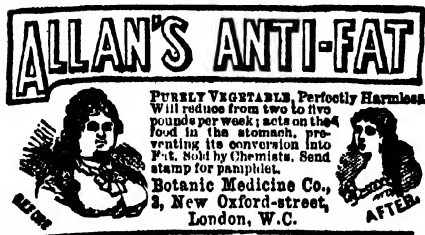
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from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddani, Chief of.  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chitra, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.  
to Ganguli, Babu Kisan Mohan.  
to Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.  
to Ghosh, Babu Kahi Prasanna.  
to Graham, Mr. W.  
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.  
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from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
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to Knight, Mr. Paul.  
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.  
to Low, Kumar Kristodas.  
to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
to Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
to Malik, Mr. H. C.  
to Marston, Miss Ann.  
from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
to Mitra, the late Riji Dr. Rajendralala.  
to Mookerjee, late Riji Dakhmarangan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H (San Francisco).  
to, from Marshadabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
from Nayaratra, Mahamshapadhyaya M. C.  
from Osborn, the Lieut Colonel Robert D.  
to Rio, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.  
to Rio, the late S. T. Mahaya.  
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to Row, Mr. G. Syamala.  
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to Venkataramanah, Mr. G.  
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

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It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Basington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal Journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindu Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lithoon) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the pen in apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 283, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

Far much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness. —*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed. —*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality. —*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 721.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE PHANTOM SHIP.

The breeze had sunk to rest,  
The noonday sun was high,  
And ocean's breast lay motionless  
Beneath a cloudless sky.  
There was silence in the air,  
There was silence in the deep ;  
And it seemed as though that burning calm  
Were nature's final sleep.

A noble ship there lay  
Upon the quiet sea,  
Her keel had ploughed for many a day  
The paths of ocean free ;  
She had braved the storm and battle,  
She had faced the booming gun,  
And 'midst a thousand foemen,  
Had struck her flag to none.

And many a noble heart  
That gallant vessel bore,  
And many a sigh and many a prayer  
Had wafted her from shore ;  
But now that breathless calm  
Was round her like a chain,  
And helplessly for many a day  
Beneath it she had lain.

Her canvass all was spread,  
To catch the lightest gale ;  
But spread in vain, for no breeze was there,  
To ruffle the loftiest sail ;  
The shadow of her masts  
Chequered the deep below ;  
You might trace the line of her slenderest spar  
On that azure mirror's glow.

The mid-day watch was set  
Beneath that blaze of light,  
When there came a cry from the tall masthead,  
A sail ! a sail ! in sight ;  
And o'er the far horizon  
A snowy speck appeared,  
And every eye was strained to watch  
The vessel as she neared.

There was no breath of air,  
Yet she bounded on her way,  
And the dancing waves around her prow  
Were flashing into spray.  
She answered not their hail,  
Alongside as she passed ;  
There were none who trod her spacious deck,  
Not a seaman on the mast :

No hand to guide her helm ;  
Yet on she held her course ;  
She swept along that waveless sea,  
As with a tempest's force ;  
A silence, as of death,  
Was o'er that vessel spread ;  
She seemed a thing of another world,  
The world where dwell the dead.

She passed away from sight,  
The deadly calm was o'er,  
And the spell-bound ship pursued her course  
Before the breeze once more ;  
And clouds across the sky  
Obscured the noonday sun,  
And the winds arose at the tempest's call,  
Before the day was done.

Midnight, and still the storm  
Raged wrathfully and loud,  
And deep in the trough of the heaving sea  
Laboured that vessel proud ;  
There was darkness all around,  
Save where lightning flashes keen  
Played on the crests of the broken waves,  
And lit the depths between.

Around her and below,  
The waste of waters roared,  
And answered the crash of the falling masts,  
As they cast them overboard.  
At every billow's shock  
Her quivering timbers strain ;  
And as she rose on a crested wave  
That strange ship passed again.

And o'er that stormy sea  
She flew before the gale,  
Yet she had not struck her lightest spar,  
Nor furled her loftiest sail.  
Another blinding flash,  
And nearer yet she seemed,  
And a pale blue light along her sails  
And o'er her rigging gleamed.

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But it showed no seaman's form,  
No hand her course to guide :  
And to their signals of distress  
The winds alone replied.

The Phantom Ship passed on,  
Driven o'er her pathless way,  
But helplessly the sinking wreck  
Amid the breakers lay.

The angry tempest ceased,  
The winds were hushed to sleep,  
And calm and bright the sun again  
Shone out upon the deep.  
But that gallant ship no more  
Shall roam the ocean free ;  
She has reached her final haven,  
Beneath the dark blue sea.

And many a hardy seaman,  
Who fears nor storm nor fight,  
Yet trembles when the Phantom Ship  
Drives past his watch at night ,  
For it augurs death and danger ;  
It bodes a watery grave,  
With sea-weeds for his pillow ;  
For his shroud, the wandering wave.

—*Sharpe's Magazine.*

### WEEKLYANA.

We read in the *Weekly Dispatch*, printed and published at Tudor House, Tudor Street, London, that "No fewer than 1,000,000 of men, women, and children die yearly in India from starvation." It is a heavy indictment against the Government of India which have perfected their famine code.

A HIGH official, referring to our article on cholera in our issue of the 4th of April, says :—

"As to cholera, you are wrong in recommending camphor which, in Asiatic cholera is useless. Let those who want to be proof against cholera take 15 drops of sulphuric acid in a little water daily after a meal. This is a great discovery. I should like to see water carts full of dilute sulphuric acid sent through the streets for all who wish to take a couple of ounces or so to help themselves. If cholera takes hold of you, take a table spoonful of castor oil beaten up with milk and flavoured with nutmeg. This is an infallible remedy. When nature gives a poison, she gives an antidote. The castor oil plant is death to the cholera microbe, and it grows as a weed in the cradle of cholera."

Sulphuric acid has been tried in cholera and found—wanting. Our readers will know more of this from the leader on the subject this week.

THE Bengal Government have issued two more circular letters to Commissioners of Divisions on the present scarcity of water and the prevalence of cholera due to such want. We reproduce them below. Regarding the scarcity of drinking-water, Mr. Risley, Secretary in the Municipal Department, says :—

"Circular No. 23 L.S.-G., dated Cal. the 11th April 1896.—In continuation of my Circular No. 22 L.S.-G., dated the 2nd April 1896, on the subject of the present scarcity of drinking-water in many districts of Bengal, I am directed to request that you and all District and Sub-divisional Officers will endeavour by all means in your power to bring home to the landed classes and to the people generally the fact that the utmost the District Boards can do to augment the available supply of drinking-water can only produce a very trifling effect in comparison with the requirements of the rural population. Scarcity of drinking-water is a calamity which affects more or less all classes of the community, and every one should therefore do something according to his means to supply this want. Land-owners and other wealthy persons can fulfil what has always been regarded in India as a religious obligation by digging new tanks or wells, deepening and cleansing old ones, and, above all, by surrendering their private rights in respect of water-supply in favour of the District Boards, and thus rendering it possible for these bodies to exercise the powers conferred on them by sections 88 and 90 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885, of repairing and maintaining wells and tanks, and reserving them for the supply of water for drinking. On the other hand, cultivators and labourers, who habitually work with their hands on their own or other people's land, may do useful work by repairing and excavating village tanks and wells, and while thus labouring for the good of the community, they

may fairly claim to be aided with supplies of food by members of the middle class, who should contribute according to their means. If means can be found of starting and organising voluntary action of this kind, more may be done in a year than the District Board even with the aid of Government could do in a generation.

2. The question of water-supply in municipalities is one of less difficulty than in rural areas, but in the smaller towns scarcity of water is complained of. Here again the owners of tanks and wells can do much to help the people by waiving their rights of private property in favour of the Commissioners and thus enabling them to set apart such sources for the supply of drinking water under section 199 of the Municipal Act. Action may also be taken by the Commissioners of their own motion to prohibit the use of bad water under section 199A, and to require the owners or occupiers of land to cleanse unwholesome wells, tanks or water-courses under section 200."

To a Hindu, it is a religious merit to supply free water to his thirsty neighbour. Dedication of tanks for drinking water and of trees for their shade are not uncommon charities among Hindus. The Government Circular does not require more.

With reference to the prevalence of cholera, Mr. Risley writes :—

"Circular No. 24 Medl. Cal. the 11th April 1896.—In connexion with the increasing prevalence of cholera in many districts of Bengal at the present time, I am directed to invite your attention to Government Circular No. 46, dated the 19th August 1879, laying down the procedure to be adopted in the event of an epidemic of disease occurring in any district, and to request that the orders conveyed in that circular may be carefully observed. A copy of the report on the outbreak should be sent to the Sanitary Commissioner, and telegraphic intimation of its occurrence should be given to Professor Haffkine in the manner laid down in my circular No. 12 Medl., dated the 7th March last.

2. With reference to clause 2 of paragraph 3 of the circular, I am further to say that whenever an epidemic occurs, cholera pills or similar medicines should be made available at all police-stations, post-offices, and cutcherries of wards and encumbered estates in the area affected, and that zamindars and other persons of influence should be induced to distribute these remedies. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has himself found much advantage in dealing with an epidemic of cholera from the issue of a notice warning the villagers that they should apply to the chaukidar for pills whenever the first symptoms of diarrhoea showed themselves. This saved many lives, and had much effect in allaying the tendency to panic which augments the liability to disease.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor desires you to see that in addition to the measures indicated above, all such other measures as local conditions may admit of are taken to meet outbreaks of cholera wherever they may occur. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals has been requested to arrange to depute Assistant Surgeons and Civil Hospital Assistants to do cholera duty in places where they are most needed. A copy of this circular is being sent direct to all Magistrates and Deputy Commissioners."

It would have been well if the Circular of 1879 were republished for general information. That would have been another step towards allaying public apprehensions.

THE Health Department of the Calcutta Corporation have suggested preventive measures against cholera before outbreak in these words :—

1. The use of the water of tanks and Circular Canal for any purpose whatever should be stopped, and that of the water of the Tolly's Nullah and of the River Hooghly should be stopped or avoided as much as possible, till the beginning of the rains. Their water is not in a safe condition. Filtered water should be used for drinking, cooking, bathing and washing utensils and clothes, and for all other purposes. If there be scarcity of filtered water in any locality, the Municipality should be immediately written to.

2. Water drawn from unknown sources (such as water supplied by bhistees, bhandis, etc.) should be avoided, or if used at all, should be boiled for half-an-hour, and placed in a clean covered vessel before use for drinking, cooking, washing utensils or clothes or bathing. The water used for drinking and cooking may be treated with alum and camphor after boiling.

3. All unwholesome or indigestible food (such as raw fruits, preserved fish or meat, native confections from *haloowies*, or decomposed articles,) milk or products of milk or articles of drink or food from hawking vendors or unknown sources should be carefully avoided, and extreme and continuous fatigue in the hot parts of the day should be as far as possible avoided.

4. Milk and all articles of drink should be thoroughly boiled before use.

5. Fasting or overloading of the stomach should be avoided.

6. The house and premises should be kept scrupulously clean; latrines and drains should be daily thoroughly cleansed, and, if possible, washed and disinfected daily with phenyle, crude carbolic acid (in large quantities), chloride of lime or quick lime.

7. As prophylactic quinine with or without nitro-muriatic acid in water may be taken twice or thrice a day, or anti-choleraic inoculation on Haffkine's system may be resorted to.

8. Any looseness of the bowels, or other bowel-complaints should be at once attended to, and medical advice taken."

Diarrhoea has been described as inchoate cholera—cholera in its curable stage, and should, therefore, be guarded against and never neglected.



Mr. R. Sen, L.F.P.S., L.S.A., the Officiating Health Officer, further prescribes the following precautions during outbreak of cholera:—

"1. On the occurrence of cholera in a house, the patient should be strictly isolated from the rest of the inmates except those who attend on him: medical advice should be immediately sought for and intimation given to the Health Officer. If the patient or his friends be too poor to pay for medical advice, the patient should be either sent to hospital, or application for medicines should be made at one of the offices mentioned below:—

No. 1, Hogulcooria Gully, Dr. I. K. Chatterjee.

No. 195, Cornwallis Street, Dr. S. Das.

No. 23-1, College Street, Dr. B. Basu.

No. 44, Wellington Street, Dr. Sirkar.

If the patient has no proper accommodation and no friends to attend on him, he should be immediately sent to hospital.

2. All discharges of the patient should be immediately disinfected with carbolic acid (solution 5 per cent.) in large quantity, chloride of lime, or quick-lime, and after being mixed with saw-dust, ashes or house-sweepings completely burnt.

3. All linen and bedding soiled with the discharges should be burnt, or taken apart and disinfected by boiling in water for half-an-hour and then washing over a drain or by sending it to the Municipal Disinfecting Station at the Entally Incinerator.

4. No article of food or drink used by the patient should be partaken of by any other person. No utensil or furniture used by the patient should be used or handled by any one else until it has been thoroughly disinfected by boiling in water or potassium permanganate solution for half-an-hour.

5. None but persons required to nurse the patient should enter or go near the patient's room. Persons in attendance on a patient should wash their hands with phenyle, carbolic lotion 5 p.c. or corrosive sublimate lotion (1 in 1,000) every time they handle the patient, and every such person before entering any room or part of the house beyond the patient's room, should wash his hands with the same disinfectants, and, if possible, change his clothes.

6. Any article of clothing on the person of any of the patient's attendants that may have been soiled with the discharges should be dealt with in the same way as the patient's clothes.

7. Sulphur should be burnt at different points in the open parts of the house, but particularly opposite the windward side of the patient's room.

8. On the death or recovery of the patient, all his clothes, bedding, etc., should be burnt, articles of value being disinfected by boiling in water for half-an-hour or sending to the Municipal Disinfecting Station; all furniture as well as the room used by the patient and his attendants should be disinfected according to the following rules:

#### Rules for Disinfection.

1. All infected clothes should be boiled with water for at least half-an-hour. This is the safest and most easy method which should always be adopted.

2. All furniture and other articles which have been infected should be thoroughly washed with hydrag. perchloride lotion (str. 2 in 1,000) viz., 1 drim. hydrag. perchloride (*Rasacarpur*) 6½ pints water.

3. All infected beddings should be burnt.

4. All other articles of value which have been infected should be sent to the Disinfecting Station at Nuntola, where they will be disinfected free of cost, and will then be returned to the owner.

5. All the infected rooms should be fumigated with sulphurous gas and the walls and ceiling should be scraped and thoroughly lime-washed. (2½ lbs. of sulphur should be burnt in a saucer, placed in the centre of the room with the doors and windows closed for at least three hours.)

6. The floor in the case of a hut should be leaped with mud mixed with perchloride of mercury (*Rasacarpur*) or carbolic acid lotion. In the case of a house the floor should be thoroughly washed with 5 per cent. carbolic, or 1 in 500 perchloride lotion. *i. e.*,

4 drims. Carbolic Acid; ½ pint water.

1 drim. of hydrag. perchloride; 3 pints water."

CLEANLINESS is next to godliness. If the Hindus truly followed instead of making a mockery of the injunctions laid down for daily life, they need not be afraid of the present visitation. In 1850, when cholera was raging in London, it was remarked that the Jews, although inhabiting for the most part the foulest and most unhealthy portion of the metropolis, were almost exempt from the disease. In a population of over 20,000 of the chosen people, besides 2,000 Portuguese, there were only 13 cases of cholera. The same immunity was also observable during the epidemic of 1832. The causes were simple enough as explained by the Board of Health. The lower classes of Jews, however poor they may be, never crowd more than one family into the same room; whereas, among the lower orders of other communities—especially the Irish—several families "pig together" in one apartment. Another reason is that the Jews, as a class, are not given to intoxicating liquors. One of the commissioners of enquiry said—"I have had, during the last twenty years, much intercourse with the Jews, and I cannot recall to mind a single instance of drunkenness in any family I have visited. In virtue of their religion, they are particular in their food. All shell fish is avoided, and the meat exposed for sale is inspected by an officer appointed for the purpose; and if any disease is found, it is condemned. Sabbath rest is, for the most part, strictly observed.

The Jews are unable, from religious motives, to enter the workhouse, and the poor, being comparatively few in number, are relieved by the more wealthy of their own persuasion. Relieving officers enquire into distress, which being relieved, extreme destitution is avoided. The passover enjoins every Jew to have his house thoroughly cleansed annually, and the rooms of the lower classes are annually 'lime-washed'."

..

We read:—

"At a recent meeting of the American Psychological Association, as reported in *The American Naturalist*, February, Prof. W. R. Newbold narrated informally three cases vaguely described as 'Dream Reasoning,' which had occurred in the experience of two of his colleagues. Dr. W. A. Lamberton, Professor of Greek in the University of Pennsylvania, when a young man after giving up as insoluble a problem in descriptive geometry upon which he had been working for weeks by the analytical method, awoke one morning several days later to find an hallucinatory figure projected upon a black-board in his room with all the lines necessary to a geometrical solution of the problem clearly drawn. He has never had any other visual hallucination. Dr. H. V. Hilprecht, Professor of Assyriology in the University of Pennsylvania, some years ago dreamed an interpretation of the name Nebuchadnezzar which has since been universally adopted. At a later period he dreamed that an Assyrian priest gave him information about some inscribed fragments that had puzzled him which was afterwards confirmed in all points now capable of confirmation. Dr. Newbold offered a psychological explanation of these curious cases."

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

MR. Chamberlain, replying to Mr. Bhaunagri, in the House of Commons, promised careful attention to the petition of the Indians of Natal regarding the deprivation of their right to purchase land. Mr. Hanbury replying to Mr. Allen and other members, who complained that the Peninsular and Oriental Company employed lascars to the exclusion of British sailors, said that no coolies were employed; that it would be unjust to exclude lascars who were our fellow-subjects, and that, moreover, India paid a large portion of the subsidy.

THE situation in Matabeleland continues serious. The whole nation has risen against the Government. Fifteen hundred men at least are required to quell the disturbance. The *Times* states that Sir Hercules Robinson is assuming a grave responsibility in refusing reinforcements. In the House of Commons, on April 13, Mr. Chamberlain stated that Sir Hercules Robinson, after consulting the commander of the troops in Cape Colony, and hearing from Earl Grey and Messrs. Rhodes and Duncan, had offered to send to Matabeleland from Natal 300 cavalry and 200 mounted infantry, besides volunteers. A police force for the disturbed districts had already been arranged. It was also the intention of the High Commissioner to raise a force of 250 Basutos for service in Matabeleland. Mr. Chamberlain further said that he was conferring with the War Office as to what steps were necessary to replace the troops ordered from Natal to the Interior. The Chartered Company will have to pay for all these operations. The offer of troops made by Sir H. Robinson has since been accepted by the authorities concerned. Two hundred men belonging to the Leicestershire Regiment leave Aldershot for the Cape at the end of May. Captain Lumsden, of Gifford's party, who was wounded in one of the late engagements with the Matabele, has died of the injuries. A large body of Matabele, armed with Martini Henry Rifles, furiously attacked and surrounded a force of 130 men under the command of Captain Brand some thirty miles from Bulawayo. The British, after having exhausted their ammunition, successfully cut their way through the enemy, and then emerging met a relief column. The British loss was five killed and sixteen wounded, while the Matabele lost 150 killed and 400 wounded. Advances from Bulawayo continue to disclose a serious state of things. Mr. Nicholson, the local administrator there, telegraphs that about 250 men are available to co-operate with Colonel Plumer's force, but it is impossible to estimate the numbers of the Matabele. The garrison are amply victualled.

THE Natives in the Northern parts of the Transvaal are getting restless, and a rising is apprehended. The *Times* urges the necessity of increasing the British garrisons in South Africa in order to keep peace within the borders and thereby to render foreign aggression hopeless.

THE ravages caused by rinderpest in Bechuanaland are increasing, and the transport service to Bulawayo has collapsed. Confirmation has been received that two hundred Soudanese are with Mr. Rhodes, who is still at Fort Salisbury. He has recovered from his late illness, and proposes to start with his column to relieve Bulawayo.

MAJOR Stevani's column has been ordered to temporarily remain at Kassala. A group of Egyptian capitalists holding Egyptian bonds for about a million is legally opposing the action of the French bondholders, and affirming that the grant of funds by Caisse de la Dette was justified by the necessity which existed for undertaking the Nile expedition. The hearing of the case brought by the French bondholders against the Caisse commenced before the Cairo Court of the first instance, and was adjourned for a fortnight. In the House of Commons, on April 14, Mr. Curzon, replying to a question by Mr. Labouchere, said that if it were necessary to employ British troops beyond Wady Halfa the cost of doing so would be a matter for discussion between England and Egypt. The Secretary of State for India, replying to a question whether it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to employ troops belonging to India in the Soudan, said that the Government had no reason to suppose that the Egyptian army was inadequate to the undertaking. The *Daily News* as well as the *Daily Telegraph* announce that ten thousand British troops will be despatched in the autumn for the purpose of reconquering the Soudan. The *Times* publishes a telegram from its correspondent at Rome stating that evidence is accumulating which points to the fact that Russia and France are succeeding in combining the Shoans and the Dervishes against the Italians and the English. Intelligence has been received that a Russian expedition, ostensibly under the Red Cross to succour the Shoans wounded in battle with the Italians, composed of eighty persons, including several officers, has sailed for Abyssinia. It is reported from Cairo that two sharp encounters have taken place between the Dervishes and the Egyptians in the neighbourhood of Tokar, the Dervishes losing heavily. Eighteen Egyptians have been killed.

THE death is announced of M. Tricoupis, the Greek statesman.

THE meeting at Venice of King Humbert and the Emperor William was of a most cordial character. The Emperor William had also a cordial meeting at Vienna, on April 14, with the Emperor Francis Joseph. The German Emperor, had, moreover, a conference with Count Goluchowski.

AT the Colonial Institute, on April 14, Lord Loch presiding, Mr. Justice Clarence read a paper reviewing the history of Ceylon and the splendid results obtained by the British rule over the Island. He pointed out the great development of trade and plantation enterprise of the British in the Colony, and said that the principal shortcoming to be found in the domain is law and justice.

COUNT Yamagata has arrived at New York from Japan on his way to Moscow to be present at the Tzar's coronation, and met with an enthusiastic reception.

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons, Mr. Chamberlain said that the Indian Government increased its contribution to the Imperial Institute to £750, and that a committee having Indian experience will be appointed to co-operate with the staff of the Institute to secure the proper application of the Indian grant.

THE treaty which has been concluded between Germany and Japan completely abolishes extra-territoriality in Japan, but the German Consuls retain legal functions in respect of certain matters, particularly the question relating to succession and guardianship. A

convention between Germany and Japan dealing with the patents and trade-marks is projected in the treaty, meanwhile the Germans have been placed on an equal footing with the Natives. Japan concedes to the reduction of tariff, while Germany merely grants the favoured nation treatment to Japan.

THE Sultan has created Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria a Field-Marshal in the Turkish Army.

IN the House of Commons, on April 16, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in opening his Budget for 1896-97, announced that, notwithstanding the largest expenditure known since the last great war, the Budget showed a surplus, of which four millions had already been devoted to the navy. The estimated increase in the expenditure was four millions which will chiefly be incurred in respect of the navy; notwithstanding which there will be a surplus of two millions, where-with the Government will be able to reduce the land tax, and the agricultural rate, and transfer the remaining balance for the purpose of education. Tea is expelling coffee from the market. Indian and Ceylon kinds are rapidly replacing those grown in China. The national debt has been reduced by eight millions. Every item of revenue has increased. The Chancellor, in conclusion, declared the credit of England to be so good that it is possible in an emergency to raise 200 millions without any increase of taxation.

THE preliminary announcement of the ensuing International Homœopathic Congress has been made. The Congress will be held at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, London, for one week, from Monday the 3rd of August to Saturday the 8th. It is open to all qualified to practise medicine in their own country. The general Secretary is Dr. Richard Hughes, 36 Sillwood Road, Brighton, to whom all communications relating to the work of the Congress should be addressed. The following programme has been decided upon. On Monday evening the President will hold a reception of the members and the ladies of their families. The following day will be occupied with the address of the President and the presentation of reports from the different countries on the history of homœopathy during the last five years. Then there will be a discussion on the condition and prospects of homœopathy at the present time, and the best means of furthering its cause. Wednesday is reserved for institutes of homœopathy and materia medica. Thursday will be devoted to practical medicine and diseases of eye, ear, and throat. For Friday the topics are surgical and gynæcological therapeutics.

THERE is a split in the camp of the Salvationists. General Booth and his son Ballington Booth have separated. The son and his wife have organized a new army.

RÖNTGEN'S X rays have been recognized in Court. In a suit for damages by an actress against the Nottingham Theatre Company, for injuries sustained by her slipping on a defective stone staircase in the theatre, Professor Ramsay exhibited photographs of the bones of both her feet in one of which the cuboid bone was displaced. There was a decree for £76-10s.

SURGEON-CAPTAIN George Hillaire, of the Army Medical Department, for his attendance on Prince Henry of Battenburg during his last illness, has been gazetted a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Sir Morell Mackenzie got his knighthood for treating the late Emperor Frederick when he was suffering from cancer of the larynx of which he died.

AT Lambeth, Charles Gordon, 37, was charged, before Mr. Denman, with pretending and professing to tell fortunes. The prisoner's defence was that the information he gave was from well-known works on astrology. Mr. Denman had no doubt that prisoner had been pretending to tell fortunes. Looking through one letter addressed to the prisoner, the magistrate remarked that there was not a single piece of information given in reply which the fair writer—a girl—had not herself communicated. There was a very old saying and a true one, that the world consisted of a great number of people, mostly fools, and upon that fact the prisoner had been trading. He ordered a fine of £8, and £2 costs or prison for 1 month.

Is fortune-telling an offence in India?

THE Hon'ble Prince Sir Jehan Kadr Mirza Mahomed Wahid Ali Bahadur, K.C.I.E., died suddenly at his residence, in Garden Reach, on Thursday, April 16, at 5-40 P. M. Though not in the best of health for some months past, there was no visible indication of the approaching end. Those, however, who watched him closely, found a change in the man that was foreign to his nature, and they apprehended evil. At 5 P. M., the same day, he wrote his last letter. It was intended for Khan Bahadur Abdul Jubbar, but not despatched. In it, the Prince says that "it is with great difficulty that I have written you these few lines. I have been in indifferent health of late, and now I feel a pain in my chest and I am also suffering from shortness of breath." Immediately after the letter was closed, the pain grew severer and he made a rush to the W. C. From there he ran to the veranda and descended a few steps. The servants, apprehending danger, brought him back to the central drawing room. He shrieked three times, said he had heart disease, and sank into bed. In 5 minutes more, the Prince had breathed his last. The family members and friends who had gathered round the bed, were not aware of the end. They believed that he had swooned of the pain, and that he would revive. In this state of suspense they waited for more than an hour, nursing the dead. Dr. Panioty, the family physician, who was sent for, arrived at 7 P. M., to confirm the suspicions of death and to pronounce that death was due to apoplexy. The prince was buried the next day at about 2 P. M., at the Septanabad Imambara by the side of the late King of Oudh. A large number of Mahomedans were present. We are sure that if the Hindus could know it, many of them would have been present to pay their last tribute of respect. The Calcutta Madressa was closed yesterday in memory of the deceased.

With Prince Jehan Kadr passes away the remaining glimpse of royalty at Garden Reach. There are a host of Oudh pensioners, but they are pensioners only. A prince by blood and in appearance, the late Prince maintained his status as far as the slender means placed at his disposal would allow and realized the responsibility of his position. At the distribution of the Oudh pension on the death of the ex-king Wajid Ali Shah, Mirza Jehan Kadr was not given the first rank as he preeminently deserved. But later on Government consoled him with a knighthood and membership of the Governor-General's Legislative Council. Although a Shia by persuasion, he was equally respected by the Sunnis of his community as well as the Hindus of the metropolis. Of sweet temper, agreeable manners, taking interest in all public affairs, the death of Prince Mirza Jehan Kadr is a loss to Calcutta society. The death will be equally mourned elsewhere, wherever he was known—at Oudh, at Moorshedabad, and all Mahomedan Durbars, by both Mahomedans and Hindus.

As soon as the mournful intelligence was brought to Calcutta, friends hastened to Garden Reach. The Hon'ble Nawab Ameer Hossain, a man of the world, reserved his visit till the next morning. It must not be supposed that he was unmindful of the dead. On receipt of the news, he drove at once to the telegraph office and sent messages to absent governors and distant friends. That was as much a duty to the dead as to arrange for and attend his funeral. Telegrams of condolence have been received from both the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor. The Prince leaves no son, but only two married daughters. His wife, the daughter of the ex-king, had predeceased him as also his eldest daughter.

For many years, Prince Jehan Kadr was President of the Mahomedan Literary Society. It was as such, as for his own qualities, that he was so widely known and honoured by Government. We believe it is now the turn of Khan Bahadur Abdul Jubbar, who was held in great regard by the deceased, to succeed the Prince as President of that Society.

MR. D. R. Lyall having, with his retirement from the British service, resigned his seat on the Bengal Legislative Council, Mr. William Henry Grimley, his successor in the Board of Revenue, has been appointed a member of the Bengal Council. Mr. Lyall did not go out without a sigh or a regret. The Civil Service gave him a farewell dinner at which the Lieutenant-Governor was present. The Bengal Government have again Gazetted the following notification:

"The Lieutenant-Governor announces with regret the retirement of Mr. David Robert Lyall, C. S. I., member of the Board of Revenue, after a service of nearly thirty-five years. Mr. Lyall has always been regarded as one of the most efficient and reliable officers under the Government of Bengal, and has done good work as a Magistrate

and Collector, as Inspector-General of Police, as Commissioner of Division, and finally as a member of the Board. His retirement is a loss to the administration."

Let us hope, his accession will be a gain to the Cooch Behar State. There is undoubtedly an advancement in that principality. A retired Commissioner of a Division in British India had been its Superintendent. "This time a retired member of the Board of Revenue has been offered and accepted the post. The next advance will be to appoint a retired Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Lyall draws an advance of Rs. 500 on Mr. Lowie's pay. Of a sporting disposition, Mr. Lyall will have an ample field for exercise in that kingdom in the budget whereof the shooting camp has a prominent place.

HERBERT ALLEN, barman, was tried at the Birmingham Assizes, and found guilty of the murder of Henry James Skinner, manager of the Bodega Stores. Having been dismissed from service, he shot his master. The defence was directed in proving that there was insanity in the prisoner's family. His father had attempted suicide; a brother had actually killed himself; another brother also shot himself, though not fatally; while he the prisoner had suffered severely from the effects of a fall from a tree. The medical evidence shewed that the prisoner was suffering from brain disease but he was conscious of his act and knew that it was wrong. The jury found a verdict of guilty, with a strong recommendation to mercy. Before the Judge passed sentence, the prisoner, in a firm and loud voice, read the following from a paper in his hands:—

"My lord and gentlemen of the jury, I beg leave to address a few remarks to you concerning myself. I have always been, as far as I can remember, a misanthropical character, and always wherever misfortune befel me my thoughts instantly turned to suicide. I have made several attempts on my life which have been unsuccessful, and I don't place much value on the possession of it. It is with the greatest anguish that I know I have taken the life of a fellow-creature, but from the first my only intention was self-murder, and it was only by a strange combination of circumstances that I was led to commit the crime for which I am about to suffer. And it has been the hope and certainty that you would condemn me that has alone been the means of restraining me from committing suicide whilst in prison, so that it does not come to me with such a shock that it would do any one else. First I bought a revolver and cartridges even at the age of 12 to shoot myself, but my father took them from me, and I have besides tried other ways to get rid of myself. But that does not matter now, as you are going to do it for me, and I am very pleased that I shall not commit suicide after all. I sincerely thank every one for their kind sympathy, and trust they will not petition the Government for a reprieve for me, as I should only strangle myself at the first opportunity if you obtained one."

The Judge was not so sentimental. Addressing the prisoner, he said:

"I have no wish to add to the misery of your present position. The act of yours that has deprived Henry Skinner of his life was cruel and deliberate. And I won't refer to the observations that you have just made. I advise you not to rely on the recommendation to mercy, and not to build hopes upon it that may be disappointed. I hope the interval of life that may be left to you will be employed as it should be, and with a due sense of your responsibilities hereafter. At any rate I trust that you will show a better spirit and a true sorrow and contrition for the wrong upon a fellow-man, and one who for many years was a kind friend of yours."

The sentence of death in the usual form was then passed.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, April 18, 1896.

### CHOLERA: ITS TREATMENT.

THE treatment of cholera is always a vexed question, especially in India where four different systems are in vogue. The old school may be said to consist of the Kaviraji, the Yunani and the so-called allopathic methods; and the new, the homœopathic. Without expressing any opinion on the two Indian systems, we will confine ourselves to the two European, the old and the new. The old school practitioners do not follow any defined rule but, as empirics, catch hold of the prevailing fashion which they call rationalism. In their earlier practice they would administer astringents, to put a stop to the evacuations, and prescribe large doses of calomel. Along with these spirit ether nitric was given to help the emission of urine, and stimulants to keep up the heart's action. A favourite medicine with the late Dr. S. G. Chuckerbutty, adopted from the new school, was tincture cantharides for retention or suppression of urine. The late Dr. Smith as first

physician of the Medical College used to follow Dr. George Johnson, in his recommendation of castor oil as eliminative of the cholera poison. This treatment, owing to many failures, was at last abandoned. Opium and stimulants, though found successful in Europe, gave no satisfactory results in India. There are, however, a few in this country who yet stick to them. Then came the days of the bacilli discovered by Pasteur. Koch followed him with his tubercular germ and cholera organism. On these discoveries, attempts were made to kill the bacilli which caused the disease, and not to check the symptoms produced. The next step was to find the germicides. This led to the adoption of sulphuric and other acids, quinine, corrosive sublimate, arsenic and others supposed to possess a destroying property. They had their little triumphs, acid sulphuric dilute with tannic acid being favoured till the last. Calomel with soda bicarb would be administered in the collapse state of a patient, though in diminished doses. Some of the practitioners having found the success of arsenic of the new school, resorted to their pharmacopœial preparation of the liquor arsenicales. It has now a prominent place in the old school practice which still cannot do without calomel. Chlorodyne, as when it was put in the market, still maintains its hold, notwithstanding the warnings against patent medicines given by the *British Medical Journal* and other authorities.

There are other quack nostrums in which each of the practitioners is an authority by himself, appealing to his age and experience. Age he may have, but experience very little. If there had been any accumulated experience worthy of the name, the treatment of the disease would not have changed like a weather-cock. Experience or observation means the differentiation in the physiological action of medicines. Accepting the cholera bacilli to be the true parasites producing the disease, how is it that all cases of cholera are not alike? It has not been ascertained why there are so many different symptoms. One patient has cramps for the leading symptom, another the failure of the heart's action from the very beginning. Probably the diversities are due to the different kinds of toxins eliminated by the same bacilli; but that discovery has yet to be made. In our present state of pathological knowledge the safest course seems to be to treat the symptoms. To do this it would be necessary to understand the physiological action of medicines by provings on human bodies and not on animals. For they differ so much in essential varieties in the development and the distribution of nerves derived from the brain and the spinal cord.

The method of treatment depending on the destruction of microbes is yet far from the region of certainty. Celebrated bacteriologists of Europe and of India do not accept the comma bacilli discovered by Koch as *causa causans* of cholera. Klein, Guber, Hueppe, Pettenkofer, and many others including our Cunningham are not reconciled to that theory. Further, it has been seen that ptomaines, comma and other bacilli can produce symptoms of cholera under certain circumstances. The patient must have a predisposition to catch the disease. This state of health has been explained by the researches of Metchnikoff and Buchner who demonstrated that the white blood cells and the serum have the power to destroy any foreign organism that may come in contact with them. When the blood

loses this power to destroy the microbes, the predisposition arises. As for the germicidal action of medicines, sulphuric acid pure possesses this power, but sulphuric acid dilute we use for our medicine has it not. It has never been shown by experiment that sulphuric acid dilute when taken internally can destroy the comma bacilli or any other poisonous animalcules or even the ptomaines in our intestinal canal. Corrosive sublimate even in minute doses has a powerful action. Then why not substitute this for the other? Can any rational explanation be given based on the germicidal property? Dr. Lauder Brunton, one of the greatest of medical authorities in England, recommends muscarin in cholera, basing his opinion on symptoms of the disease and the indications of the medicine and not on the germicidal action of the drug.

The choleraic symptoms produced by ptomaines are sometimes made little of as ptomain-poisoning and not cholera. This system of classification cannot be correct. A disease is usually described by groups of symptoms and not by the bacilli which may produce it. The researches of Dr. Lawrie of Hyderabad in connection with Laveran's plasmodiums of malarious fever go against the assumption of these germs as the cause of disease. There are microscopists in Europe and America who find these bacilli as altered fibrin or blood cells and not as parasites in our blood. Perhaps the day is not distant when these physiologists will view with triumph the adoption of their theory. The antiseptic treatment of surgical wounds is losing favour with its supporters.

Leaving aside the questionable theory of cholera being produced by comma bacilli, let us examine the action of the so-called microbe-killing drugs on the tubercle bacilli which have been accepted by most of the bacteriologists as the cause of consumption. Dr. Koch himself could not discover any poison which destroyed them. His tuberculine, containing the virus of the disease with gold and other medicines supposed to have the power to destroy the bacilli, proved abortive. To take an analogy from the drugs which destroy the serpent poison. Permanganate of potash, ammonia and such others can destroy this poison chemically when observed under a microscope. But they are powerless against it when introduced into a breathing body. It may raise expectations to see the germ destroyed in a microscopic field, but it is quite uncertain that the so-called remedies can counteract the poison growing into the human body deriving sufficient nutrition. The vital action of the blood and the nerves offer a resistance to their so-called chemical properties when pathologically applied. All microbes again are not equally tenacious of life and anthrax bacilli are difficult to destroy. On the other hand, there are many diseases whose germs have not yet been discovered. The celebrated Pasteur could not find any in hydrophobia.

The old school practice has come to such a deplorable plight that Sir Alexander Mackenzie is free to recommend cholera pills. Do the medical department of the Government of Bengal know their compounds? When attempts are being made in England to prosecute the vendors of secret medicines, containing poison as they generally do, here in Bengal the authorities order their general use. In Germany and other countries of Europe the law is very strong. A patent medicine is not permitted until it is found by analysis to contain no poison. If



it contain any, the owner is prosecuted. How different in Bengal! His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor recommends a drug without knowing its composition. He has experience of the pills and that is his justification for the order. A few words about the prophylactic treatment of cholera by Dr. Haffkine will not be out of place. It cannot be denied that he is a specialist in his branch of study, but his conclusions from his own work are not always sober. It ought to be mentioned that he derives his virus from comma bacilli which have not yet been accepted as the cause of cholera by most of the leading scientific men. His method of work is not according to Pasteur's whom he professes to follow. Pasteur never took a group of bacilli nor cultivated them in the way Dr. Haffkine does. In his hydrophobic inoculation Pasteur used the whole spinal cord of the diseased rabbit for the solution, and after a certain process a portion of it was injected. Even in his chicken cholera inoculation, a different method from Haffkine's was followed. The value of a prophylactic treatment is according to the length of the period of immunity from the disease. The time given by Dr. Haffkine is not more than six months. In a country like India where so many dangerous diseases shew themselves at the same time, as cholera, smallpox, dysentery, typhoid fever, &c., would it be any particular advantage to keep off cholera while others stare at your gate? If a prophylactic treatment has any virtue, you must subject yourself to all the treatments of the different diseases at the same time. Then one virus may act against another so as to destroy the action of both and all. Or it may be that the strongest poison will save itself and secure an immunity from one danger for a time.

Aerobic and anaerobic germs are yet the subjects of discussion by reputed bacteriologists. The aerobes thrive in oxygen and are destroyed by nitrogen, while anaerobes multiply in nitrogen and die in oxygen. Cholera bacilli are supposed to be aerobes and there is evidence that in the human body they work like anaerobes. Thus they have two behaviours—when they produce a disease in the body and when out of it. All bacilli can thrive in oxygen as well as in nitrogen. The anaerobes are poisonous in their nature, and after secreting their toxin they cease to exist. When before the period of secretion they come in contact with oxygen they change their behaviour and become innocuous. It is not said that there is difference in the shape of the same bacillus when it is aerobe and when anaerobe. But it is possible there is a change of shape which has not yet been detected. For these reasons, it seems that it is not desirable to cultivate the aerobes for anaerobic purposes. At the same time to cultivate the anaerobes as they act in the body, is impossible. As soon as they come in contact with a good quantity of air they become changed.

The statistics, supplied by Dr. Simpson, of cases inoculated in Calcutta and its suburbs, is more hopeful than Dr. Haffkine himself had expected. Dr. Simpson boldly puts up figures to console his chief for his discomfiture at Lucknow and Cawnpur. Among the soldiers inoculated there, the protected suffered more than the un-protected. The value of such treatment can best be ascertained in the army where there are all sorts of possible restrictions. Within a few months of the inoculation, cholera made its dreadful appearance. The Calcutta operations give no better result. Dr. Haffkine limits

the immunity to six months. Before that period expires, it is profitless to speculate as to the success of his inoculation. The cholera epidemic of this year is great and general in its nature. Reliable figures can be prepared only after the disappearance of the scourge. But as far as we are informed, the results of the inoculation in the regiments at Cawnpur and Lucknow have disturbed the faith of many in Haffkinism. There are so many odds and ends that it is not easy to find fruitful results from this mode of application of the isopathic law.

The new school has no different modes of treatment. There is only one system and the line of practice is fixed. The practitioners are guided by provings or symptoms produced by drugs on healthy human body as well as by subsequent clinical observations. They compare the drug symptoms and the symptoms produced by the disease and administer the medicine having the closest affinity. There may be difference in the selection for not observing the disease properly, but the mistake can soon be rectified. That selection follows the one established law "like cures like." The allopaths have no law to go upon. That on which they pretend to act is "contrary cures contrary." This method can only be tried when the causation of the disease is known, which is not easy. Many circumstances combine to create a disease and for this reason to understand it in its legitimate sphere is an impossible task. It is all very well to say apply cold when heat is the cause, but how to know whether it is heat or cold that is the cause? When you treat the symptoms, you need not know how they have been produced. A mechanical injury is easily traced to its cause and there are special homœopathic remedies for it. Nor when you know the cause, can you successfully meet the disease. Tonsillitis arising from cold, cannot be cured by the application of heat only. Other remedies must be resorted to and for the selection of the remedy we have only the symptoms to guide us.

Isopathy or "same cures same" is a definite law. The treatment of Pasteur is based on this principle; so also vaccination for smallpox introduced by Jenner. Differences of opinion may exist as to the basis of the Jennerian practice, but there are reasonable grounds to side with Dr. Crookshank. The prophylactic value of this system of treatment is rather wide off the mark. So it is with Haffkinism. The administration of anthracine, of tuberculine, of varioline, of vaccinine in the diseases from which they have been derived is according to the isopathic principle. But their application according to provings to other diseases would be homœopathic. A false notion is prevalent with regard to homœopathy that it imposes the use of dilutions. The application of the law and not the dilutions of medicines ought to be the main consideration.

The homœopathic treatment of cholera should begin with tincture camphor both from the commencement of the disease and when the old school had had its work. Even in the collapse stage it is prescribable when there has been over-medication. The next choice of medicines would be according to the state of the patient. When the pulse is present, even of moderate intensity, and other disturbing elements are absent, the following medicines are recommended: veratrum, podophyllum, colchicum, colocynth, jatrophia, and ricinus. Veratrum or podophyllum

can be given when there are painful or painless stools, with or without vomiting. But the latter should be preferred when there is passage of flatus with the stool. Ricinus is a remedy for the painless variety, colchicum and colocynth for the painful one, but the colic of colocynth is more persistent and painful. There is also a difference in their character. The colocynth pains are increased by drinking water. Jatropha is for omission of loud flatulence with the stools; arg. nit. has often failed to serve the same purpose. When there is pulselessness or very feeble pulse, arsenic or carb. v. ought to be of help. These failing, aconite should be tried. Where cramps are the prominent symptoms cuprum, cuprum arsenicosum, and secale ought to be remembered. In collapse when cuprum does not act, cuprum ars. should have a chance. Cuprum is prescribed for the cramps of the flexor muscles and secale for the extensors. For muscular spasms of the chest try cicuta, and arg. nit. The last is also a remedy for spasms of the diaphragm. In impending failure of respiration the chief restorers are acid hydrocyanic, col. ra and lachesis. They are analogous to each other. When after cessation of the stools, the pulse remains tolerably well but there is no urine, give cantharis. Terebinth can also be recommended. In uræmic coma, bell., hyoscyamus, and stramonium should be thought of. For nausea and vomiting ipecac is a well-tried remedy.

#### A HOMŒOPATH.

### PARTITION OF ESTATES IN BENGAL.

#### THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. AP. II.

The Hon. Mr. Finucane introduced the Bill to amend the law relating to the partition of estates, and to move that it be read in Council.

In doing so he said :—I move that a Bill to amend the law relating to the partition of estates should be read in Council. I may say at once that the objects of this Bill are (1) to simplify, shorten, and cheapen the procedure for effecting partition of estates and (2) to impose some limit, below which partition of estates will not be carried out by the Collector.

I do not propose on the present occasion to trespass on the time of the Council by entering on an elaborate disquisition on the history of this important subject. For the purpose of explaining the principles of this Bill, I need refer but very briefly to the historical aspect of the subject.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, when the right of property in the soil was explicitly declared, by the Regulations of the Permanent Settlement, to be vested in the zamindars of Bengal, it was also declared that they might dispose of the whole or any portion of their properties in any way they thought fit. But as every acre of the land was hypothecated to Government for revenue, it necessarily followed that the right of transferring by sale and gift, dividing, or otherwise disposing of their properties, then declared to be vested in the zamindars, was not absolute and unconditional, but subject to the paramount consideration of the security of the Government revenue.

Hence we find that on the very day on which the Permanent Settlement Regulation I of 1793 was passed, Regulations were also enacted for the purpose of enabling proprietors to apply to the Collector for partition of their estates, and rules were prescribed for carrying out such partitions.

These rules were contained in Regulations VIII and XXV of 1793.

The Permanent Settlement was in many cases concluded for large estates or tracts of land. Sometimes whole parganas consisting of several mahals were included under one engagement for the payment of a certain amount of revenue, and all the lands so included were held jointly liable for the payment of that revenue.

With such large estates it was deemed desirable to give every facility for subdivision of them and for enabling the co-proprietors to separate their interests and their liability for the State revenue.

It was soon found, however, that the unrestricted subdivision of estates and separation of financial responsibility was being carried on to an extent that was thought to be dangerous to the security of the revenue, and a Regulation was therefore passed in

1807 on the unanimous suggestion of the Board of Revenue (Regulation VI of that year) enacting that no partition should be allowed which would have the effect of creating a new estate with a sardar jama of less than Rs. 500. The preamble to this Regulation to which I would invite the attention of the Council runs thus :—

"Whereas under the provisions contained in Regulations I and XXV of 1793 persons holding shares of estates paying revenue to Government are entitled to a separation of such shares; and on the completion of the batwara by the officers of Government, and on the confirmation of it by the Governor-General in Council to hold the same as distinct mahals subject to the just proportion of the public assessment; and whereas considerable loss and inconvenience have been experienced in the collection of the public revenue from the too minute subdivision of landed property."

Then followed the enactment that estates might be divided down to a jama of five hundred rupees.

The restriction imposed by the Regulation of 1807 did not remain in force long. Regulation V of 1810 removed it and allowed partitions to be made of estates, however small. The Regulation of 1810 was passed in accordance with the views of one new Member of the Board of Revenue of the time, but the opposition to the views of the other two Senior Members, who strongly protested against the removal of the restrictions of 1807, and expressed their apprehension of the occurrence of the evils likely to result from such removal, which have in fact since occurred. The reasons for removing the restriction imposed by Regulation VI of 1807 were stated in the preamble to Regulation V of 1810 thus :—

"Experience having shown that the existing rules for the division of landed property paying revenue to Government are in many respects defective, inasmuch as they do not sufficiently provide against the artificial delays and impediments which are frequently thrown in the way of the process of the division by some one or more of the parties concerned, who may be interested in so doing or (as often happens) by the officer employed in conducting the details of that process; nor effectually secure Government from the loss resulting from fraudulent and collusive allotments of the public revenue on the shares of estate when divided; and, there being moreover reason to believe that the restriction which has been laid on the partition of small estates by Regulation VI of 1807 has been, and is, the cause of considerable injury to numbers of individual sharers in such estates, thereby inducing a sacrifice of private rights, which the degree of public inconvenience arising from the minute division of landed property does not appear to be of sufficient magnitude to justify or require; with a view therefore to remedy these defects, to expedite the division of landed property paying revenue to Government, when duly authorized by the provisions of Regulations I and XXV of 1793, and their corresponding Regulations for Benares, and for the ceded and conquered provinces; with due regard to the permanent security of the public revenue, whatever be the amount thereof; and to obviate the injury to which individual sharers are liable in the case of a joint estate being brought to a sale for balances which may have arisen from the default of their coparceners during the interval while the process of division is pending, the following rules have been enacted."

I need not weary the Council with a detailed narrative of the history of the Law on Partitions from 1810 down to the present time. The different Rules and Regulations on the subject were consolidated in the Regulation XIX of 1814, which, with slight modifications, continued, in force till the present Bengal Council Act VIII of 1876 was passed. But I have to notice that in 1875 the Hon. Mr. Dampier, then Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, introduced a Bill in this Council for the amendment of the Partition Law.

In the course of the discussions that took place in the Council in connection with that Bill, the inconvenience to the Administration and the injury to private interests that have arisen from the unrestricted partition of estates were pointed out and admitted. It was provided in Mr. Dampier's Bill, as it came from the Select Committee, that no partition should be made which would result in the formation of a separate estate, liable for a revenue of less than Rs. 20, unless the proprietor agreed to redeem the revenue. This provision was unanimously accepted by the Council of that time, containing as it did among its members such authorities as the Hon. the Advocate-General Sir Charles Paul and the Hon. Kristodas Pal and Maharaja Durga Charn Law. The Bill of 1875 was passed unanimously by the Bengal Council on the 8th April 1876, but it was vetoed by the Government of India on the ground that the proposal to redeem the Government revenue in the case of estates having a revenue of less than Rs. 20 was opposed to the financial interests of the country, for it was thought that if

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such redemption were allowed a time might conceivably come when all Bengal would become revenue free.

Mr. Dampier's Bill having been vetoed by the Government of India, another Bill was introduced in August of 1876, which imposed no restriction on partitions except this, that when a new estate was created with a *sadar jama* of not more than one rupee, the proprietor was bound to redeem the revenue by paying its capitalised value in a lump sum. This Bill was passed, and became the present Act VIII (B. C.) of 1876.

The point to which I would invite the attention of the Council and the inference which I think may be fairly drawn from the foregoing sketch of the history of the law on this subject, is, that the right of Government to impose restriction on what are elsewhere called perfect partitions, or in other words on the divisibility of responsibility of estates to Government for land revenue, was never questioned down to 1876, and was expressly asserted by the unanimous vote of this Council agreeing to Mr. Dampier's Bill of 1875. The object of the Act of 1876 was to shorten, simplify and cheapen the procedure for effecting partitions. The Hon. Member (Mr. Reynolds) in charge of the Bill of 1876 said in the course of the debates on it that there might be inconveniences connected with the multiplication of petty estates, but it had always been conceded that landed proprietors had a right to have their estates divided, if they chose to demand partition, and the Government did not consider that the right should be abrogated or denied to them. It may be remarked, however, that Mr. Reynolds afterwards withdrew his opinion on these points.

The question of the amendment of the law came before this Council again in 1884, when it was proposed to impose a limit of Rs. 10, below which partitions were not to be allowed to proceed. A question was then raised, for the first time, by the Hon. Mr. Urbans Sahai, of the right of Government, under the terms of the Permanent Settlement, to impose any such limit. The Bill was withdrawn partly, because it aroused a strong feeling of opposition, and partly because it was thought that the relief sought to be given by it would, to some extent, be afforded by the provisions of the Tenancy Bill, which would, it was supposed, simplify the carrying out of partition.

I now come to the present Bill. It cannot be denied that the Act of 1876 has to some degree succeeded in attaining the objects which it was designed to effect, but experience has shown it to be defective in many respects; while new light has, since the passing of the Tenancy Act, been thrown on the evils attendant on partition proceedings which were before unknown. The object of the present Bill is to apply a remedy to these defects and guard against the continuance or recurrence of the evils referred to. The Board of Revenue after consulting local officers drew the attention of Government in 1890 to the inconvenience and expense to which proprietors were subjected by partition proceedings under the present law, and reported that though they had by executive orders and various expedients endeavoured to check delays and reduce expenditure, no substantial improvement could be expected without a change in the law. The Bill is the outcome of discussions that have since taken place. One of the principal changes proposed with a view to shorten proceedings and reduce expenses is to do away with what is called the "general arrangement" as a distinct stage. The retention of the general arrangement has only the effect of multiplying objections and appeals, thus delaying the proceedings.

Another defect in the present law is that it allows objections and appeals at all stages which not only cause much delay, but swell the costs enormously. It is proposed to remedy this defect by concentrating at one stage objections and appeals which can be taken up at that stage without detriment to the parties while the costs will thereby be much reduced. Another defect in the present law is that it provides no adequate procedure for carrying out measurements and ascertaining the amount of the existing rents or assets on which the partitions are to be based. The result is that *amins dawdle* over these measurements for years, fomenting disputes in the villages, thus increasing the expenses.

It is proposed to apply a remedy to this defect by providing that if a previous survey has been made, or the parties themselves file measurement papers, admitted to be correct, the Deputy Collector may, after testing their correctness, accept them as the basis of partition without a fresh survey, and that where a survey is necessary, it shall be made and a record of existing rents and rights prepared, under proper supervision and control at a moderate expense and with sufficient legal sanction. It is not proposed to empower the Deputy Collector to alter existing rents. The main object of the Bill is then to afford relief to the proprietors in these ways, but the opportunity has been taken to effect improvements in the law in other respects which will, it is hoped, be beneficial to their tenants also and to the general tax-payer.

I cannot explain its objects and reasons without trespassing to an intolerable length on the time of the Council rather than by reading, with the permission of His Honour the President extracts from the Statement of Objects and Reasons. They run thus:—

"The primary and chief object of this Bill is to simplify, cheapen and shorten the procedure for effecting partitions of estates in Bengal. The present law for the partition of estates, which is contained in the Partition Act, VIII (B. C.) of 1876, has been found by experience to be defective, in that it allows excessive and unnecessary opportunities for making objections and delays at almost every stage of the proceedings. Parties who wish to obstruct the partition take advantage of these opportunities to such an extent that partition proceedings are protracted to an intolerable length, and are excessively expensive and harassing to the proprietor applicants, who, when entitled to partitions, should have the means of getting them effected within a reasonable limit of time and at a moderate expenditure.

The protraction of partition proceedings is also a source of irritation, harassment, and injury to the tenants of estates under partition; for, though under the present law the tenants are not bound by anything entered in the partition papers, it has been found, as a fact, that partition proceedings have been abused for the purpose of effecting illegal and inequitable enhancements of rent. The Bill aims at applying a remedy to these evils—(1) by defining and limiting the stages of the proceedings at which objections and appeals may be made, without, at the same time, taking away or curtailing the right itself to make objections or urge appeals at the proper time; (2) by providing for the making of a survey and the preparation of a record of rights and existing rents unless a previous measurement has been made, or the proprietors themselves file measurement papers admitted to be correct, so that there may be an authoritative finding on the assets on which the partition is to be based and that all parties concerned, including the tenants, may have an opportunity of knowing what is being recorded relating to them and of urging objections if they have any.

The delay, expense, and harassment caused by partition proceedings under the present law, and consequent necessity for amending the law, are illustrated by the following facts:—The average duration of these proceedings at present is not less than 3½ years, and there are some cases which were instituted more than 20 years ago (*i. e.*, before the present Act was passed), but up to date are not completed. The average cost of partition proceedings under the present law is about 8 annas an acre, and in some districts the expenditure has amounted to from Re 1 to Re. 1-7 per acre.

The injury that is done to tenants under the present law is illustrated by the facts that some estates in Bihar in which a survey was made, a record of rights prepared, and authoritative rentals recorded under Chapter X of the Tenancy Act in 1886, came under partition a few years later; that rents were recorded by the Partition Deputy Collector in the partition proceedings according to the statements of the proprietors, behind the backs of the tenants, and that the rents so recorded were two to three times the true rents entered in the settlement record of 1886. What occurred in the estates referred to, where the facts were susceptible of ascertainment, is what is believed to occur also in other estates under partition where there are no means of knowing what the real rental is. It is true that rents recorded in the partition proceedings did not in law bind the tenants, but it is known as a fact that the entry of exaggerated and fictitious rentals, in this way, in partition proceedings, behind the tenants, has in some cases been accepted by the tenants themselves out of court, as imposing on them liability to pay such fictitious rents, and in others, that the separate proprietors immediately after partition proceeded to enhance rents illegally. The result is that there is no more fertile source of arbitrary and illegal enhancements of rent in Bihar than petty partitions as now conducted. The Bill seeks to remedy this evil by providing for an authoritative record of existing rents and rights, save when the landlords file measurement papers admitted to be correct, and also by providing them that the rents as stated by them in such measurement papers shall be explained to, and their correctness attested in presence of, the tenants.

A secondary, but still very important, object of this Bill is to impose some limit on the endless divisibility of responsibility for land revenue to the State allowed under the present law.

Under the law as it stands, the only restriction on the creation of petty estates is that contained in section 11 of Act VIII (B. C.) of 1876, which directs that no partition shall be carried out if the separate estate of any of the proprietors would be liable for an annual revenue of not more than one rupee until the proprietor of that separate estate agrees to redeem the revenue assessed upon it. The result is that the multiplication of petty estates entered in the Collector's registers has in some districts gone on to such an extent that it is believed to be likely to become dangerous to the security of public revenue. In the Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga districts the number of separate estates borne on the Collector's revenue-roll increased from 5,186 in 1850-51 to 13,432 in 1871-72, and in 1892-93 was no less than 30,477, the increase thus being six-fold in 40 years, and this though these districts contain large zemindaries of great pro-

pristors which are not subjected to partition. In these districts, too, arbitrary and illegal enhancements of rents have, by means of partitions, been effected to an excessive degree.

This divisibility and great multiplication of estates is believed to be bad for the proprietors and bad for their tenants, besides being dangerous to the public revenue, and imposing an unnecessary amount of labour and expense on the administration, without any proportionate benefit to anybody.

It is bad for the proprietors, because it tends to foster the creation and growth of an infinite number of petty pauper landlords, who not being themselves able to cultivate the lands of their microscopically small states (since there are tenants already on the lands whom they cannot legally eject) are driven to screw up rents, and quarrel with their tenants and landlord neighbours, and thus bring discredit on their class. It moreover, involves waste of time and labour from the proprietor's point of view, as the separate management of several petty estates, must necessarily cause more trouble and expense than the joint management of the parent estate.

The unrestricted multiplication of petty estates is obviously bad for the tenants; for, apart from the inevitable tendency of the peasant landlord to be a bad landlord who from necessity must endeavour to illegally rack-rent or eject the tenants in occupation, it is also to be remembered that a tenant who according to the terms of his original tenancy had only to deal with one landlord or one representative of all the co-sharers, and to pay his rent at one place, keeping one set of accounts, may and does become, without his consent, bound, after a partition is made, to pay rent in several different places, to keep several different sets of accounts and to deal with several different landlords, each and every one of whom may sue him separately for rent, or distrain his crops, or sue him for ejectment, or do separately any act adverse to the tenant's interests authorised by law, which before partition the proprietors must have all agreed upon (under section 188 of the Tenancy Act) before any action could be taken.

It is clear for these reasons that the infinite partibility and multiplication of estates is injurious to the interests of the tenants.

Lastly, these petty partitions impose on the administration an amount of labour in effecting them and subsequent expense altogether incommensurate with any advantage accruing from them. Multiplication of estates means multiplication of boundary disputes, of disputes between landlord and tenant, more riots, more criminal cases, more civil suits, great multiplication of accounts and processes for collection of the land revenue, and greater multiplication of accounts and processes for collection of road cess and other public demands and consequently multiplication of establishments which will for all time have to be paid by the general tax-payer, and not alone by applicant proprietors.

For these reasons it is thought desirable in the interests of the proprietors, their tenants and the general public, that some restriction should be put on the partibility of estates to be borne as separate units in the Collector's revenue-rolls. The restriction proposed in section 10 of the Bill is, that partition shall be refused if the separate estate of any of the proprietors would be liable for an annual amount of land revenue not exceeding Rs. 100. The particular limit of Rs. 100 is put forward tentatively, and may be too high. Some of the facts above stated suggest the desirability of imposing an absolute prohibition on the subdivision of estates below a certain limit. But it is not thought necessary to go so far. The limit proposed only affects the separation of responsibility for payment of Government revenue, and does not affect the right of proprietors to dispose of the whole or any portion of their estates as they think fit or their right to obtain separate possession of any portion thereof. It is expressly provided that any Civil Court which has made a decree for partition or for the separate possession of a share of an undivided estate, paying revenue to Government may execute such decree, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as in the case of a revenue-free estate, but the joint and several liability of the entire estate is not thereby to be affected, unless such partition is made or separate possession given by the Collector under this Bill.

An objection that may, with some apparent show of reason, be urged against the proposals of section 10 is that, if the power of partition is withdrawn from petty proprietors, they will be placed at the mercy of their more wealthy co-sharers and neighbours, but the force of it is nullified by the facts that small co-sharers are protected by the proviso to the same section, and that they can protect themselves otherwise by opening separate accounts or by applying for the appointment of a common manager under section 93 of the Tenancy Act. Whatever risk of hardship to petty co-sharers there may be under the Bill, if there be any, it is as nothing compared to the injury to proprietors and rayyets and to the general tax-payer that is being now, and in a greater degree in the future, is likely to be, caused by the microscopic sub-division of estates.

The Bill is in the hands of Hon. Members, and statistics and papers will be circulated with it which, it is believed, will satisfy

them of the correctness of the assertions of fact made in the extracts which have been read.

Assuming the fact to be as stated, it will, I hope, be agreed that enough has been said to warrant me in asking for permission to have the Bill read in Council.

As regards the Bill itself, I may explain that the question of amending the Partition law has been under discussion for the past five years, and the Bill is the outcome of these discussions.

It was submitted by Sir Charles Elliott substantially in its present shape to the Government of India, and was approved by that Government. It may be, and no doubt is, susceptible of improvement. There is no desire to rush this Bill.

On the contrary, the object of Government in now having it introduced in Council is to permit of its being circulated, and of inviting during the next four months the criticisms and opinions of public Associations, private individuals, and Government officers.

Such criticisms will be welcomed and carefully considered, and it is hoped, when the Bill finally comes before Council after such modifications by Select Committee as opinions and criticisms may suggest, that it will be accepted by the Council as being beneficial to the proprietors themselves, their tenants and the general taxpayer.

### A CASE OF NERVOUS PROSTRATION RESULTING FROM INDIGESTION.

THEY say that misery loves company, and they have had it so often it has passed into a proverb. Yet it isn't an all-round truth. Some kinds of misery detest company. They want to be left alone. They hate to be elbowed and questioned and talked to. A wounded dog will always crawl into some retired place by itself. The instinct of badly injured men, after a battle, is the same. Aliments that are mostly *fancy*, tend to set tongues wagging. But real, genuine and dangerous diseases don't incite to speech. Crises which are big with fate usually come and go in quiet.

That is why Mrs. Scuffham had no desire for the society of even her best friends at a certain time she is going to tell us about.

"Up to April, 1881," she writes, "I never knew what it was to be ill. At that time I began to feel that something was amiss with me. I had no relish for my meals, and after eating my chest felt heavy and painful, and my heart would beat and thump as though it meant to leap out of its place. Presently I became so swollen round the waist that I was obliged to unloose my clothing, as I could not bear anything to touch that part of my body."

"Even the lightest food gave me pain; a little fish setting my heart to beating at a great rate. My feet were cold, and cold, clammy sweats would break out all over me, leaving me exhausted and worn out. At night I got no sleep to speak of, and in the morning I felt worse tired than when I went to bed. I also suffered a great deal from my feet being puffed up and sore. I could scarcely get about the house. When I went shopping I had to ride to the town and back as I could only walk a few yards."

"As time went on I lost my flesh and strength more, and gave up hope of ever recovering the precious health I had so sadly lost. I took medicines, and consulted a clever doctor at Derby who examined me and said my heart was weak. He also gave me medicines, but I got only temporary ease from them, and in a short time was as bad as before. All this time I was so nervous and depressed that I had no desire for company. On the contrary, I seemed to want to be alone with my misery. Even a knock at the door frightened me, as though I expected bad news, yet I did not really. My nerves and fancies ran away with my knowledge and judgment. Thousands of women who have suffered in this way will understand what I mean."

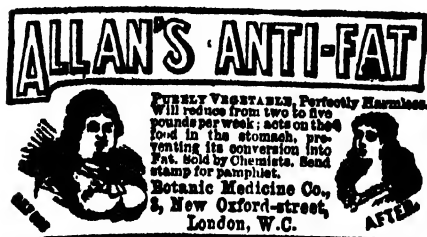
"Year after year I remained in this condition, and what I went through I cannot put in words, nor do I wish to try. It will answer the purpose to say that I existed thus for eleven and a half years, as much dead as alive. I spent pounds on pounds in physic, but was not a whit the better for any of it."

"In October, 1892, a book was left at our house, and I read in it of cases like mine being cured by Mother Seigel's Syrup. I got a bottle from Mr. Bardel, the chemist, in Normanton Street, Derby, and when I had taken this medicine for a few days, my appetite was better and I had less pain. I kept on taking it; and soon my food agreed with me and I gained strength."

"After this I never looked behind me, but steadily got stronger and stronger. When I had taken three bottles I was quite like a new woman. All the nervousness had left me, and my heart was sound as a bell. Since then I have enjoyed good health, and all who know me say my recovery is remarkable. I am confident that Mother Seigel's Syrup was the means, in the hands of Providence of saving my life; and out of gratitude, and in hope of doing good, I freely consent to the publication of this statement. (Signed) (Mrs.) Ann Scuffham, Cooper's Lane, Laceby, Grimsby, May 1st, 1895."

This letter is endorsed by Mr. William J. Tollerton, of the same town, who vouches for the truth of what Mrs. Scuffham has said, as he personally knew of the circumstances of her illness at the time they occurred. No comment can add a jot to the force of this open, candid, and sincere communication. Whoever reads it must needs be moved and convinced by it. The disease which filled this woman's life with pain and misery for nearly twelve years was indigestion or dyspepsia, an ailment sly and cunning as a snake in the grass—and as dangerous. Send for the book of which Mrs. Scuffham speaks, and read the symptoms in order that you may know what it is, and how to deal with it. The book costs you nothing, yet it would be worth buying as if every leaf were hammered gold.





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from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddan, Chief of.  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chelu, R. N. Bahadur Ananda.  
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S. E. J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H. P.  
to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.  
to Gause, Babu Nabo Kissen.  
to Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
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from Guha, Babu Saroda Kant.  
to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
from Hunter, Mr. Allan O.  
from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
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from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
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to Mallik, Mr. H. C.  
to Marston, Miss Ann.  
from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rijendralala.  
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakshinaranjan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
from Nayarathna, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.  
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to Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
to Vencataramaniyah, Mr. G.  
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

## LETTERS (&amp; TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from

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Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
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## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. B. Bingham Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Curft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his life and letters upon record.—The *Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—The *Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—The *Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1857. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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OFFICE: 1, Uchoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 722.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### MOOLTAN.

A company of Moolraj's Muzubees, or outcastes turned Sikhs, led on the mob. It was an appalling sight; and Sirdar Khan Sing begged of Mr. Agnew to be allowed to wave a sheet and sue for mercy. Weak in body from loss of blood, Agnew's heart failed him not. He replied, "The time for mercy is gone; let none be asked for. They can kill us two if they like, but we are not the last of the English; *thousands of Englishmen will come down here when we are gone, and annihilate Moolraj, and his soldiers, and his fort!*" The crowd now rushed in with horrible shouts; made Khan Sing prisoner, and pushing aside the servants with the butts of their muskets, surrounded the two wounded officers. Lieutenant Anderson, from the first, had been too much wounded even to move; and now Mr. Agnew was sitting by his beside, holding his hand, and talking in English. Doubtless, they were bidding each other farewell for time. \* \* \* Anderson was hacked to death with swords, and afterwards the two bodies were dragged outside, and slashed and insulted by the crowd, then left all night under the sky.—Major Edwardes' *Year on the Panjab Frontier*, vol. ii., p. 58.

The besieging army did not march away to other fields without performing its melancholy duty to the memory of Agnew and Anderson. The bodies of those officers were carefully—I may say affectionately—removed from the careless grave where they lay side by side; and wrapped in Cashmere shawls, (with a vain but natural desire to obliterate all traces of neglect,) were borne by the soldiers of the first Bombay Fusiliers (Anderson's own regiment) to an honoured resting-place on the summit of Moolraj's citadel. By what way borne? Through the gate where they had been first assaulted? Oh, no! through the broad and sloping breach, which had been made by the British guns in the walls of the rebellious fortress of Mooltan.—*The same*, p. 588.

Bear them gently, bear them duly up the broad and sloping breach  
Of this torn and shattered city, till their resting place they reach.

In the costly cashmeres folded, on the stronghold's topmost crown,  
In the place of foremost honour, lay these noble relics down.

Here repose, for this is meetest, ye who here breathed out your life,  
Ah! in no triumphant battle, but beneath the assassin's knife.

Hither bearing England's message, bringing England's just command,  
Under England's ægis, came ye to the chieftain of the land:

**DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED!** Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

In these streets baset and wounded, hardly borne with life away,  
Faint, and bleeding, and forsaken, in your helplessness ye lay.

But the wolves that once have tasted blood, will ravin still for more;  
From the infuriate city rises high the wild and savage roar.

Near and nearer grows the tumult of the gathering murderous crew;  
Tremble round those helpless couches an unarmed but faithful few:

"Profitless is all resistance; let us then this white flag wave,  
Ere it be too late, disdain not mercy at their hands to crave."

But to no unworthy pleading would descend that noble twain:  
"Nay, for mercy sue not; ask not what to ask from these were vain."

"We are two, betrayed and lonely; human help or hope is none;  
Yet, oh friends, be sure that England owns besides us many a son."

"They may slay us; in our places multitudes will here be found,  
Who will hurl this guilty city with its murderers to the ground."

"Yea, who stone by stone would tear it from its deep foundations strong  
Rather than to leave unpunished them that wrought this bloody wrong."

Other words they changed between them, which none else could  
understand,  
Accents of our native English, brothers grasping hand in hand.

So they died, the gallant-hearted, so from earth their spirits past;  
Uttering words of lofty comfort each to each unto the last;

And we heed, but little heeded their true spirits far away,  
All of wrong and coward outrage, heaped on the unfeeling clay.

—Lo! a few short moons have vanished, and the promised ones appear,  
England's pledged and promised thousands, England's multitudes  
are here.

Flame around the blood-stained ramparts the swift messengers of  
death.

Girdling with a fiery girdle, blasting with a fiery breath;

Ceasing not, till choked with corpses low is laid the murderers' hold,  
And in his last lair the tiger toils of righteous wrath enfold,

Well, oh well—ye have not failed them who on England's truth relied,  
Who on England's name and honour did in that dread hour confide:

Now one last dear duty render to the faithful and the brave,  
What they left of earth behind them rescuing for a worthier grave.

Oh then bear them, hosts of England, up the broad and sloping breach  
Of this torn and shattered city, till their resting place they reach.

In the costly cashmeres folded, on the ramparts' topmost crown,  
In the place of foremost honour, lay these noble relics down.

—*Fraser's Magazine*.

R. C. T.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

## WEEKLYANA.

"THE Imperial and Asiatic Quarterly Review and Oriental and Colonial Record" of the current month has the following notice of the late Dr. Rost:—

"Dr. Reinhold Rost, C.I.E., who died at Canterbury on Friday, the 2nd of February, was a distinguished member of the noble little band of German Oriental scholars who have made England their home. His life's history is briefly as follows. Born in 1822 at Eisenberg in Saxe-Altenburg, he was educated at the Grammar School of Altenburg and the University of Jena, where he graduated in 1847. In the same year he came to England to continue his Oriental Studies. In 1851 he was appointed Oriental Lecturer at St. Augustine's Missionary College, Canterbury. The duties of this appointment he continued to discharge, literally until the day of his death, which took place in that institution, whither he had gone for his usual weekly lecturing visit. In 1863 he was appointed Secretary to the Royal Asiatic Society, and in 1869 he succeeded Dr. Fitzedward Hall as Librarian of the India Office, whence he retired on pension in 1893.

Before his appointment as Oriental Lecturer at St. Augustine's College, Dr. Rost had published an essay on the Indian sources of the Earmese laws. In 1862 he published the first two volumes of his edition of Professor Horace Hayman Wilson's Selected Works, namely, Essays on the Religion of the Hindus. The three volumes of Essays on Sanskrit Literature, also edited by Dr. Rost, appeared in 1865. Dr. Rost's notes in this edition are enclosed in square brackets. They show the editor's wide acquaintance with Indian literature, and even with the subject of Folk-lore, which lies outside the path of the professional Sanskritist. In 1880 he edited two volumes of the selected papers of his friend, Mr. Brian Houghton Hodgson, entitled *Essays on Indian Subjects*. In 1886 appeared, in *Trübner's Oriental Series*, two volumes of Miscellaneous papers relating to Indo-China, reprinted for the Straits' Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. These papers were 'carefully edited' by Dr. Rost, who, to borrow the words of the Honorary Secretary of the Society 'added some useful references to modern literature giving fresh value to papers, some of which would otherwise have little beyond antiquarian interest.' Many of Dr. Rost's illustrations are borrowed from Dutch writers. The second series of these papers appeared in 1867, also in two volumes. For work of this kind Dr. Rost was specially qualified by the wide range of his linguistic knowledge. Besides being a sound Sanskrit scholar, he had made a careful study of the Pali language, as is shown by his admirable essay on the Pali Language and Literature in the XVIIth Volume of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. He had a useful knowledge of Tamil and Telugu, and was by no means out of his depth in Burmese. As he added to his knowledge of the Hindu and Buddhist languages of India, a considerable acquaintance with the Musulman languages, he easily mastered the Malay language and literature. His essay on this subject will be found in the XVth volume of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. It was reprinted in the *Journal* of the Straits' Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. From the study of the Malay language, he was naturally led on to the study of Malagasy; and it is well known that Dr. Rost took special interest in some of the languages of Africa. Besides acquiring the Swahili language, he invaded the domain of the Bantu dialects.

Dr. Rost's knowledge of alphabets, both printed and written, was extraordinary. He rendered aid in preparing the first specimens of Sanskrit manuscripts published by the Paleographical Society. This series was, if we remember aright, discontinued in 1883, for lack of support. He contributed many articles on Oriental philology to the *Athenæum*, edited *Trübner's Oriental Record*, and his series of *Simplified Grammars*, and wrote notices of books for *Luxat's Oriental List*. Nor was he a mere linguist. He was accustomed to look at the East from a wider point of view than the merely philological, as is shown by his brief account of the Thugs in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

It is, of course, to be regretted that so little of his vast learning is preserved in a conveniently accessible form for future generations. But his knowledge was at the disposal of every one that consulted him, and many a specialist is indebted to him for aid ungrudgingly rendered. In this respect he may be compared with the late Mr. Henry Bradshaw, Librarian of the University of Cambridge, of whose vast paleographical and literary knowledge no memorial remains, as far as we know. Scholars of the Rost and Bradshaw type are eminently altruistic: other men enter into their labours.

Of the discerning sympathy of Dr. Rost many Orientalists have recorded their testimony. We select by way of example the eloquent tribute paid to him by the late Mr. R. C. Childers in the commencement of his Pali Dictionary: 'These pages I dedicate to my friend Reinhold Rost, who first induced me to commence the serious study of the Pali language, and to whose encouragement and help it is due that I persevered in it under many difficulties.' These words represent in a concise form the service which Dr. Rost rendered to Oriental studies,—a service none the less valuable because wholly unobtrusive."

THE Queen's Birthday will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 20. The early date has probably been fixed in view of the grand coronation at Moscow which commences on May 22.

A COMBINED expedition from Germany and Austria will start for the South Pole. Dr. Julius Von Payer, the explorer of Franz Josef Land, has been invited to the command.

IN the number of botanic gardens Germany takes the lead with 35. Next come France and Italy with 22 each, while Russia has 14. Great Britain and Ireland 11, the Indian empire 9, the United States 5 and New Zealand 3.

THE oldest member of the House of Lords is the Earl of Mansfield, who completed his ninetyeth year in February last. He was one of Mr. Gladstone's fellow lords of the Treasury in 1834-5 and succeeded to the peerage in 1840 and was made a Knight of the Thistle three years later.

THE churchmen of England, at a meeting held on the 10th of March, at Exeterhall, Lord Halifax presiding, voted against the use of the Church and Church service for marriages of divorced persons. This is an indirect way of discouraging what is considered an evil. Why not meet it in the face?

AT the Westminster Police Court, Henry Feltham, who dubbed himself champion boxer of the Navy and instructor to the Duke of York, was, for disorderly conduct and assault on the police, sentenced, by M. Sherif, to three months' hard labour. When the order was made, the prisoner excitedly said, "Look here, Sir, this is not justice. There is none to be found in England, and if I hang or die for this, revenge will be sweet."

THE same court committed for trial Harriet Wightman, 21 years of age, on a charge of murdering her newly-born male illegitimate child. She occupied a bed room at the top of the house of her father, a retired saddler. It was charged against her that she concealed the fact that she was enceinte, and that after giving birth to a child, she threw the infant out of the window on to a stone-paved yard.

EVEN Shanghai has beaten hollow the metropolis of the British Indian Empire in the matter of electric lights. The "China Gazette" says:—

"A couple of years ago there were only about seven miles of streets lighted by electricity for which 60 arc lamps were quite sufficient, and there was not a single incandescent lamp in or around Shanghai. Now the electrical department of the Municipal Council runs 140 arc lamps, lighting some fifteen miles of streets and there are about 43 miles of line wire laid, in addition to 6,100 incandescent lamps of 8 candle power each, for domestic purposes. The customers for incandescent lighting have increased from 1 to 55 in number since the Council took charge of the department."

THE Olympian Games were to have been revived at Athens early this month, according to a declaration made two years ago in the Paris Athletic Congress. The games were instituted in the year 776 B.C., in honour of Zeus, in the plain of Olympia, a valley in Elis, Peloponnesus, Greece, and abolished by Theodosius in 394 A.D. The contests were all held in the stadium, which was so constructed that fifty thousand spectators could find a place around the arena. It was 656ft. long, 100ft. wide and there were twenty five ranges of seats. The seats, steps and all were built of stone from the Piræus and of Pentalic marble. The repairs have been finished through the munificence of a Grecian gentleman. In the revival, women will be allowed to compete according to the old Grecian custom. The games were to have begun on April 6, the day of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the proclamation of Greek Independence, continuing for five days, under the presidency of the Crown Prince of Greece, the programme comprising of 1. Running contests including jumps, wrestling, &c. 2. Shooting. 3. Nautical sports. 4. Cycling. 5. Lawn Tennis. The next contest will be in Paris in 1900.

THE discovery of the higher refracting power of the oil of cassia than that of cedar is a distinct gain to the microscopist. Dr. H. G. Piffard, of New York, recently read a paper before the New York Academy of Medicine, describing the oil in question as possessing a refractive index of 1.593. The new oil possesses a capacity of shewing to greater advantage the brilliance and sharpness of contour of the bacilli. Spores, flagellæ and other minute details are also seen with a distinctness impossible with the cedar oil. But it has its disadvantage. It, like the oil of cloves and unlike the cedar oil, tends to abstract the colour from bacilli stained with some of the aniline dyes. The absorption, however, of the colour is not so rapid as to materially interfere with the examination.



TWO-THIRDS of the letters which pass through the post offices of the world are addressed in English.

THE self-ignition of cotton waste has been made the subject of careful experiment. A quantity of the waste saturated with linseed oil and wrung out, was inclosed in a wooden-box with a thermometer. Immediately the thermometer rose from 70 degrees Centigrade to 173 degrees and the contents burst into flame.

DR. ERNICO MORSSELLI has gathered statistics connecting suicide with lunacy and divorce. Out of every million people in Germany, 61 married women, 87 young girls, 124 widows, and 348 divorcees or wives separated from their husbands commit suicide. Among men the numbers are 286 married, 298 unmarried, 984 widowers and 2,834 separated from their wives. Among a million, again, the lunatics are 143 married women, 224 girls, 338 widows, 1,540 divorcees, 140 husbands, 236 bachelors, 338 widowers, and 1,484 men living apart from their wives. These statistics may hold good for the rest of Europe but not for India, where divorces have little play. In Bengal there is, however, danger of suicide from oversensitiveness of boys and girls.

MR. KRISHNA GOVINDA GUPTA, Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, and Officiating Junior Secretary, Board of Revenue, has been allowed special leave for six months from May 2. Mr. E. H. C. Walsh, on leave, will officiate for Mr. Gupta during the period.

WATER tanks imported for a Railway Company have been exempted from the import duty.

#### NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS & THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Hon. Maurice Gifford has been rewarded for his wounds received during the fighting in Matabeleland, and raised to the Companionship of St. Michael and St. George.

In the House of Commons Mr. Chamberlain said that one battalion and a body of mounted infantry would be despatched to South Africa at the earliest possible date in order to replace the troops sent to Matabeleland. This is in accordance with the decision of the Government to make permanent increase in the garrison of Cape Colony. The military authorities, Mr. Chamberlain continued, are of opinion that the present garrison of the Cape is inadequate for the purpose of defending its dockyards and coaling stations from the enemy's attack. Mr. Chamberlain declared that Her Majesty's Government was of opinion that, except on occasions of the greatest emergency, the employment of Imperial troops for suppressing a Native rising was not suitable. The supply of men and arms for South Africa was, he said, ample, but their transport was the only difficulty the authorities had to contend with at the present moment.

The reinforcements consist of the first battalion Middlesex Regiment for the Cape, and 400 mounted infantry for Natal.

Mr. Chamberlain, in a speech made at the Constitutional Club, where he was banqueted, said that Great Britain must be paramount in South Africa, and will resist at all risks and costs any foreign interference there. It was not intended, he said, unless unexpected emergency arose, to send a large British force to South Africa as the colonists would resent the imputation that they were unable to take care of themselves in the presence of a native rising.

12,000 Matabeles, divided into five impi, now threaten Bulawayo, the garrison whereof consists of about 600 men. The total number of the defenders of Bulawayo and its neighbourhood amounts to sixteen hundred. The main body of the Matabeles is seeking to cut off communication between Bulawayo and the South and to effect a junction with the Matabeles in the Matoppo hills. Fourteen thousand Matabeles are said to be within three miles of the town. Eleven hundred friendlies have come in to assist the garrison. Dynamite mines have been laid by the garrison in the streets on the outskirts of the town, and those in command feel confident that the position can be held.

A party of scouts had two skirmishes with the Matabele in the neighbourhood of Bulawayo on the 18th, and inflicted a loss on them of fifty killed. Several sharp skirmishes close to Bulawayo took place on the 19th, in which the Matabeles lost heavily. A column of three hundred on Wednesday attacked the Matabele, four miles to the northward on the Uinguza river, when most severe fighting took place, and the British were hard pressed, but finally were repulsing the Matabele when they were ordered to return to Bulawayo.

Telegraphic communication with Bulawayo is interrupted.

It is rumoured in Cairo that the French Syndicate withdraws the action against the Caisse de La Dette and its objection to the application of the Egyptian Reserve Fund for the Dongola expedition.

It is also reported from Cairo that Omdurman is in a disturbed state owing to a quarrel among the Khalifa's bodyguard in which fifty men were killed. Osman Digna has been reinforced. It is also stated that his forces are demoralised by the losses they suffered in the recent fighting and by the want of food.

The Russian Red Cross detachment for Abyssinia proceeds via the French Colony at Jibuti on the Gulf of Tadjurah. The Massowah section returns to Russia. The Red Cross detachment has obtained the permission of the French Government to pass through Obok.

IN the Committee of Ways and Means Sir Michael Hicks-Beach said that the Government had provided for no great expenditure on military operations, and that the Chartered Company would pay for the Matabele campaign, whilst the Nile expedition was purely Egyptian, although it was possible that Great Britain would have to incur a small charge in connection therewith. The Government, he said, were determined not to repeat the folly of 1884.

THE Executive Council at Pretoria have replied to Mr. Chamberlain's despatch in a friendly tone, but it says that President Kruger cannot ask the Volksraad's permission to go to England until the basis of discussion is settled.

THE peace negotiations between King Menelik and General Baldisera are broken off.

ADVICERS from the East Coast of Africa state that the Chief M'Baruk Aziz with his followers has surrendered to Major Wissmann in the German territory.

PRINCE Ferdinand of Bulgaria who arrived at St. Petersburg on the 18th was received with much ceremony. He afterwards proceeded to the Royal Palace, where the Czar welcomed him. In Turkey, the Prince was received not like another foreign Prince, but as a *prince de ma maison*.

THE Times, in a telegram from Washington, states that the Venezuelan question remains at a dangerous stage, and that the effect of the British Bluebook is far less favourable than was expected; furthermore that the negotiations between Great Britain and America are at a standstill.

DEATHS are announced of M. Leon Say and Baron Hirsch.

REUTER'S Yokohama correspondent states that the Korean Envoy to Russia, besides raising a loan, is empowered to apply for troops to guard the palace and for advisers for Government and military instructors. Nine Russian war-ships are at Nagasaki and six others are awaited.

LI-HUNG-CHANG has arrived at Port Said, whence he proceeds direct to Odessa.

THE India Office has invited tenders up to the 28th instant for a loan of £2,400,000 at two and a half per cent. interest. The rate of issue will be 99, and the loan will be redeemable in thirty years. The loan was anticipated in the Budget statement in India in these words:

"The Secretary of State had no transactions in 1895-96, except the renewal of the £2,000,000 temporary loan as entered in his original budget estimates in 1896-97. He proposes again to renew or replace this loan when it falls due on the 11th May, 1896. His proposals also include the issue of £2,400,000 of India Stock, in order to discharge £2,000,000 of India debentures falling due in August, and £313,700 South India Railway debentures falling due in July."

A TELEGRAM to a contemporary from Simla says that all fighting with the Kafirsta tribes has ceased. The Amir is treating those who have submitted most leniently, and given the Afghan officials strict orders not to bully or try to convert the Kafirs against their will. The Amir is now enjoying better health than for some years past. He has recently accompanied his sons on a shooting party, travelling most of the way in a sedan chair. More recently he has also been for some miles inspecting a new road on Tangi Ganda defile.

THE loyal Sawbwa of Kengtung is dead.

A STUDENT of 18 in one of the Calcutta Colleges studying for the First Arts has obtained, from a trans-Atlantic University, for his "Oriental researches," an honorary degree of Master of Arts.

AT Bhowmuggur, a fire originating in a timber *latti* near the railway station, and burning for six hours, destroyed all the timber in the *latti* and about 40 neighbouring houses. The loss is estimated at about 5 lacs.

ON April 17, a storm, with heavy hail, swept over Silchar. Thatched houses were blown down and unroofed in all directions. The regimental lines suffered severely. Several corrugated iron sheds outside the lines were unroofed, and iron sheets carried over 500 yards. No deaths are reported.

HEAVY floods have damaged the bridge over the Panjkora River at Chutiata, Chitral, and swept away all bridges above Dir. The road has also been rendered impassable in some places.

WE have neither storms nor rains, but fires are plentiful in Calcutta. Since the destruction and purification caused by the conflagration at Kidderpore, fires, great and small, have kept the Fire Brigade constantly engaged. There is hardly a night in which the water works engine house opposite these premises has no night work. The panic is so great, that on one occasion the Fire Brigade rushed through the streets and the engine house worked at night, when there was no fire to extinguish. Yet cholera rages. Fires have not killed it. We want rains. How to bring them down? The *Indian Mirror* has solved the problem. It attributes the drought and cholera in Bengal to the visitation of the gods on the sinful inhabitants who have neglected the power possessed by their ancestors of bringing down rain whenever wanted. It reads "fearful signs and portents on the earth and on the sky" of worse disasters not only for Bengal but for the world generally and for India in particular. True to its present religious instinct, it has come upon a remedy—an infallible cure for droughts, cholera and what not. Perform the sacrificial *homa* is the advice of our contemporary. "This is just the time when a grand *Yajna*, according to Vedic rites should be performed in Bengal to produce heavy showers for the thirsty, and to purify us as a people." It is probably meant that the offerings ascending the sky in curls of smoke would form themselves into clouds and descend on the parched earth in showers of rain. An enterprising member of the British Indian Association had once offered Rs. 500 to bring down rain by cannonading. That surely was a more expeditious remedy if more costly. The ancient propitiating of Tippera has a way more appreciable to the vulgar. When rains are long withheld, the Maharaja is appealed to by both Hindus and Mussulmans to worship the god of rain. Priests go down the river and remain in water up to their necks, invoking the god, the whole day, day after day, till the god relents and sends down rain.

The loud reports of the *Mirror* cannot go for naught. They are sure to attract attention, and cause a dust which going up and forming a cloud may come back again in drops of water. Already, we see clouds are gathering.

It is a pity that the Calcutta Corporation passed on Thursday a motion for extraordinary powers without first trying the Mirorial sure and swift recipe for rain.

Mr. H. C. Williams, the new Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, for the first time met the Commissioners in meeting on Thursday. He thanked them for having approved his nomination by the Lieutenant-Governor; felt very much the honour they had done him and hoped

to prove himself worthy of it. Speaking of the many projects before them, he mentioned the drainage scheme, the better supply of filtered water, the further extension of the unfiltered water-supply, the building of a proper Municipal office, the repairs of the present and the erection of the new Town Hall, the improvement of Bentinck-street, the opening of the lungs of the northern part of the city, the question of incinerators for the disposal of road sweepings, the question of altering the Circular-road railway, the lighting of Harrison-road, and various other matters. While recognizing the gravity of the task, he felt sure of the support of the Commissioners in carrying out the improvements so as to make Calcutta what it should be, namely, the best city in the Empire of India. This is a highly satisfactory programme and we hope Mr. Williams will be enabled to achieve success. Of the 40 Commissioners present, we do not read that any of them responded to his call, except Mr. Apcar, who, we find, simply "welcomed the new Chairman."

On account of the death of Prince Jehan Kadr, the business of the meeting was not gone through. At the instance of the Chairman the Commissioners recorded a resolution expressing regret at that death, as that of one of their important colleagues, thus:—

"That the Commissioners have received with deep regret the sad intelligence of the death of the Hon'ble Prince Sir Jehan Kadr Meerza Mohamed Wahed Ali, Khan Bahadur, K.C.I.E., and they desire to place on record their high appreciation of his services as a Municipal Commissioner and their sorrow at his loss. His genial disposition, suavity of manners, and the keen interest he took in municipal matters earned the esteem of his colleagues, who believe it will be difficult to replace the loss sustained by them."

Several of the Commissioners, representing all sections of the community, spoke on the resolution, testifying to the gentle manners of the Prince. The Chairman also moved that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Prince's bereaved family and asked the Commissioners to adjourn the meeting, after disposing of one very urgent matter, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Prince, which was done.

The urgent matter was disposed of by the following resolution:—

"Resolved that the local Government be asked to empower the Health Officer under section 334 of Act II (B.C.) of 1888 to completely de-water, after service of notice for twenty-four hours, every tank, public or private, the water of which is used by the residents of any locality and which he has reason to think has been contaminated by infected articles of cholera patients; the power to be exercised by the Health Officer only with the sanction of the Chairman on reasons stated by him in meeting and that the local Government be asked to grant such power for two months only."

The section of the Municipal Act runs in these words:—

"In the event of Calcutta being at any time visited or threatened with an outbreak of any dangerous, epidemic or epizootic disease, the Commissioners in meeting, if they think that the ordinary precautions are insufficient to check the spread of such disease, may, with the sanction of the Local Government, take such special measures as they shall think necessary to prevent, check, or mitigate any such outbreak, and the expenses of any such measures shall be paid out of the General Fund. Such measures and any regulations passed to give effect thereto shall be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and any person wilfully neglecting or refusing to carry out, or obstructing the execution of any regulation made under this section, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 100."

The mortality from cholera as stated at the meeting is 40 a day. The Commissioners do not, therefore, hesitate to take a drastic measure and do not grudge to bear the expense ordinarily imposed on owners of tanks to keep them pure.

THE *Times of India* writes:—

"The s.s. Bullmouth, the first of a fleet of tank steamers to arrive in Bombay harbour with a full cargo of kerosine oil in bulk, consigned to the Bulk Oil Installation Company at Mody Bunder, reached this port on Monday and is now anchored in the harbour. The vessel which has on board nearly 1,400,000 gallons of Russian oil shipped at Batoum was brought alongside the newly constructed timber pier on Wednesday morning, and during the day work was started of pumping her liquid cargo from the ship's hold into the four capacious reservoirs erected on the bunder, the total capacity of which are but little short of 2,800,000 gallons. Since our last description of the works the latter have now practically been completed, the tanks having been painted white outside and protected each with a lightning conductor. The powerful pumping machinery has been placed in position and connected with the pier head, while in addition the branch railway line from the Oil Company's compound to the Dock sidings near Carnac Bridge has been nearly completed, so that within a very few days the oil should be ready for distribution among local and up-country purchasers. The arrangements for making the oil cans and filling them on the works are also complete and are up to the latest designs."

The business of kerosine oil in bulk in India is the enterprise of a Syndicate in London, Messrs. M. Samuel & Co., being the managing

ing agents in London and Messrs. Grahams & Co., of the same city, sole agents for India. Started by their corresponding firm in Calcutta, Messrs. Graham & Co. of this city, the trade is being extended rapidly throughout the Indian continent and the neighbouring island. The first storage installations were made at Budge Budge, where there are five reservoirs, one with a capacity of 2,500 tons and four each of 1,500 tons, or a total of 28,34,750 gallons; next in Madras, then in Ceylon. Bombay comes fourth, to be followed by Karachi. In Bengal, we have storage tanks at Nircaidangi (Calcutta), Patna, Rungghat, Burdwan, Rungganj, and Assensol. Tanks are under construction at Khulna and Bhagalpur. Orders have been made for Kushtea, Mignanat, and Sshebganj. Outside Bengal, tanks are being put up at Benares, Cawnpur, Agra, Allahabad, and Delhi. The first steamer *Harrow* from London with Russian oil, not in bulk but in drums, measuring 1,32,927 gallons was landed at Budge Budge on the 14th of December, 1892. The last to arrive this week is S.S. *Volute* with 17,37,972 gallons. On the 17th of February, 1893, the first oil in bulk was brought by S.S. *Turbo* from Batoum, the quantity being 16,42,902 gallons. In that year Messrs. Graham and Co. had 6 tank waggons of 10 tons each of their own to carry the oil over the railways. Sourred by the activity of Messrs. Graham, who have made a remarkable development of the trade in so short a time, the E. I. Railway are now making waggons of 14 to 15 tons. Six are working and 12 being built. The E. B. S. Railway have ordered 8, two of them are complete and are at present used in carrying drinking water on the line for their staff and employees.

Dr. Kitasato of Japan is reported to have discovered a remedy for leprosy by inoculation. He was a colleague of Dr. Haffkine in the Pasteur Institute of Paris.

WALDEMAR MORDECAI WOLFF HAFFKINE was born in 1863, in a Jewish family in South Russia. After studying in the gymnasium of Berdiansk and the University of Olessa, he got his degree of the doctor of Science at the age of 23. He then worked at the laboratory of the Natural Society of Olessa for five years. In 1888, he was assistant professor of physiology in the Geneva University and in the next year assistant to the celebrated Pasteur. It is Mr. Ernest Hart, the editor of the "British Medical Journal," who heralded him into India where he has an obliging friend in Mr. Hankin. Dr. Simpson also took him by the hand and at the municipal laboratory he commenced his operations for Calcutta. Wherever he has been, he has been a favourite, for he has an introduction from the India office.

Shortly before the appointment of Dr. Simpson as Health Officer of Calcutta, a most promising man of science and of versatile talents was a candidate for the place in the person of Dr. Von der Horcke, who had come out with letters from Dr. Koch, who himself, a year after, came out as the head of the German Cholera Commission. Some of the Commissioners, led by the late Kristodas Pal, cried down Dr. Horcke as a German spy. If that spirit still ruled in the Municipality it might be said of Dr. Simpson that he had associated himself with a Russian spy.

THE question of the separation of the judicial from the executive service, if not the judicial from the executive function in India, is as old as 1868, if not older still. At any rate, early in that year the Secretary of State for India recognized the necessity of the distinction and was anxious to make two branches of the Civil Service. He wrote:

"It is the opinion of sons that the present civil administration of India is defective in this respect; that no sufficient distinction is maintained between the classes of officers called on to fulfil functions so widely different as those of the ordinary administrative branches, and of the judicial. It has been suggested that such an alteration might be made in the system of promotion, which now obtains among Civilian, as would obviate the common occurrence of a transfer to the judicial bench of men who have had no special preparation for the performance of its duties, and are too old to commence the necessary training.

I shall be glad to have your opinion on this subject: and any proposals which you may make to obviate evils, which I find to be the subject of general complaint, will meet with my ready concurrence."

The questions formulated on the occasion were:

Whether it is expedient that a distinct judicial branch of the Civil Service should be formed, the members of which should be trained specially for the duties of the Bench, and should not look for advancement beyond the sphere of those duties?

Whether there are any difficulties in accepting the principle of such a change absolutely with regard to the Indian Civil Service?

The select officers in Bengal consulted were:—

A. Money, Esq., Officiating Member, Board of Revenue.

R. B. Chapin, Esq., Offg. Commissioner, Presidency Division.

A. R. Thomson, Esq., Offg. Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs.

Lord H. U. Browne, Offg. Commissioner, Chittagong.

W. J. Herschel, Esq., Offg. Commissioner, Burdwan.

J. Monro, Esq., Offg. Magistrate, Jessore.

H. Bell, Esq., Judge, Small Cause Court, Mootiharee.

J. P. Grant, Esq., Magistrate, Bancoora.

J. Westland, Esq., Offg. Magistrate, Nadia.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, April 25, 1896.

### HOW THE POLICE CAN MOLEST AND NOT BE MOLESTED.

CONVENIENTLY situated, Dacca is the chief city of East Bengal. It still enjoys the reputation of having been for many years the capital of this province. Long before it became the seat of Mussalman Government, the fame of Dacca had spread far and near for the produce of its looms. Dacca muslins found their way to the marts of the Levant and thence to imperial Rome. Though shorn of political glory, for this old town, no longer the residence of viceroys of Pathan and Mogal, is now the head-quarters of only a Divisional Commissioner under British rule, and though its commercial importance also has considerably abated, for it is no longer the emporium that it was of the entire trade of East Bengal, and its weaving industry in particular has, from want of encouragement, greatly decreased, Dacca is still the second town in Bengal for wealth and influence. It is the home of many bankers and merchants, some of whom are distinguished for liberality. One such Mussalman house of the day as that of Khaja Abdul Gani, whose benefactions are unrestrained by considerations of creed and colour, can create the reputation of a town. The Shahas or Roys of Hatkhola, in Calcutta, whose annual dealings in jute and rice would come up to several lakhs of rupees, and some of whom carry on extensive transactions in loans to Zamindars and Patnidars on mortgage of land, are all connected, more or less intimately, with Dacca. The commercial greatness of Calcutta, therefore, may be said to depend to a degree upon the prosperity of Dacca.

From ancient times, Dacca has been the city of shows. Costly and splendid processions are organised by the Dacca millionaires on occasions of marriages in their families and of certain national festivals. Elephants adorned with jewelled housings, and steeds richly caparisoned, are led out in numbers. Diverse ingenious constructions are made with wicker-work and coloured paper or cloth. Those processions that are paraded through the streets at night are characterised by a blaze of light. About a fortnight before the dates, thousands of sight-seers are attracted to the city from all parts of the district. Large, however, though the crowds be, their behaviour is generally peaceful. A dozen or so of constables deputed by the District Superintendent of Police, is quite capable of maintaining order. Though the population consists of both Mussalmans and Hindus, the former outnumbering the latter, and though the processions are generally issued by Hindus,

DEAFNESS. A remedy describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ear, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-trunks and similar appliances securely supplied. Address: THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

yet the oldest inhabitant of Dacca cannot remember any *fracas* between Hindus and Mussalmans on such occasions. They have a local word for these processions, *viz.*, *Micchil*, evidently of Urdu origin. Mussalman Zamindars freely lend their elephants and steeds to the Hindus, and *vice versa*. The adoption of the Urdu word by the Hindus points to the fact of there being a perfectly good understanding between the two communities.

Our object in describing these details is to draw public attention to the untoward results of a *Micchil* that took place in March last. With as few comments as possible of our own, we shall try to give a simple narrative of what happened. Among the old families of Dacca may be numbered that of the Bysakhs of Lalchand Mokin's Street which branches off from the broad Nawabpore Road. The present heads of the family are Babus Priya Nath Bysakh and Dharani Nath Bysakh. The month of March corresponds with Phalguna of the Hindu calendar. As a rule, in consequence of the auspiciousness of Phalguna, more marriages take place in that month than at any other time. The cousins Priya Nath and Dharani Nath had each a son to marry. The 7th of March was fixed as the day for celebrating the nuptials of both the youths. The brides were girls belonging to two respectable families of Dacca. A grand procession issued from the residential house of the Bysakhs and accompanied the two bridegrooms who took the same way and reached the houses of the brides one after another.

The *Micchil* proved a success. The usual license had been applied for and granted. The discharging of fire-works along the way having been forbidden, the Bysakhs took care that nothing of the kind might happen. The crowd that had collected to witness the show was very great but everything went off as peacefully as possible. The weddings were over. The brides were brought to the house of the Bysakhs. The 11th of March was fixed for the second procession, *viz.*, that which is generally got up for escorting both bridegroom and bride from the latter's to the former's house. As, however, the brides had already been brought to the house of their husbands, the second procession was more a matter of form than otherwise. It started from the house of the Bysakhs, and having made a tour of some of well known streets of the town returned to the same point. It was a mile long, and consisted of carriages, steeds, dozens of silver and gilt chairs and *chowkis*, flags and banners, incense, music, &c. The cost of the articles exhibited would come up to more than a lakh of rupees. The bridegrooms and the brides were borne on costly silver chairs, accompanied by their relatives and a large number of invited gentlemen. The number of men who walked in the procession, together with the sight-seers, came up, at a rough calculation, to about twenty thousand. The usual license had been taken out. In it were laid down the names of the streets through which the procession was to pass. The time fixed was from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. There was nothing in the license to show that it was the intention of the Police to forbid the playing of music at any point along the route. Ten constables, with one Head constable, were told off for preserving order.

The procession started at the hour fixed. The Cutchery buildings on the Nawabpore Sadler Road were reached in about fifteen minutes. The van and centre of the procession, with music playing, passed off unmolested. The work of the Courts was sus-

pending. Suitors and Vakils and Muktears, and ministerial officers, and all the judicial and executive officers, including the District Judge, came out to witness the sight. There were abundant evidence that no one was annoyed or felt any wish to stop the music. A very small part of the long line had to still pass the Cutchery buildings. It was absolutely the rearmost section of the procession. The two bridegrooms, on the same costly silver *chowki* adorned with many precious things, were there. Babu Priya Nath Bysakh, with his relatives and a select party of gentlemen, walked by the side of this *chowki*. A small band of musicians played here. As this portion of the long train came up in front of the premises in which the Magistrate held his court, a number of Police men came up to Babu Priya Nath and said that the music should be stopped. He replied that he had permission for the music, and that his license contained no interdiction. The Police rejoined, that the music must be stopped, for they would, on no condition, permit it there. They then enquired under whose orders was the music being played. When informed by the Babu that the order had been given by the Magistrate himself and the District Superintendent of Police, the men were heard to say that they would not recognise the order. Most inconsistently, however, with their profession, they asked for the production of the license. Babu Priya Nath failed to produce it, as it had been made over to the constables who had gone ahead. Then the Inspector ordered the men to arrest Babu Priya Nath. What followed had better be described in the Babu's own words. "Directly the order was given, the Head-constable, Harendra, caught me by the neck and Sub-Inspector Sarat Babu caught my left hand and said—'I arrest you'—and began to drag me. Then all the Policemen pushed me along to the northern steps of the Fouzdari Cutchery. At the time they abused me and beat me. Here my younger brother, Pramatha Nath Bysakh, came up and begged the Inspector to let me off and told him that I was his elder brother. Thereupon I was let off. My coat was torn in the course of these proceedings. I produce the coat. I felt pain in consequence of the beating. I have suffered much mental pain and also suffered in the estimation of society. I am a Mahajan and Zamindar."

Smarting under the wounds inflicted on both his body and mind, Babu Priya Nath filed the next day, *viz.*, the 12th of March, a complaint against the Police in the court of the District Magistrate. The deposition was recorded on the 13th by the Deputy Magistrate in charge, who promised to pass orders the next day. Before, however, recording the deposition, the Deputy Magistrate had sent for the Police register for satisfying himself as to whether there was any interdiction of music. The procedure with regard to licenses at Dacca is rather curious. The District Superintendent makes the order, fixing the hours and routes and laying down such conditions as seem meet to him. A copy of this order is then made over to a Head-constable who, with a number of constables, is told off to see that the order with respect to time and routes and other conditions is duly carried out. The parties, therefore, are obliged to call for a production of either this copy or the original register for showing what the precise orders are. In the present case, the original register showed that there was no inter-



diction about music on any part of the route the procession was to take.

As soon as the deposition was recorded, the District Superintendent of Police roused himself. He addressed a letter to the District Magistrate under date the 13th of March. It is a curious farrago of statements of fact and argument. India is, probably, the only country where such an effusion can be quietly received by a judicial officer, in course of a judicial proceeding, from an official representing one of the parties in a criminal cause. The letter stated that in arresting Babu Priya Nath and seeking to drag him by force for producing him before the District Superintendent, the Police were acting within their rights in controlling and regulating the conduct of the procession in the streets, that Babu Priya Nath having refused to obey the behest about the stopping of music, the Police were obliged to arrest him under the orders given them by the District Superintendent himself. The letter concludes with a characteristic statement: "I do not consider that the attempt to produce the man before me in order that I might find out why he would not carry out the orders was illegal." So, it was only to find out why a man disobeys an order, verbally communicated to him in supersession of a previous order given to him or his men, it is necessary, in the judgment of this sapient Superintendent of Police, to apprehend him and drag him forcibly from the place where he is apprehended to the presence of the Superintendent. Clever as this defence is of the arrest of a wealthy citizen enjoying the esteem of the whole district for the position he occupies in society, it is rather inconsistent with another statement made in the same letter by the august Police official. It runs to this effect: "The Inspector told me that as they refused to obey the order, he was bringing Priya Nath Bysakh to me when his brother Pramatha Nath Bysakh came up and I said they would stop the music; so he was allowed to go." Look at the nice way in which the head of the Dacca Police takes such things. If anybody was responsible for the conduct of the procession, it was the person who had applied for the Police license and the constables who carried it for seeing it obeyed in every particular. Babu Priya Nath was not the applicant. The District Superintendent, annoyed at something that he had not forbidden while permitting the procession, asks his myrmidons to apprehend Babu Priya Nath, not for bringing about a stoppage of the music, for we have his own words before us, but only for production of the man before him with a view to ascertain why he was disobeying orders. This *why* Babu Priya Nath had repeatedly informed the Police of. That would not do. They had orders to seize and drag him to the Superintendent so that he might repeat it once more in the awe-inspiring presence. While being dragged, another man comes up and says that the music would not go on. Forthwith the arrested individual is set free. The necessity of ascertaining the why of his disobedience ceases as soon as another man appears on the scene and says that he, at any rate, would not disobey orders! The District Superintendent's letter concluded with a request for the transfer of the case from the Deputy Magistrate's file to that of the District Magistrate himself, or to that of a European officer. The ground urged was that an important principle was involved as to the powers of the Police in controlling and regulating processions in the city.

The Magistrate was too good to refuse such a simple request. Bracton and Lyttleton and Coke, if not Grotius and Puffendorf and Vattel, would be cited by both sides in course of the arguments. He asked the complainant's pleaders as to whether they had any objection to the transfer of the case. It was a delicate question, if not to ask, at least to answer. They returned the only answer which, as men of experience, they possibly could. They had no objection to the Magistrate trying the case.

About 9 witnesses were examined. Of these, 8 were Government servants, such as mohurrirs and clerks. One of them was the Assistant-Magistrate, and one a Deputy Magistrate. The fact of arrest was deposed to by all. Some spoke of the violence done to the complainant. The one fact which the Magistrate succeeded in eliciting from some of the witnesses was that it is not customary for processions to pass the Cutchery buildings with music playing. This was enough. The complainant's pleaders desired to call other witnesses, that is, gentlemen unconnected with the Government, and prayed for time. The Magistrate did not allow this. The pleaders for the complainant were not even allowed to address the Court. The Magistrate once went to his private chamber. What passed there is not known. He came out and at once gave judgment, dismissing the case. The judgment is a strange document. It should be produced *in extenso*. It offers the best evidence regarding the judicial abilities of Mr. L. P. Shirres, for that is the name of the Dacca Daniel.

"I have examined the witnesses summoned on behalf of the prosecution whom the complainant's pleaders wished to examine. They have to-day applied to send for more witnesses, but I see no reason to grant that petition.

It is proved that music is never allowed to be played by the processions when passing the Cutcheries; and the necessity of this rule will be obvious when it is considered that there were about 150 processions on the day in question. The order passed by the District Superintendent on the petition did not especially prohibit the playing of music there, but the directions to the Police were not to allow music in the forbidden places. The complainant's procession, however, continued to play music passing the cutcheries, but the Police ordered it to stop. Some one in the procession ordered the music to continue (it is said this order was given by complainant but there is no proof of that in the record). Thereupon the Police arrested the complainant. Complainant would not submit, and force had to be used. It is not proved, however, and does not appear to have been the case, that any unnecessary force was used. Only one witness of the prosecution deposes to the Police having beaten the complainant, and the other witness, who must have seen it if it had taken place, makes no mention of it. It is possible that if complainant were sent up as an accused under the Police Act he might get off on the plea that the playing of music at the place in question was not specifically prohibited in the order on his petition; but he certainly has no ground for bringing a complaint, the Police men only doing their duty, and the complaint against them appears to be frivolous because based on no substantial ground whatsoever, and vexatious because it has been brought with no hope of obtaining a conviction but merely in order to harass the Police.

As, however, the accused have not been sent for,

I cannot award compensation. The complaint is dismissed under Section 203, C. C. P."

We reserve comments on this miserable document which Mr. Shirres hoped would do duty for the judgment of a court of justice on the complaint of a substantial subject of Her Majesty for restraint of personal liberty, assault, and loss of honour. Could such a judgment be possible if judicial and executive functions had been separate in India?

### Letter to the Editor.

RAGHUNATH SIROMANI.

SIR,—Your article (*R & R*, Mar. 28) on Raghunath Siromani has been read by me with delight and interest. A few more particulars regarding Vasudeva Sarvabhauma would have been welcome. Permit me to point out a little inaccuracy. After Raghunath's return to Nadia, old Vasudeva retired, not to Benares but to Pooree or Purushatam. It was there that Vasudeva met Chaitanya and his followers. Chaitanya had at one time been a pupil of Vasudeva. At Pooree a religious discussion took place between Vasudeva and his quondam pupil. Chaitanya succeeded in convincing his former preceptor of the truth of the religion of Bhakti or Devotion he preached. It is said that Chaitanya put forth two additional arms and became actually *Chaturbhuja* or four-armed (Vishnu) for showing his particular good will to Vasudeva. The latter wrote several works on the Vaishnava religion. After his death these were despatched from Pooree on a cart bound for Navadwip. The roads were then infested by robbers. It was at Vishnupore that the contents of the cart were robbed in the belief that they were valuable. The robbers, to their great disappointment, found that instead of gold and silver there were only manuscripts on palm leaves. These afterwards found their way to the family of a Vishnupore magnate. Some of the disciples of Vasudeva, upon hearing of this, proceeded from Nadia to Vishnupore for recovering their master's latest writings. It is said that success did not attend their efforts.

The books that Vasudeva reproduced from memory were the *Karika* or aphorisms of the *Kusumanjali*, and the four volumes of Gangeshopadhaya, known as the *Chintamani*. It is questionable whether before Vasudeva set himself up as a teacher of Naya in Nadia, there had been any preceptor to teach that branch of Sanskrit philosophy in Nadia. It is probable that the *Gautama Sūtras* were known and taught in that place. The treatises, however, that were composed by Udayanacharya, by Gangeshopadhaya, and by Bardhamanopadhaya, could not be available to the Nadia professors. The preceptors of Naya in Mithila guarded these works with jealous care. These great logicians had developed the system of Gautama along new lines.

The real name of Pakshadhara Misra was Jayadeva Misra. There are two explanations given for the change of name. One is that Jayadeva had become a master of Naya while yet in his teens. One day while teaching his pupils, a bird dropped from a tree. The learned Jayadeva ran, from childish habit, to catch the bird. He came, from this incident, to be called by the name of Pakshadhara or bird-catcher. The other is that Jayadeva became so skilful a dialectical reasoner that no one could argue with him. If he adopted a *paksha* or side (proposition), there was no one to dislodge him from it. Both the etymologies seem to be fanciful. They rest on no better evidence than tradition.

BHARGAVA.

Calcutta,  
March 30, 1896.

DR. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

*An Indian Journalist: Being the Life, Letters, and Correspondence of Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee.* By F. H. Skrine, I.C.S. Calcutta: Thacker, Spink & Co. 1895.

*Travels and Voyages between Calcutta and Independent Tipperah.* By Sambhu C. Mookerjee. Calcutta: *Reis & Rayyet* Office. 1887.

Down to comparatively a short time ago, a work like 'An Indian Journalist' would have been markedly exceptional. A noteworthy proof is afforded, by it, of the change which, within the last two generations, English education has effected in India, and more especially in Bengal. By acquiring a knowledge of the English language and literature, the native has, in many cases, become capacitated to understand the rule under which he lives, and the motives and policy of the far-off kingdom which ultimately determines and shapes that rule. By means of that acquisition he has also qualified himself, not infrequently, for intelligent personal intercourse with those to whom his interests are immediately intrusted; an advantage, equally to himself and to them, of

incalculable value. Enabled, consequently, much as if he were an Englishman, to discuss the measures of the Indian Government, and wisely left free to do so, and also to arraign them within legitimate limits, he has now come to figure as a political critic and counsellor, and one with whose deliverances his alien legislators do well to reckon.

As a representative of his fellow-countrymen, rarely has any one hitherto appeared for whom can be claimed a rivalry with the esteem which was the due of the late Dr. Mookerjee, and which was explicitly accorded to his manifold merits. Highly appreciated as he was by those for whose behoof he spent himself in labouring, it was his condign good fortune to win the regard of the leading British authorities in India, and no less that of the numerous persons of distinction, outside his fatherland, to whom, as a letter-writer, he addressed himself. Nor, towards gaining this regard, was he ever known to hate a jot of the sturdiest independence. Yet, at the same time that he thus respected himself, a sense of justice invariably prompted him to treat with befitting respect the opinions of others, even if they were his most virulent antagonists. A spirit of reasoned and reasonable conciliatoriness, while he could not but perceive that, to a patriot, it was the dictate of expedience, seems to have been, with him, a second nature.

After considerable practice as a miscellaneous essayist, Dr. Mookerjee, in 1882, founded, at Calcutta, a weekly newspaper, in English throughout, though bearing the Arabico-Persian or Hindustani title of *Reis & Rayyet*, which may be rendered, not inadequately, "Sovereign and Subjects" or "Prince and People." Chiefly by this, and by his correspondence, he has, without question, merited lasting and honourable remembrance. In Bengal this is assured to him; and his broad-minded and discerning biographer was certainly justified in his forecast, that, on the presentation of facts, it would be widely shared by those to whom his character and literary achievements had previously been unknown. As depicted, after long acquaintance, by Mr. Skrine, he was a man to challenge all but unqualified admiration, as for his sterling integrity, disinterestedness, and genial disposition, so for his ability and untiring energy. Many of these traits are abundantly evidenced, or else suggested, by the letters which are appended to the interesting memoir of his career, unfortunately a somewhat brief one, which terminated, in his fifty-fifth year, in February, 1894. This influential journal which he established, it is gratifying to be able to say, has been conducted, since his lamented death, in a manner redounding conspicuously to the credit of his successors.

The volume of travels named in our heading could have emanated from none but an acute and well-informed observer. The region of Bengal with which it has to do is one regarding which, in the main, hardly anything but dry statistics and the like has heretofore been accessible. Little appears to have escaped the notice of the author, in the course of his peregrinations, with respect to either the peculiarities of the people with whom he came into contact, or the geographical features, natural productions, and antiquities of the territories which he visited. He has, indeed, set in his pages an example which other Hindus would do wisely to copy. That he occasionally had experience of gratuitous discourtesy was only to be expected at the hands of such as those who debased themselves by it. To quote the words of Colebrooke, the illustrious Orientalist: "It is not to be dissembled, that the European, that the descendant of the Gothic race, that the white man, and, above all, the Englishman, is full of prejudices, and governed, in his intercourse with men of other nations and other complexions, by a repulsive dislike of strangers, an unjust contempt and deep aversion, amounting, in an illiberal mind, to a contemptuous hatred of men of dark hue. The conduct of the lower British, in their dealings with men of colour, in either of the Indies, is but too often influenced by such feelings." To a deplorable degree, however, till very recently, not merely the lower British has Colebrooke's censure been applicable. That the indications are now steadily becoming more and more numerous and obvious of a much kindlier attitude than of old to the people of India, on the part of the English functionaries dwelling among them, is a circumstance of auspicious omen to both parties indifferently.—*The Nation* (New York), Mar. 12, 1896.

### DIFFICULTIES OF DISTRICT OFFICERS IN INDIA.

BY COL. H. C. E. WARD, C.I.E.

Mr. Seton Karr's article in the *National Review* for October 1895, opens up a field for discussion that will, I have no doubt, be taken up with vigour by many of those young Indians, who are deeply impressed with a sense of their own capabilities and of their power to hold with success every appointment in India.

I think, however, that most men who have had any large experience of administration in the East will agree with Mr. Seton Karr in his view that it is absolutely necessary for the safety of English Rule in India, that for many years to come we

should not put into the hands of any class of our Indian subjects, the entire administrative charge of any important district. For the convenience of the English reader it may be well to explain that our administrative system in India is based on a division of the country into areas, varying both in mileage and population, called districts. Each of these districts is in charge of an English officer who is variously called Magistrate and Collector in the North-Western Provinces, Bengal Madras, and Bombay, and Deputy Commissioner in the Punjab, Central Provinces, Oudh, and elsewhere. This Officer combines in himself the whole of the judicial and executive administration of the district in his charge: he is in fact the responsible unit to whom the Government looks both for the well-being and the proper management of the populations within his territorial limits. To assist him in this work, he is given a staff of Assistants varying in number according to the size and importance of the district, and a District Superintendent of Police. Four or five of these districts make up a Division, the officer in charge of which is subordinate to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Chief Commissioner of the Province.

Obviously it is of the greatest importance that the officers in charge of these district-units should be men both of administrative ability and of strength of character, for on them practically depend the welfare of the population and the peace of the country. This is seen the more clearly when we look at the constituent parts of which this population is composed: there is no large town where one does not find both Hindus and Mussalmans, the former subdivided into a large variety of castes, each with interests of its own, and conflicting with those of their neighbours. The advance of education has, if anything, increased the antagonism between classes; for the inferior castes will no longer allow themselves to be ridden over rough-shod, but are imbibing larger ideas of equality than they were ever allowed under any regime other than the English. To hold the scales of justice perfectly evenly between all these conflicting elements requires an absolute freedom from all bias, a thorough knowledge of the manners and customs of the different people concerned and a scrupulous adherence to justice on the part of responsible officer:—and where will one find those qualities among natives of India? Admit that there is no lack of distinguished ability and integrity among our native subordinates, they themselves will be the first to confess that it is almost impossible for them to be entirely disinterested. The pressure put on them by their many relatives and dependents can hardly fail to influence their choice in the selection of men for appointments, whereas the Englishman's choice is, as a rule, in favour of the man most likely to do best in the post. I do not for a moment say that favouritism does not exist, but only that the Englishman's main object is to have the work well done, that with this view he selects the man he thinks likely to do best, and that he is not troubled with the importunities of poor relatives and friends which weigh very heavily on the Indian. A Mussalman friend of mine, who had risen high in the service and was deservedly distinguished both for intelligence and integrity, told me once that the greatest difficulties of his position had come from the impossible demands of his own relations.

Where a Mussalman officer is in charge of a Hindu district, however just his selection of men may be, he will never be credited with disinterestedness; and the same thing applies to the reverse of the picture,—the Hindu in charge of a Mahomedan district. Mr. R. Kipling's skit on the Bengali Deputy Commissioner of a frontier district, though highly coloured, is exceedingly true, and I doubt whether this phase of administration is yet within the range of practical policies. In all my experience I have never come across the Hindu capable of managing successfully a Mussalman district, though the converse does not necessarily follow.

Agreeing as I do with Mr. Seton Karr, I would gladly see the Government of India do more to strengthen the hands of their Deputy Commissioners.\* These are the men on whom the brunt of all administrative or executive difficulties falls; and to them we look to see that the peace of the district is not broken. There may be the bitterest strife in secret between the Hindus and Mussulmans: the Deputy Commissioner is responsible that this bitterness should not come to a head or culminate in a riot, say, at any of the numerous festivals of either side. Famine is imminent; the Deputy Commissioner is responsible that such arrangements for the supply of food to the starving are made as will ensure no loss of life. Crops fail; but the Land Revenue demand of the Government has to be got in, whether or no:—and all these bricks have to be made often without straw or with only half the quantity required.

Perhaps the D.C.'s greatest difficulty is that of keeping the peace

\* The designation of "Deputy Commissioner" is used preferentially as the remarks specially apply to Non-Regulation Provinces, but they are applicable to Executive District Officers throughout India generally.

in these days of religious antagonism between Hindu and Mussalman. Why this feeling of antagonism should have become so accentuated of late years is not easy to explain. We have to go back a long way—to the time, in fact, when the Mahomedan was the practical ruler over the greater part of India, and the Hindus were altogether under subjection; and were kept in that subjection by a high hand, and no Hindu ever dreamed of doing aught that could in any way be construed into an insult, either to the Mahomedan religion or to the personnel of the ruling race. The Hindu passed a Mussalman Mosque in silence and never used musical instruments within a certain distance on either side of the Mahomedan place of worship. We need not go far for an example: one can see the same practice even now in the streets of Bhopal or Haiderabad in the Deccan, where there have been none of these outbursts of fanaticism which have unfortunately become too common in recent years in British India. Jealousy between the two creeds has much to answer for: the Mussalman has been left far behind in the educational race by the Hindu, as, for years, he was too conservative to give up his own system of teaching, although he saw the young Hindu ever outstripping the young Mahomedan in all examinations and gradually ousting him from Government employment. Ever since the blessing (?) of competitive examinations was introduced into India, the former dominant race has been losing its position, until now in many Government offices it is a rarity to find a Mahomedan employe. It has been a part of our system to treat all our Indian subjects with perfect equality,—to allow to all the same religious freedom,—and to permit no interference with the religious observances of either side. Very naturally the race that has been so many years in subordination,—seeing itself now ousting its old masters from positions in our Courts that used to be theirs almost by prescriptive right, taking up the work of pleaders and advocates that formerly to a Hindu was not within the "scope of practical politics," aspiring to the highest judicial appointments in the land and holding them, too, with credit,—has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived to give up all semblance of subservience as well as those old-world customs which may seem to show that the Hindu is, in any way, the inferior of his former ruler, the Mussalman.

A racial change of this description can hardly be effected without great disturbance, and this disturbance has been increased by the not unnatural arrogance and pride of place of the Hindu on finding himself practically obtaining a monopoly of the power which was formerly the birthright of the Mahomedan. Various other circumstances have increased the feeling; that curious assembly of Bengali pleaders and other Hindus, which calls itself by the magniloquent name of the "Indian National Congress,"—but which has no more right to be termed "National" than the assembly of Irish Carpet-baggers who have also adopted the term—added considerably to the bad feeling; for no Mahomedan of any standing or position, would have a word to say to this "National Congress," in spite of the support some of its members received from one of India's Viceroys.

The Home Rule institutions introduced by Lord Ripon have not improved the position in those places where the Hindus are numerically stronger than the Mussalmans; for the latter have few representatives on the District and Town Councils, and those few are out-voted on every important occasion.

All these matters have to be taken into consideration when speaking of the present bitterness of feeling between Hindus and Mussulmans; and to enable District Officers to cope satisfactorily with emergencies which are constantly arising out of this feeling, they require to have their hands strengthened by legislation. It may be urged that under the existing laws—the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code—large discretionary powers have already been conferred on District Officers; but these are hedged about with so many precautions and every order is open to so many appeals, that it sometimes happens that the best intentions of the officer on the spot are frustrated by the equally good intentions of an Appellate Court at a distance. As an illustration of my meaning I will give a case in point.

In 1889, '90 and '91, I was Commissioner of the Nerbada Division,—one of the five districts composing that division being Nimar in which is the large town of Burhanpur with a population of some 3,000, one-third Mussulmans, two-thirds Hindus. It happened that in two of the three years, the Hindu festival of the Dusehra coincided with the Mahomedan Moharram. The sentiments naturally aroused during the celebration of these special feasts are very apt to excite men's minds and make them more inclined to bigotry than usual. Rumour was rife that disturbances were certain to occur when the processions of the two religious parties met in the streets on the final day of the feast. The Deputy Commissioner consulted the head-men of both factions and arranged with them that selected streets should be set aside for each party; and the first year, with a certain amount of good feeling on both sides, the day passed peaceably without anything more serious than a few faction-fights between the worst-behaved followers of both sides.

The next year things looked more serious. The headmen could not agree as to the routes their processions should take,--each side claimed the right to go where they would,--the Hindus, who up to this had paid the Mahomedans the compliment of keeping silence when passing their Mosques, now urged that this was an infringement of the liberty of the subject,--they would carry their noisy music where they wished, regardless of whether they disturbed the Mussalman worshipper at his devotions or not. The Mahomedans met this threat with another, and said that as the Hindus would not have certain streets specially set apart for their processions, they, too, would carry their Tazias (representations of the tombs of Hasan and Husain) where they pleased, whether the Hindus liked it or not. The Deputy Commissioner tried argument in vain; he increased the Police force in the town but he knew that he could not lean on this broken reed, as the men felt strongly themselves; finally, seeing that a breach of the peace was imminent, he called up the head-men of both parties, and bound them over in very heavy recognizances to keep the peace for a month,--that is until the Moharram and Dusehra festivals were well over. Now this action of the Deputy Commissioner is strictly within his right, if it can be proved that a breach of the peace is imminent. This technical point is, often, one that is incapable of proof by ordinary evidence and, as a rule, has to be left to the discretion of the officer entrusted with the maintenance of order--provided always that he is fit to be trusted with such power: if he is not, the Administration ought never to have made him a Deputy Commissioner.

Petitions poured in to me, and telegrams were sent flying all over India, to the Chief Commissioner, to the Judicial Commissioner, and even to the Viceroy, by the legal representatives of the headmen who had been called on to find security. Execrations were heaped on the head of the Deputy Commissioner whose high-handedness was made the theme of many a virulent essay. The very violence of the opposition to the order was, in fact, its best justification, but this, perhaps, is not easy for an Appellate Court, sitting some hundred miles away, "to realize."

As it happened, I was a long distance off and could not reach Burhanpur for three days, during which time all the telegrams that had been scattered broadcast over India had filtered back to me "for report." Once on the spot it was soon made abundantly clear to me that the emergency was no ordinary one, and that special precautions were absolutely necessary to avoid a serious riot. I heard the legal representatives of the parties, who urged that there was no reason whatever to anticipate a riot, that the Magistrate was quite unnecessarily alarmed and that consequently his orders were altogether *ultra vires*. Finally, I admitted the appeal and fixed the date of hearing for the evening of the day after the festival, at the town of Burhanpur. Strong objection was taken to this order. I was urged to fix another date or some other place; and on my refusal, every one of the legal luminaries found it impossible to be present: other engagements would compel their absence;--they would meet me at the Railway Station three miles from the city, but not there;--would I not hear the appeal then and there? I might have done this easily and then confirmed the order appealed against; but I intentionally refused to take this course, for any such decision was open to appeal to the Judicial Commissioner, who has to be guided by a meagre written record, and has not before him the unwritten facts and the feeling of the people which guide the responsible officers on the spot. He, sitting in his easy chair at Nagpur where everything around him is peaceful, might easily take the view that the local officers were biased as they had to maintain order, were too much impressed with the heated atmosphere of the place, and had allowed their fears to interfere with their discretion; that there was no tangible evidence on the record of any likelihood of a breach of the peace; that there had been none the year before at Burhanpur and there was no reason why there should be this year;--so he would cancel the obnoxious order. To avoid a result that would have been equivalent to inviting a riot, I determined that all the chief leaders of both sects should continue to feel that a breach of the peace by any of their followers meant a heavy pecuniary loss to themselves: the consequence was that though the relations between Hindus and Mussalman were strained almost to breaking point, they did not actually break.

Now here I think, the Government of India might improve the position of affairs, so far as not to leave the question of peace or riot to hinge on the idiosyncrasy of the officer in charge of either the division or district. Some officers have an exaggerated idea of the importance of a Judicial Commissioner's censure, and do not like laying themselves open to it: others may not care to take upon themselves the responsibility of even appearing to be in antagonism to the higher judicial authorities, however great the emergency might be. It will be urged that it is very improbable that an officer in the position of a Judicial Commissioner of a large province, would intervene in an emergency of this description, but experience has shown that this argument is not sound: cases have occurred where Civil officers have worked up to the position of Judicial Commissioner through the Secretariat or some other

side-line, without having one day's experience of the administration of a district; and it is impossible for men of this class to put themselves in the position of the District Officer, on whom practically the responsibility for the safety of the country devolves.

That this should be possible is perhaps a blot on our administration; but I can answer from my own experience that it has occurred, and it may occur again, so that, in order to be safe, I would recommend the Government to strengthen the hands of the men to whom they must look for the well-being of the population.

A very little in the way of legislation is required. Rules and very distinct ones must be made for the conduct of public religious processions, and even a small infringement of these rules should be visited with punishment. This would surely be better than a repetition of the riots in Bombay and elsewhere, where the military had to be called out and peace was only restored after considerable loss of life.

These rules should, however, not be based on any narrow view of the difficulty. The position of the two conflicting parties should be carefully considered, both as it now is, and as it used to be, before we introduced the "liberty of the subject"; and neither side should be allowed to use that liberty as a weapon to irritate the other.---*The Imperial and Asiatic Quarterly Review*.

### A CASE OF NERVOUS PROSTRATION RESULTING FROM INDIGESTION.

THEY say that misery loves company, and they have had it so often it has passed into a proverb. Yet it isn't an all-round truth. Some kinds of misery detest company. They want to be left alone. They hate to be elbowed and questioned and talked to. A wounded dog will always crawl into some retired place by itself. The instinct of badly injured men, after a battle, is the same. Aliments that are *mostly fancy*, tend to set tongues wagging. But real, genuine and dangerous diseases don't incite to speech. Crises which are big with fate usually come and go in quiet.

That is why Mrs. Scuffham had no desire for the society of even her best friends at a certain time she is going to tell us about.

"Up to April, 1891," she writes, "I never knew what it was to be ill. At that time I began to feel that something was amiss with me. I had no relish for my meals, and after eating my chest felt heavy and painful, and my heart would beat and thump as though it meant to leap out of its place. Presently I became so swollen round the waist that I was obliged to unloose my clothing, as I could not bear anything to touch that part of my body.

"Even the lightest food gave me pain; a little fish setting my heart to beating at a great rate. My feet were cold, and cold, clammy sweats would break out all over me, leaving me exhausted and worn out. At night I got no sleep to speak of, and in the morning I felt worse tired than when I went to bed. I also suffered a great deal from my feet being puffed up and sore. I could scarcely get about the house. When I went shopping I had to ride to the town and back as I could only walk a few yards.

"As time went on I lost my flesh and strength more, and gave up hope of ever recovering the precious health I had so sadly lost. I took medicines, and consulted a clever doctor at Derby who examined me and said my heart was weak. He also gave me medicines, but I got only temporary ease from them, and in a short time was as bad as before. All this time I was so nervous and depressed that I had no desire for company. On the contrary, I seemed to want to be alone with my misery. Even a knock at the door frightened me, as though I expected bad news, yet I did not really. My nerves and fancies ran away with my knowledge and judgment. Thousands of women who have suffered in this way will understand what I mean.

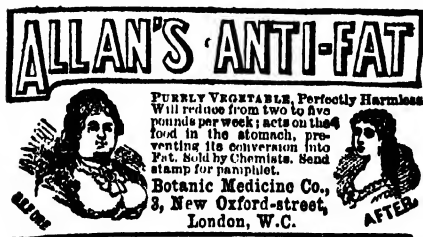
"Year after year I remained in this condition, and what I went through I cannot put in words, nor do I wish to try. It will answer the purpose to say that I existed thus for eleven and a half years, as much dead as alive. I spent pounds on pounds in physic, but was not a whit the better for any of it.

"In October, 1892, a book was left at our house, and I read in it of cases like mine being cured by Mother Seigel's Syrup. I got a bottle from Mr. Bardel, the chemist, in Normanton Street, Derby, and when I had taken this medicine for a few days, my appetite was better and I had less pain. I kept on taking it, and soon my food agreed with me and I gained strength.

"After this I never looked behind me, but steadily got stronger and stronger. When I had taken three bottles I was quite like a new woman. All the nervousness had left me, and my heart was sound as a bell. Since then I have enjoyed good health, and all who know me say my recovery is remarkable. I am confident that Mother Seigel's Syrup was the means, in the hands of Providence of saving my life; and out of gratitude, and in hope of doing good, I freely consent to the publication of this statement. (Signed) (Mrs.) Ann Scuffham, Cooper's Lane, Laceby, Grimsby, May 1st, 1895."

This letter is endorsed by Mr. William J. Tollerton, of the same town, who vouches for the truth of what Mrs. Scuffham has said, as he personally knew of the circumstances of her illness at the time they occurred. No comment can add a jot to the force of this open, candid, and sincere communication. Whosoever reads it must needs be moved and convinced by it. The disease which filled this woman's life with pain and misery for nearly twelve years was indigestion or dyspepsia, an ailment sly and cunning as a snake in the grass--and as dangerous. Send for the book of which Mrs. Scuffham speaks, and read the symptoms in order that you may know what it is, and how to deal with it. The book costs you nothing, yet it would be worth *buying* as if every leaf were hammered gold.





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These are Facts testified continually by members of all classes of society, and one of the best guarantees to the Nervous and Debilitated is, BEECHAM'S PILLS have the Largest Sale of any Patent Medicine in the world.

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## AN INDIAN JOURNALIST:

Life, Letters and Correspondence

OF

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late Editor of "Reis and Rayyet."

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(Collector of Customs, Calcutta.)

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DEDICATION (To Sir W. W. Hunter.)

HIS LIFE STORY.

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to Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chrlu, Rai Bhadrur Ananda.  
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S. E. J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
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from Hume, Mr. Allan O.  
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from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.  
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakshinranjan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
from Nayaratna, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.  
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.  
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkuta Appa.  
to Rao, the late Sri T. Madhava.  
to Rattigan, Sir William H.  
from Rosebery, Earl of.  
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.  
from Russell, Sir W. H.  
to Row, Mr. G. Symala.  
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to Sinha, Babu Brahmananda.  
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.  
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.  
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
to Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
to Vencataramaniam, Mr. G.  
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from  
Abdus Subhan, Mouvi A. K. M.  
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Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
Banerjee, Babu Manmathanath.  
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## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal Journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindu Patriot*, in its primeval days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babas, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengal journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation doing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1896

WHOLE NO. 723.

## AN OLD BALLAD OF 1566.

Give place, you ladyes all,  
unto my mistresse faire,  
For none of you, or great or small,  
can with my love compare.

If you would knowe her well,  
you shall her nowe beholde,  
If any tonge at all may tell  
ner beautie[s] manyfolde.

She is not high ne lowe,  
but just the perfect height,  
Below my head, above my hart,  
and then a wand more straight.

She is not full ne spare,  
but just as she sholde bee,  
An armfull for a god, I sweare ;  
and more—she loveth mee.

Her shape hath noe defect,  
or none that I can finde,  
Such as indeede you might expect  
from so well fornde a minde.

Her skin not blacke, ne white,  
but of a lovele hew,  
As if created for delight ;  
yet she is mortall too.

Her haire is not to [o] darke,  
no, nor I weene to [o] light ;  
It is what it sholde be ; and marke—  
it pleaseh me outright.

Her eies nor greene, nor gray,  
nor like the heavens above,  
And more of them what needes I say,  
but they looke and love ?

Her foote not short ne long,  
and what may more surprise,  
Though some, perchance, may thinke me wrong,  
't is just the fitting size.

Her hande, yea, then, her hande,  
with fingers large or fine,  
It is enough, yon understand,  
I like it—and 'tis mine.

In briefe, I am content  
to take her as she is,  
And holde that she by heaven was sent  
to make compleate my blisse.

Then ladies, all give place  
unto my mistress faire,  
For now you knowe so well her grace,  
you needes must all dispaire.

## WEEKLYANA.

WITHIN a quarter of an hour on Tuesday, March 3, Londoners experienced, says a London journal, a thunderstorm, a gale, snow, .. hail, rain, and sunshine.

NEARLY the whole of the City of Vernon, Texas, has been buried by sand-storms, the sand being swept in from the desert and literally covering up the prosperous city.

THE State of Michigan owns a place called Fish City which disappears in summer and rises up in winter. It is, again, founded on no land, nor is it built on boats. It is a city on ice. The ice of Saginaw Bay furnishes the foundation and the town is occupied by men with their families, who catch, clean and pack white-fish and lake trout for the market. It is raised in the same cove every year, the houses being constructed of rough pine boards. In 1893-94, the population numbered 3,000. Next winter, the number nearly doubled.

IN Scotland Yard Röntgen's X rays are being utilized for examination of suspected parcels, bombs, and explosives. They disclose distinctly nails, screws, cartridges and even grains of powder inclosed in cases. Picric acid and black powder are pervious to the rays, while sulphur, chlorate of potash, and fulminate are impervious. Here is an opportunity for Custom Houses to afford much relief to importers. It is said that Edison, after testing 1,800 different substances, has come upon a potential one for the X rays, believed to be tungstate of calcium in crystalline form, by which you are enabled to see with the naked eye the bones of arm and hand, and look through eight inches of solid wood.

*Tit-Bits*, a penny weekly, (No. 754 vol. XXIX, March 28, 1896) in answer to one of its correspondents, says :—

"Years ago, when the circulation of this paper, although very great, was much smaller than it is now, we offered to give the sum of £10,000, cash down, to be divided among the hospitals and charitable institutions of this country, if the circulation of *Tit-Bits* averaged for the following year half a million weekly. The circulation did not, in the time named, come up to the terms of the challenge, but we paid in proportion to the increase."

We read of many devices to push the circulation of a journal in the Indian empire, but have not yet come upon any such charity, not to say colossal.

THE same paper writes :—

"Writer's cramp seems to be most prevalent. We have received more letters from all parts of the country from sufferers from this annoying infirmity, and most of them agree that the pen-holders generally used are too thin. H. K. sends particulars of a method, which

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.*

is very simple and is claimed to be effective. Prepare a round ball of cork with a hole in the centre, through which to put the pen-holder half-way. With this arrangement the whole hand closes round it and gets a support, whereas, with common pen-holders, the fingers tightly grip the pen and the fingers are held in a bent position, which, in time, gives the cramp. Bamboo or cork holders, about one inch thick, are sometimes used."

We are afraid the cork ball holder will be an impediment to quick writing. The practical effect suggested is the economy of the movement of the fingers, or as much rest as may be devised.

\*\*

THE romantic Lady Burton has not survived her romantic husband six years. We take from an English journal the following account :

" Lady Isabel Burton, widow of the late Sir Richard Burton, died at her house in Baker Street, London, on Sunday afternoon, March 22. Lady Burton was a daughter of Mr. Henry Raymond Arundell (one of the Warden Arundells), and niece on her mother's side of the first Baron Gerard. She was but a school girl when she first met her future husband, then Captain Burton, on the ramparts at Boulogne; but from this time down to her death her whole life and thoughts were bound up with the fortunes of Sir Richard Burton. Four years later, in 1856, on his return from Mecca and Somaliland, Sir Richard proposed to her, but the marriage did not take place until 1861, owing to the opposition of her mother on religious grounds. In the meanwhile Burton had become famous by his discovery of Lake Tanganyika. Lady Burton has narrated the history of her romantic attachment in her *Life of her husband*. After her marriage, Lady Burton and her husband spent some time at Tryston, the seat of Lord Houghton; and here she met the Duc d'Aumale, Louis Blanc, and the youthful Swinburne, to whom 'Richard' used to recite 'Omar Khayyam.' Lady Burton did not accompany her husband in his Consulate on the West Coast of Africa (the occasion of his celebrated visit to Dahomey), but was with him in December 1863 at Tenerife. Here she wrote a book on *Madera and Tenerife*, which, however, her husband advised her not to publish. In 1865, largely owing to an appeal by Lady Burton to Lord Russell, Sir Richard received his second Consulate at Santos, and was accompanied thither by his wife. From this time Lady Burton was a constant companion of her husband in his travels. In 1870 she went with him to Damascus, where he held the post of British Consul for several years. These were the most eventful years of an eventful life. Disguised as a boy, she accompanied her husband in his perilous ride over the desert of Palmyra, and behaved with great coolness during the anti-Christian riots at Damascus. Later, we find her with her husband at Trieste. From this place she went to India (travelling part of the way in a Jeddah pilgrim ship); visited Bombay, the Deccan, and Goa, returning by way of Egypt. Occasionally she came to England (in 1878 and 1885), but she was never long away from her husband. When he died at Trieste, where he was Consul, in 1890, she felt that her life was practically over. She came to England, and received a pension from the Crown of 150*l.* a year. In July 1891, she entered a convent at Chelmsford, Essex, but finding life unendurable far away from Mortlake, where her husband was buried, she came to London in November of the same year. She never recovered from the blow of her husband's death, and the remaining years of her life were merely years of painful waiting relieved by the task of editing her husband's works and writing his life. In 1875 Lady Burton published '*The Inner Life of Syria*'; in 1879 '*Arabia, Egypt, and India*'; and, lastly, in 1893, a very fascinating '*Life of Sir Richard Burton*' in two volumes. She incurred a considerable amount of notoriety in connection with the burning of several of her husband's MSS. after his death—notably a translation of the '*Scented Garden*,' an exotic work by an Arabian sheikh."

\*\*

THE election expenses of Mr. John Morley, who appeared for the Montrose District of Burghs, were :—

|                                                            |     |     |     |     |    |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---|
| Returning officer's charges...                             | £   | S.  | D.  | 118 | 18 | 5 |
| Personal expenses of candidate                             | ... | ... | ... | 23  | 10 | 0 |
| Election agent and clerks                                  | ... | ... | ... | 214 | 4  | 0 |
| Printing                                                   | ... | ... | ... | 52  | 13 | 6 |
| Advertising                                                | ... | ... | ... | 40  | 8  | 7 |
| Stationery                                                 | ... | ... | ... | 10  | 3  | 7 |
| Hire of rooms for public meetings and also committee rooms | ... | ... | ... | 60  | 19 | 9 |
| Postages, telegrams and carriages                          | ... | ... | ... | 36  | 14 | 2 |
| Miscellaneous                                              | ... | ... | ... | 93  | 2  | 0 |
| Total                                                      | ... | ... | ... | 650 | 14 | 0 |

This sum does not include any law charges or the charges of a contested election.

\*\*

A *PARISIAN chroniqueur* discusses "How women walk" and of course gives the palm to his own countrywomen. According to him an English lady doesn't walk; she travels. You might almost say that her limbs were moved by the engine of a steamer, and her feet have the motion—and the proportions—of an Atlantic liner. The German is heavy, and one feels the earth tremble beneath her tread. The Spanish donna prances. *La belle Américaine* resembles the pendulum of a clock, the Italian skips, the Russian skates along, the Dutch woman rolls, and the Belgian tramps about.

THERE are many foreign students in Paris, the law placing no obstacle to their acquisition of knowledge. In India, especially in Bengal, we are taking the wrong direction. In Calcutta, the Medical College, the only institution of its kind for Bengal and the N.-W. P., is no longer to be free to all comers. Even the children of the soil must not look to it for medical instruction.

\*\*

IN Paris, out of 4,158 law students 230 are foreigners, and out of 5,445 medical students no fewer than 879 are foreigners, Russians, Roumanians, and Turks being the most numerous. There are also 71 foreign students—10 of them women—in the faculty of science, and 160 in the faculty of letters, 61 of them being women.

\*\*

A *Gazette of India* extraordinary dated Simla, Monday, April 27, announces that

"A vacancy having occurred in the office of an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor General of India, owing to the vacation of office by Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Brackenbury, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., R.A., Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, has been graciously pleased to appoint Major-General Sir Edwin Henry Hayter Collett, K.C.I.E., of the Indian Staff Corps, to be an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor General of India.

Major-General Sir Edwin Collett has, on the afternoon of this day, taken upon himself the execution of his office under the usual salute."

\*\*

IN supersession of previous notifications, the following military officers have been granted the privilege of Private Entrée at Government House :

All officers in the highest or non-classified list of the Precedence Table.

Generals (Lieutenant, Major, or Brigadier).

The Adjutant-General in India.

The Quartermaster-General in India.

The Surveyor-General of India.

The Director-General of the Indian Medical Service.

The Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in India.

Surgeons-General.

The Director-General of Ordnance in India.

The Director-General, Military Works.

The Commissary-General-in-Chief.

The Accountant-General, Military Department.

The Inspector-General of Imperial Service Troops in India.

The Officer Commanding Presidency District.

The Judge Advocate-General in India.

The Director, Army Remount Department in India.

The Principal Veterinary Officer in India.

The Inspector-General, Civil Veterinary Department.

Aides-de-Camp to the Queen.

Honorary Aides-de-Camp to the Viceroy.

Honorary Surgeons to the Viceroy.

Officers of the Viceroy's Body-Guard.

Personal Staff of the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, Punjab, and

North-Western Provinces.

Personal Staff of the Commander-in-Chief in India.

\*\*

THE choice of the non-official members of the Bombay Legislative Council has fallen on Mr. Rahimulla Muhammad Sayani, M.A., LL.B., as their nominee for the Supreme Legislative Council, and he has been accepted by the Governor-General.

\*\*

ORIGINALLY written in Urdu, Mr. Hankin's pamphlet on the prevention of cholera has reached its fourth edition. He introduces the cholera microbe in these words :—

"If the body of a man dead of cholera is examined and if a small drop of the contents of the intestines is examined with the microscope, it is seen to contain many thousands of a minute living creature, peculiar in its form and properties, and which is only to be found in connection with cholera. It is now known that this minute living being is the cause of cholera. It is called the 'cholera microbe.' Although much is now known as to how it lives and grows, it is difficult to say whether it is an animal or a plant. It can move with great rapidity through the water and therefore is like a fish. But it is different from a fish, or from any animal, in that it has no mouth. That is to say it cannot eat solid matter. Its food is first dissolved and then absorbed. It is sometimes found in well water. Then it often happens that persons using this well will get cholera. It is well known that the symptoms of cholera are like those produced by eating arsenic, so much is this the case that it has been supposed that cholera is caused by eating a poison, but the distinction between cholera and arsenic poisoning can be easily made by a doctor. It has been found that just as a snake secretes snake poison, so do the cholera microbes when in the body secrete a poison, and to this poison the symptoms of the disease are due. It is not always that the cholera microbe makes the disease; just as a cow only under certain conditions secretes milk, so only under some unknown conditions the microbes of cholera have the power of secreting their poison and of producing the disease.

The symptoms of the disease do not appear immediately after swallowing the cholera microbe. It needs some time in which to make its poison and to grow and reproduce. Then only does the



harvest of symptoms appear, in the same way as the crops do not appear till some time after the seeds have been sown. It is probable that as a rule cholera appears two or three days after the water that causes it has been swallowed."

How do the cholera microbes live and multiply?

"Their food is dirt. If they are in water in which is much dirt the cholera microbes can quickly grow and reproduce. If at this time, such water is examined under the microscope, the cholera microbes may be seen in the form of small curved rods. They are so small that if 60 of them are placed in a row end to end they make a line whose length is equal to the thickness of a hair. If one of these cholera microbes is notified carefully, it will be seen to grow longer and at length to break into two equal pieces. Each of the minute curved rods thus formed is a cholera microbe. Each again grows longer and in about half an hour will, in turn, break in two and again two daughter microbes will be produced from each individual. Thus it may be understood how these minute creatures, though they have no sexes, neither do they lay eggs, are able to reproduce with great rapidity. If a trace of the cholera microbe is put into suitable water, that is to say water containing dirt, the microbe may reproduce with such fertility that on the following morning the liquid is turbid because in every drop are many lakhs of these creatures."

Therefore keep clear of dirt consisting of particles of animal origin on which the microbes live and multiply. They cannot live without food and die for want of it. When, again, you remove the dirt, you remove the cause of the disease produced by the microbes. The running stream of the Ganges usually need not be feared. For its mud is made up exclusively of small fragments of stones and sand and no particles of animal origin. Sun and air to which the stream is exposed are great purifying agents which kill many kinds of dirt. But when much pollution gets into it, it is capable of producing cholera. Therefore avoid ghats where many people bathe, ordinarily or on great religious occasions. During the rains, the river is polluted with many kinds of dirt, and it is, therefore, not safe then to use its water. Cholera microbes or comma bacilli have been found in the unfiltered water supply of the town and in many of the bathing ghats.

#### NOTES & LEADERETTES,

##### OUR OWN NEWS

&

#### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Queen has instituted a new order of Knighthood, to be called the Royal Victorian Order.

THE Shahzada Habibulla Khan and Nasrulla Khan have been appointed Knights Grand Cross of Saint Michael and Saint George.

PRINCE Ferdinand of Bulgaria has arrived at Paris and had the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour bestowed upon him by the President.

THE Czarevitch has become suddenly worse, and his condition is causing anxiety.

THE Marquis Yamagata has arrived at Havre, where he met with a cordial reception. Li-Hong-Chang landed at Odessa on April 27, and arrived at St. Petersburg on May 1, receiving a most imposing and a splendid reception at both places.

AN edict has been issued in Peking authorising the construction of a railway from Peking to Hankow.

TENDERS for the new India 2½ per cent. Loan of £2,400,000 amount to £6,180,000. The tenderers at £102-16 receive 23 per cent. of the above in full.

THE *Times*' St. Peter-burg correspondent says that Russia has decided to build a broad gauge railway immediately from Merve to Kushk, and to prepare all necessary material at Kushna for rapidly laying a Decanville line to Herat, the object being to enable Russia to beat Great Britain in the race to Herat.

THERE is no further news from Kassala. The Shoaas are closely investing Adigrat.

PRESIDENT Kruger has replied to Mr. Chamberlain, saying that he is unable to visit England at present, as the Volksraad requires his presence in the trial of the Reform leaders at Pretoria. The *Times*' Pretoria correspondent states that President Kruger, in his reply objects to discuss reforms, as Great Britain cannot interfere in the internal administration of the Transvaal, but he adds that private suggestions would always receive consideration. President Kruger then says that if the revision of the Convention of 1884 and its supersession by a treaty of amity and commerce cannot be discussed unless the alleged grievances of the Uitlanders are also discussed, the Government of the Transvaal would prefer to leave things as they are, and limit its demands to an indemnity for Dr. Jameson's raid. The President mentions the necessity of his presence at the meeting of the Volksraad, and suggests that the question of his visit to England should not be pressed just now, but says that Great Britain can facilitate his going by accepting the basis of discussion which he has proposed. In the House of Commons Mr. Chamberlain read an extract from President Kruger's reply, which was courteous in tone, and he was, therefore, hopeful, he said, of a peaceful solution of the difficulties between the two Governments. He added that he had reluctantly withdrawn his invitation to the President to come to England. Meanwhile he had telegraphed to Sir Hercules Robinson to come to England when Sir Graham Bower returns to the Cape if the situation in Rhodesia permits of his doing so, to receive directions for further negotiations.

The Reform leaders, Colonel Frank Rhodes, Mr. Lionel Phillips, Mr. J. H. Hammond, and Mr. Farrar, pleaded guilty to high treason, and the other prisoners to *lèse majesté* but without hostile intent towards the Republic. The first four were sentenced to death.

Mr. Chamberlain telegraphed to President Kruger, through Sir H. Robinson, that the British Government felt confident that the President would commute the sentences, and that he (Mr. Chamberlain) had assured Parliament to that effect. President Kruger has commuted the death sentences.

Fifty-nine of the remaining reformers have been sentenced by the High Court of Pretoria to two years' imprisonment and a fine of two thousand pounds, besides three years' banishment.

The severity of the sentences has startled London, and the whole press agrees that they are excessive, and relies on the clemency of President Kruger. There is general relief and content at the commutation of the death sentences.

Lord Salisbury, speaking at a meeting of the Primrose League defended the Dongola expedition which, he said, was necessary to restore the Egyptian frontiers: otherwise the British would be unable to deliver up Egypt as they received it. Referring to the sentences passed on the Johannesburg reformers he said he felt confident that President Kruger would make no unworthy use of the circumstances which had placed his political opponents in his hands.

LORD Selborne, speaking at the Colonial Institute, said that if more men were required in Rhodesia they would be sent, and that when sufficient forces were on the spot General Carrington would once for all crush the Matabele revolt.

ONE hundred Whites and two hundred Natives made a sortie from Bulawayo on Saturday, and were attacked by three thousand Matabele who attempted to surround them. With the Maxim guns, however, they played havoc with the enemy, who were driven into Ungwaga River, the waters of which were crimsoned with their blood. Two Whites were killed, and seven wounded. News from Bulawayo of April 28, state that three Matabele impis have been defeated with great loss.

MR. Curzon, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, said that the Russian Ambassador in London absolutely denies the existence of a secret treaty whereby a large Chinese territory has been ceded to Russia.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

THE Russian Government is about to send an expedition to the Amour to observe the eclipse of the sun on August 9. It will be under the charge of three astronomers from the Pulkowa observatory. An American expedition also goes to Japan for the same purpose. Who will observe the phenomenon in India? In Calcutta, there is no Government observatory. Bombay boasts of one. In Vizagapatam, in the Madras Presidency, the observatory originally owned by the local enlightened Rajá, has been placed under Government superintendence.

*The Imperial and Asiatic Quarterly Review* is truly imperial. It has a Summary of Events in all parts of the world. In the last or April number it has a notice of the Indian National Congress. Thus: "The 'National Congress' held its annual December sitting at Poonah under the Presidentship of Sumindra M. H. Banerji, with about 1,600 delegates and 4,000 visitors; the usual resolutions were passed, the dissensions between Reformers and orthodox Hindus being laid aside for political unity." While so much honour was done to the last President in India, in England, among Orientalists his name is a jumble of sounds only, meaning anything and anybody, and nothing in particular. What do M. H. mean? Do they stand for Mahomed Hnjeebhoy to represent two different types of the various nationalities composing the Congress?

We read in *Answers* of March 28:—

"The following actually occurred in London some years ago. A gentleman had occasion to go into a shop one day to purchase an umbrella, and, as he told the shopman, was prepared to pay a good price for a genuine article.

A sale was speedily effected, and the gentleman returned home, with the reflection that he had now, at least, an article that would stand many a day's rain.

It was about a fortnight later that the umbrella was first called into actual use, and at the end of the day in question it presented such an appearance that the gentleman hastened to its original owner, demanding a new umbrella or his money back.

He got no recompense, however; and the following day a bogie man might have been seen parading X—Street, where the umbrella shop was situated, carrying the inevitable umbrella, which bore these words: 'Bought at R—'s, X—Street, a fortnight ago; cost 12s. 6d., and was out in yesterday's rain for the first time, with this result.'

Needless to say, the shopkeeper was much annoyed, but, so far, held his peace. But when the following morning the bogie man made his reappearance, the shopkeeper could stand it no longer, and sent the owner of the offending umbrella a new one."

It is many years, in our own city, during the Pujas, a Brahman who could with difficulty earn a few rupees went to Burrabazar for buying clothes for his children at home in the country. Before he could make any purchase, he was relieved of his little all by pick-pockets who abound in such places. Unable to procure the Puja presents, and having no other money, he gave up the idea of going home. His next thought was how to punish the thieves or to recover the money? The Police having been applied to proved of no use. He then devised a plan of his own and set to work it out, which ultimately proved very successful. It not only brought him back the money he had lost but also more. Every morning he would be at Burrabazar and cry through the lanes and streets—"Beware of pick-pockets," "Take care of your pockets". He repeated the warning all the hours till the shops closed for the day. At the end of a week when he was beginning to despair, a man called him aside, paid him a purse and begged him to go his way and leave the presenter of the purse and his associates to their own trade. Will the plan of the gentleman in London be permitted now? Or, will not the law, at the instance of the shopkeeper, punish him for such publication of libel?

At the Thames Police Court, Mary Schroder, charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, defended herself by saying that the woman with whom she was fighting had called her a name she would not like to mention in Court. She then added that it commenced with a "c."

Magistrate: Do you mean "cow"?

Defendant: Yes, that's it. Isn't it a dreadful word?

Magistrate: I don't think so, and do not see why you should be afraid of mentioning it. It's not a bad word.

Defendant: Yes, it is.

Magistrate: Very well if you say it is.

He then sentenced her to one day's imprisonment.

If the Magistrate were a Bengali and the word were uttered in Bengali, the defendant would probably have made out a case for her. Thus, the word is not so innocent as it looks in English. The Bengali, like all Hindus, reverences the cow, but to him she is also symbolical of an undignified intellectual state. When an Englishman says a goose, the Bengali uses the word commencing in "c" to express the same feeling of disgust.

Supposing the defendant had been called a parallelogram? Would the magistrate have been justified in rejecting the defence? It is not the word but the manner in which it is used and the occasion on which it is uttered that make it offensive or not. A good word may cause dissension, while an ugly phrase meant for no abuse may be passed over.

THE steps taken and reported to the Local Government by the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta to prevent or check the spread of cholera in the city and to provide medical aid for persons attacked by the disease are:—

1. Every case that is reported or otherwise comes to knowledge is enquired into by one of the Medical Inspectors of the Health Department, and remedial measures are promptly taken. For the early detection of cases the Medical Inspectors carry on house-to-house inspection and enquiry. For this purpose six temporary Inspectors have been added to the permanent staff of seven Medical Inspectors.

2. Persons affected with cholera, who are found to be without proper accommodation or without friends to attend to them, are removed to hospital.

3. Every house affected is thoroughly cleansed and disinfected with such disinfectants as Jey's Purifier, Pinophenol, sulphurous acid gas (sulphur fumes), corrosive sublimate solution, and carbolic powder; and such disinfection includes that of latrines, urinals, and drains as well as of the premises generally.

4. All infected articles are usually destroyed by fire. Occasionally when articles are of value, or when their owners are too poor to be able to afford losing them, they are disinfected by superheated steam under pressure in the Steam Disinfector (Lyon's patent) of the Corporation stationed at Entally.

5. Shops for the sale of articles of food and drink (such as grocer's shop, confectioner's shops, etc.), in which cholera has taken place, are closed for a certain number of days, after all infected articles likely to communicate the disease have been destroyed or disinfected.

6. All the sewers of affected localities in the town proper are flushed and disinfected as early as possible, and all kutcha or pucca open drains in such localities in the unsewered areas and in bustis are also promptly cleansed and disinfected.

7. The use of every tank which has become contaminated or is suspected to have become contaminated with the discharges or infected articles of cholera patients is prohibited, and guards are placed over it to prevent people from using its water until the outbreak in the neighbourhood is at an end and bacteriological examination of its water shows its freedom from comma bacilli.

8. Every endeavour is made to actively carry on anticholeraic inoculation on Haffkin's system in affected localities as well as in unaffected places on persons who can be persuaded to submit to the operation.

9. Instructions for the prevention of cholera and directions for the prevention of its spread when it has taken place in a house have been distributed to the residents in the form of handbills, and copies of them have been posted at prominent places in different parts of the town; and they have also been published in some of the local newspapers. The use of filtered water for all domestic purposes has been specially enjoined.

10. In consequence of systematic bacteriological examination showing the presence of comma bacilli in the unfiltered water supplied to the town, as well as in the river-water at many of the bathing ghats, notices have been posted near the public bathing platforms and at other conspicuous places, prohibiting the use of the river-water and the unfiltered water-supply for any purpose except bathing.

11. The Medical Inspectors of the Corporation attend and treat patients who require their assistance and who cannot pay for doctor's attendance.

12. Simple medicines have been supplied to the police thanas, post-offices, and birth and death registration offices for distribution to persons requiring or applying for them; and the Police Commissioner and the Postmaster-General, Calcutta, have been requested to give instructions to their subordinates to give as early as possible intimation of every cholera case they may come to hear of to the Municipal Medical Inspector or at the nearest birth and death registration office.

13. It has been notified by beat of drum throughout Calcutta that persons affected with cholera or diarrhoea may obtain medicine on application to constables or at the police thanas, post-offices, or birth and death registration offices, as well as on application to the Medical Inspectors of the Health Department.

The report is dated the 20th of April and signed by Mr. R. Sen, Offg. Health Officer. Since that report the Commissioners have passed the resolution asking the Local Government to empower them to dewater all infected tanks, public or private. Was it not necessary to take the power alluded to in paragraph 5 of the report? Is it, again, enough, to temporarily close a shop where cholera has appeared and not prevent ordinary vendors from selling articles of food

that may bring on cholera? The instructions may be all right as far as they go. It would have been more to the purpose if it were stated how they are being carried out. We are afraid, even among the knowing of our people, the instructions count for nothing. They are as regardless in a season of sickness as in ordinary times. They run their even course unmoved by present surroundings and drag others with them to the neglect.

IN company of the Commissioner of Police and led by him, the new Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation had been visiting the cow-sheds. As a result of the inspection, the Chairman ordered the transfer of the prosecution of the milkmen under the Municipal Act from the Municipality to the Police. The Municipal Pleader at the Police Court has pointed out to the Chairman that the delegation of power to Police officers is inconsistent with the Municipal Act.

SIR John Lambert has also taken up the question of the tramways or rather the condition of the horses and the lines. Egged on by his repeated complaints, at the last municipal meeting, several of the Commissioners despatched on the miserable condition of both. The Chairman promised to communicate with the Company and see what could be done.

ON Wednesday, Mr. Cotton left Calcutta for home. He took leave of the Secretariat at Calcutta and raised his hat to all the assistants he met in the office. At the Howrah railway station, several persons, in service and not in it, were present to see him off. It is reported that an old Mussulman, bent with age, who had been Mr. Cotton's Nizir at Chaudang, came down to bid his old master farewell. But the man who owes his distinguished elevation to the late Chief Secretary was nowhere. Maharaja Govindlal has a code of etiquette of his own.

ON the invitation of Moulvi A. F. M. Abdul Hafeez, the President, an extraordinary meeting of the Muslim Literary Academy was held at the Calcutta Mederssa on Thursday, to express regret at the death of the Hon'ble Prince Sir Jahan Kadir Bahadur. The meeting was open to outsiders. Prince Mohamed Bikhayr Shah (of the Mysore family) was in the chair. In opening the proceedings, the President read letters from Dr. A. F. Rudolf Hernal, Mr. R. D. Mehta and Mr. H. M. Rastomjee and others sympathising with the object of the meeting. The following resolution was passed unanimously:—Proposed by Moulvi A. F. M. Abdul Hafeez and seconded by Moulvi Abdul Kadir Khan Bahadur, Deputy Magistrate,—"(1) That the meeting places on record its heartfelt sorrow for the loss sustained by the Mohammedan community in consequence of the death of the Hon'ble Prince Sir Jahan Kadir Muzi Mohamed Wahid Ali Bahadur, K.C.I.E. It was also decided to send a letter of condolence to Prince Muzi Mohamed Makeem Bahadur, son-in-law of the deceased. Another resolution empowered the Muslim Literary Academy to consider what steps should be taken to do honour to the memory of the deceased who took a deep interest in the welfare of the Mohammedan community.

Dr. Panlthy proposed a vote of thanks to the chair, which was seconded by Haji Hissan Ismail Sihib.

COUNT MATTEI is dead. He

"died at his residence, near Bologna, at the age of eighty-six. Count Mattei was a native of Bologna, and was born in 1810. He was made a count by Pope Pius IX. in 1847, in recognition of the loyalty and generosity displayed in his gift to the Pontiff of an estate on the Austrian borders at a time when there had been a serious breach between Austria and the Vatican. The next month he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Civic Guard. In May 1848 he was elected Deputy of the Electoral Chamber in Rome. After a brief political career, the Count retired into private life, and devoted himself chiefly to the study of medicine, and presently announced that he had discovered a means of preparing herbal remedies which imparted to them a peculiar efficacy. Lady Paget, the wife of the British Ambassador in Rome at the time, called the attention of English readers to these remedies by several interesting articles in the reviews, in which she described her visits to the Count in his mountain home. In 1866 Professor Pascucci, who held the chair of medicine at the University of Bologna, tested these remedies at the Military Hospital of San Theresa at Rome. His report, afterwards published, declared that many marvellous cures had been effected, and that Mattei's febrifuge was better than quinine as a remedy for fever. The remedies discovered by the Count have been named electro-homoeopathic, though the terms employed by the count in Italy were anti-cancerous, anti-scorfulous, anti-febriose, and the like. The Rev. S. J. Whitnee, F.R.S., of the London Missionary Society, in 1894, reported a number of cures of elephantiasis among the natives of

Samoa through using Count Mattei's remedies. The formula for making the remedies was not made known by the Count, and he has left the secret to his adopted son, Count Mario Venturoli Mattei."

There are other medicine vendors of his stamp in the market, though they came after him. The Count's medicines are all secret preparations and bear sensational names, but there is neither one thing nor the other which they claim to be. There is neither homoeopathy nor electricity. The medicines are mixtures or decoctions of many plants combined together. A few years ago the trial of anti-cancerous proved a failure in London, in clinical experiment, under the guidance of some of the reputed Surgeons.

THE Trades Association have elected Mr. H. T. Ottewill, of Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., and Mr. Everard Cotes, editor of the *Indian Daily News*, to represent them on the Port Commission and in the Calcutta Corporation respectively. Mr. James Wilson, editor and proprietor of the *I. D. News* was long a valued member of the Municipality on the opposition side and fought many hard battles in and out of the corporation and in the High Court. The present editor has shown a disposition to fight and to cleanse the Augean stable. Mr. Wilson wrote a pamphlet on Local Self-Government and always advocated the elective principle for the Municipality. He was kept out when the first election under the present law was held. Mr. Cotes comes in through the Trades Association. He has written many articles against the Municipality. He has found the constitution defective. As a member, if he is not enabled to set it right, let us hope he will prove a Hercules, and put down all abuses.

THIS week we had a dust storm, a shower and high wind. The temperature is not oppressive but the mortality from cholera continues high. Last week there were 188 deaths, the same as in the week before.

THE *Calcutta Gazette* of 29th April publishes reports from various district magistrates on the present scarcity of water. In Burdwan, we are told, owing to the scanty rainfall of 1895 and the absence of storms during the last two months, the water in most of the tanks is lower than in ordinary years and some tanks have dried up altogether. The only tracts which have a full supply of good water are those situate along the banks of the river and along the edge of the Eten Canal. In certain villages water has to be fetched from a distance of half a mile and more. It is the women who do this work and they prefer the nearest tank to more distant better water. There may be an excuse for weak women. But the men are equally lazy and prefer to die rather than move an inch to save themselves. For them ordinary measures taken by Government are simply wasted. For such to draw water from wells is out of the question. In Calcutta the convenience of filtered supply at every house is so much abused that there is not only a culpable waste, but you will not everywhere find a sufficient storage of water when the supply through the pipe is stopped.

In Birbhum, there are three sources of water supply, namely, rivers, tanks and wells. The rivers and khals, usually dry at this time of year, are exceptionally so this year. Water, however, is still to be obtained in some, and in others by digging a few feet in the sandy beds. There are very few wells and these mainly belong to the District Board or the San Municipality. The main source is tanks which are numerous but dry and empty. There is a disinclination in owners to make over to the District Board, under section 90 of the Local Self-Government Act, the tanks. The magistrate, Mr. Drake-Brockman, is at sea to account for it. "It may be due," he says, "to many circumstances, a fear lest the proprietorship in the tank will be lost, or mere selfishness, as in some cases the owners themselves will not be benefited, or from disputes as to the ownership." Later on, he remarks: "As regards relieving the present distress, I have ordered here and there wells to be dug where it has been considered necessary and not likely to be found hereafter useless by reason of the proximity of tanks, the water of which is generally preferred. In some cases I have asked if the villagers are willing to come forward with help. In one village I noticed the necessity for a well for both men as well as for the cattle which were brought in large numbers weekly to be sold. I applied to the Zaminder for subscriptions, and beyond getting the reply that the people were too busily engaged with some puja ceremony to hold a meeting, I have heard nothing since." Again, "My experience is that self-help and public spirit are almost unknown qualities here. There is also a want of co-operation among villagers. In one village where I was asked if Government would erect a snail shed a few feet

long and 2 or 3 feet high in order to prevent the water of a tank being spoiled by the drainage from the surrounding fields. The village itself was quite well-to-do, but it never seemed to strike the inhabitants that a little exertion on their own part would be necessary." Mr. Drake-Brockman thinks it would be a waste of money to dig tanks as they are to be found everywhere, and the measure would bring no relief when the want of water is due to the absence of rain. He is not for tanks but for wells which he has ordered in urgent cases in anticipation of sanction.

The opinion of Mr. J. Lang, the Magistrate of Hooghly, is more pronounced. "It is felt that drinking water is a necessary of life, and that it is of easy access to every villager, if only the residents will lay themselves out to obtain it. The present is a time when the people of this district at first were prepared to sit idle in their villages until the Suku came forward and paid them to look for water to save themselves. But I have taken every opportunity to point out to the people of the upper classes, and through the chaulkidars on parade to the people of the lower classes, that they ought to trust to themselves in the present emergency and not look to the Suku, who however anxious to assist all can only help a few."

Mr. J. H. Lea, the Officiating Magistrate of Pubna's opinion is to the same purport. He says: "From personal inspection I find that water is always available at river level, and if the villagers would only club together and sink ring-wells or even large holes they would have no difficulty in getting a supply of water. I find, however, that they are too apathetic to do anything of this kind, and they are not helped in any way by their zamindars."

Mr. Lang's experience of Norton's tube-wells is wholly unsatisfactory:

"It will be noticed that Norton's tube-wells are not being purchased for this district. Even if worked successfully, they are not popular; and, if I may quote my own experience, it is that of 20 sunk in different districts in alleged suitable soils, only one was in working order at the end of a year, and *that one* occupied three men using all their energies 15 minutes to squeeze out one pail of water! Given an experienced mechanic ready at hand, the experiment will often succeed but let him go away, and failure will follow. The Municipality of Hooghly tried these tube-wells lately, but the experiment proved a failure, owing probably in this particular instance to the unsuitable character of the soil."

The report is better from the 24-Perganas. Mr. E. W. Collin writes:

"Three Norton tube-wells have been sunk. Of the latter, one was driven 42 feet, and good a supply of water is obtained. The other two tube-wells have been driven 37 feet, but water has not yet been reached. Of the nine wells in the Sadar subdivision, seven are successful and in two of them the water is unfit for use. Of the ten wells in the Baraset subdivision (which have been dug to depths of 25 to 30 feet), all but one are successful. The Basirhat well is not successful. The progress in well digging has been delayed by the difficulty of getting men trained to the work, and by the necessity of procuring earthen rings from Calcutta. I have also been waiting to see whether the wells are successful. I have inspected two wells south of Anpore. I found that the supply of water was good, but that people preferred to walk half a mile to a tank. The custom here is for the women to get the water for the family, and they are averse to draw it from wells. It is less likely that they will be able to manage pumps. On the other hand, I am informed that since my visit to the wells south of Alipore, the scarcity of water has increased, and the people are glad to use the wells."

Like Birbhum, Bankura abounds in tanks. Wells there, owing to their water being less palatable than that of tanks and rivers, are at a discount. A well, again, that is not at least 40 feet deep cannot yield a permanent supply. Mr. N. Bonham-Carters, the Magistrate, thinks that, as the water from tanks is muddy and polluted and will become more so during the course of the next two months, the digging of wells is in every way desirable. So provision has been made in the year's District Board budget for 20 wells with masonry rings, at a cost of Rs. 2,000. Another Rs. 2,000 has been resolved upon, partly for permanent wells and partly for temporary measures of relief.

One hundred rupees for a well is not an enough sum and the villagers will not have it. Such is our report from the three districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, and Bankura. The collectors have offered the sum, but the people will not take it, for a single well will cost at least three times the amount. Instead of sinking wells in these districts, a better plan would be to re-excavate the tanks, and this is the season for such renovation. Five hundred rupees so expended on one tank will confer a benefit to an area of a square mile. Wells in the N.-W. P. have been condemned by Mr. Hankin. In Bengal they are sooner polluted by percolation. By being exposed to the heat and light of the sun a tank is better and, for its larger area longer, fitter than a well to supply pure water.

The water-supply of the Rangpur district is derived chiefly from the flowing rivers—the Teesta, Ghagat and Brahmaputra, and wells, tanks being very little used.

Mr. J. H. Bernard, the Collector of Purnea, fears flood rather than drought. "Water is particularly easily obtainable in this district. In Purnea a small ring well can be made for Rs. 5, and in the *mufassil* for a smaller sum. The water is near the surface. There are many rivers, lagoons, and water-courses. The river Kusi, which feeds most of them, is rapidly rising, and we fear flood rather than drought, as every village has several small wells."

The Mozaffarpur report is not of the ordinary run. Mr. F. R. Roe, the Offg. Magistrate, is mindful of the purity of water. He writes:

"There has, however, been in many places a deficiency of rainfall, and there is a sufficient scarcity of water to make cholera a very dangerous enemy, and the measures I have taken have been directed chiefly to purifying as far as possible the water-supply available. To this end all the wells in the municipalities of Mozaffarpur, Lalgunge, Hajipur, and Sitamarhi have been cleaned out and purified with lime or permanganate of potash. The District Board have allotted Rs. 320 for the cleaning of the wells on their list, and this work is being carried out. In addition to this, I have issued a notice under section 144, C.P.C., to the effect that, whereas immediate action is necessary for the prevention of cholera, zamindars, panchayets, and headmen will immediately purify their wells by dewatering them, cleaning the wells and when the well has filled by adding fresh lime to the water."

Whatever the applicability of the section, it is something that the Magistrate is alive to the next danger.

None of the Magistrates recommends cartage of water. It does not seem that, generally speaking, the scarcity is unusually great this year. The last published report is from Mr. R. Carstairs, the Deputy Commissioner, Southal Parganas. It concludes thus:—

"As regards giving grants-in-aid to local people for digging wells, or making or repairing reservoirs, this must be done either by way of loan or by way of gift. Loans we find people very slow to take on the conditions the Government find it necessary to lay down. I do not myself see that the conditions can be much relaxed if we are to ensure the money being used for the purpose for which it is lent and punctually repaid."

As regards gifts, I think they are sure to do more harm than good. They discourage private enterprise, and the chances are that the money is wasted, and the work on which it is spent not maintained. I think where it is possible to dig a well with labour which would cost a few rupees only, that will be done by the villagers for their own sake without waiting for help from Government. In Dumka itself, where the zamindar, Mr. Grant, offered to pay half the cost of digging wells if the hazar people would pay the other half (the estimated cost was about Rs. 1,000), his offer was not accepted, chiefly I believe because of caste difficulties. My own idea is that wells of this trifling description paid for by Government would not be as successful in providing water as wells dug by the villagers, though they would probably cost more.

Irrigation reservoirs on a small scale spring up on all sides, and seem to be especially provoked by such a dry season as that we have been passing through. We could not pay for the construction or repairs, or even for a small part of these in more than a limited number of cases; but the effect of our doing so at all would probably be to check the work now going on and reduce it by a great deal more than the limited encouragement given by us would increase it.

It is to be remembered that this district has not been demoralized as I see a public speaker says most of Bengal has been, by the imposition of the road-cess. My memory of the road-cess payer is that he has a most extravagant idea of the amount he pays and a microscopic one of the amount received for it, and, consequently, having in his mind a standing grievance against Government, frequently cuts off his nose to spite his face. In this district, whether from that or from other reasons, there is a much stronger spirit of self help and compacity to balance payment and benefit received, and I do not wish to pauperize the people by teaching them to look for doles from Government."

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, May 2, 1896.

### WATER: BOILED AND UNBOILED.

THE question of boiled or unboiled water has been brought into prominence by the investigation into the recent enteric fever at the Allahabad cantonments. Mr. Hankin, the Indian imperial bacteriologist, has found that boiled water kept in *surahis* produced the typhoid bacilli as unboiled water under the same conditions. This discovery does not run counter to known opinions. A distinction must always be made between a chemical analysis of water and a microscopical examination. It is an established truth that chemically pure water may be microscopically



a bad specimen. In making a chemical analysis of water we confine ourselves to the impurities, which are productive of evil on our health. It is more the quantity than the quality of the putrified organic matter which is the cause of mischief.

On the other hand, distilled water, though divested of all impurities, chemical or microscopical, is not a better food than the ordinary potable water. The reason is patent. Distilled water is wanting in salts that good drinking water contains which are necessary constituents of our blood. Being deprived of salts, distilled water is not only tasteless but fails also to supply one of the principal ingredients of our blood. For this want we have to resort to other means.

Besides the chemical and microscopical tests, there is another and a finer one, namely physiological adaptability. There are infinitesimal matters which are beyond the reach and scope of our present rough scientific research. But natural living objects have an instinct to discover their presence. One-twentieth of a grain of arsenic or bichloride of mercury will produce visible symptoms, while a chemical analysis of the evacuation or the contents of the stomach will not disclose the cause. Nor will microscopy be of any use. Some vegetable organisms are so much susceptible to *rasakarpur* or bichloride of mercury, that even one in thousand parts of pure water will destroy them. A minute particle of musk that scents a large volume of air can be detected by our olfactory nerves but never by any kind of analysis. Patients susceptible to the smell of a cat, will get asthma at the presence of the animal though unnoticed by him.

Almost all drinking water contains either dissolved or suspended matter. The latter can be entirely separated by filtration, whereas the former is not so removable. Dissolved matter is again divided into inorganic and organic. The first is generally the salts and the second is due to decomposition of vegetable and animal substances.

It should be mentioned that after filtration if the water be boiled, the application of heat makes the salts and the organic matters to change their constitution, and they are partly driven off with the steam and some are thrown to the bottom of the vessel during the cooling process. Refiltration is necessary to make the water suitable for drinking.

During the recent outbreak of enteric fever at Allahabad among the Norfolk regiment, Mr. Hankin found that boiled water cultivated typhoid bacilli in *surahis*, as profusely as unboiled water. No medical man with ordinary knowledge would have expected a contrary result. The *surahis* were at fault and not the water. Even distilled water in that circumstance would have behaved in the same way. The difference between the *surahis* and other ordinary earthen water jars is the difference between narrow and wide mouthed vessels. While the former with their contracted base, broad hold and narrow mouth can not be easily or are not ordinarily cleaned, the latter are capable of more effectual washing.

We are not aware of the nature of Mr. Hankin's investigation nor the conclusions arrived at by him. But we may safely presume that all the *surahis* in the bazaar were not infected. Those in the service of the regiment and examined were probably spoiled by contact with typhoid evacuations or by being washed with some dirty water. If care is not

taken to put boiled water in earthen vessels heated in the sun for three or four days, it makes little difference whether the water is boiled or not. With ordinary precautions, there is little chance of boiled water being contaminated.

Within the last few years bacteriology has made such an advance that we can never be too careful of our water. It is the quality and not the quantity of bacteria that determines its potability. The word bacteria primarily means minute rods but now it is used to indicate all micro-organisms. These may assume different forms, such as micrococci or globular (spherical) bacteria, bacilli or rod-shaped, spirilli or spiral-formed (twisted). They may again be divided into innocuous and injurious, according to their harmless or harmful action on the human system. The latter are said to be pathogenic. They act in two different ways to produce mischief. They are dangerous, living or dead. A species of them in death exude a toxic principle or ptomaine, which, though infinitesimal in quantity, accumulating, proves fatal to human life. Bacteria are generally very rapid breeders, and the various varieties have different terms of existence.

The presence of the pathogenic bacteria in water is positively harmful. One typhoid bacillus in a gallon of water is more dangerous than a million of ordinary bacteria. But the harmless germs are indicative of the source of contamination. For instance, the ordinary bacteria of human feces in water prove sewage contamination.

It is said that the detection of typhoid bacilli is not always possible if the examination is made too late, for their period of vitality is short. With their death they leave the toxin to poison the supply of water. For the cholera spirillum also the same theory has been made to hold good. But the opinions of the majority of the authorities are against it. Klein, the medical officer of the Government Board, London, does not admit that spirillum is the true cause of cholera. A blind faith in this theory produced a terrible mischief before the last epidemic of Hamburg in Germany could be indentified as cholera. For the medical men were unable to detect the bacilli in the early stage of the epidemic. We have yet to know more of these insidious destroyers of human life: their vitality with or without oxygen, their luminiferous condition, their period of existence, the one or the several kinds of toxins generated at their death, their self-destroying properties or their mode of deadly warfare among themselves. Heat is, however, the best disinfectant and kills the microbes.

Water being boiled, is denuded of its bacilli, not its oxygen, as some may suppose. Oxygen cannot exist in a nascent state, without being mixed with either hydrogen, nitrogen, or any other gaseous substance. It is a known fact proved by analysis as well as synthesis, that water consists of two molecules of hydrogen and one molecule of oxygen. Boiling takes away the combined gas in the form of steam, and not one only of its constituent parts—oxygen. So the chemical proportion remains in tact after boiling. Boiling has another advantage, it changes the constitution of the soluble matters. In the course of convection or ebullition the organic matters are oxidised and turned into insoluble compounds to settle at the bottom of the vessel during the cooling process. It has its disadvantage also. The soluble salts are driven out or precipitated, and the water is made comparatively tasteless. In places where

good drinking water is not available, it would be well to boil water before use, for it is better to suffer from the loss of salt than to take in obnoxious organic matter.

Boiled water when poured into a *surahi* or other vessel and again when taken in the glass comes in contact with enough air to draw any quantity of oxygen. In the glass, it further combines with that element in the air, if at all there is a possibility of doing so. The air globules containing oxygen adhere to the sides of the glass, still they do not mix with the water. It is an antiquated notion that boiling deprives water of its oxygen.

It may not be out of place here to speak a few words about well-water. The idea of its salubrity in most cases is erroneous. Well water comes through natural filtration of sand, earth or other organic and inorganic materials lying deep in the soil. May not the water bring with it bacteria or other impurities imprisoned in the lower strata of the earth? It is not impossible that slow decomposition of organic and inorganic matter is being favoured by the high heat of the deep soil. There are instances of workers of deep excavations being attacked with cholera. The appearance was probably the re-appearance of the disease in the same locality contaminated with the earlier outbreak. An instance of the kind occurred in the Madras Presidency. Apart from the contamination of well-water from its source, percolation is no other serious danger. Chemically examined, well-water is found to contain more sulphates than tank water, but the hydrant water is generally devoid of them. Covered wells, though preserved from dust, may be mischievous from being deprived of heat and light, which are the best purifiers.

#### DR. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

THE place of honour in *Revue Critique* of Paris of the 23rd March is given to a notice by M. Barth of *An Indian Journalist*. The reviewer shows some acquaintance with the conditions prevailing in Indian Society and certain phases of Mookerjee's complex personality. M. Barth's criticism of Mr. Skrine's style may strike some as a little too bold. Style is a subtle thing and foreigners are rarely qualified to judge an English author in that direction. The reviewer's misuse of the phrase "matter of fact" lends support to this view. We subjoin a literal translation :

"He was a curious specimen of the contemporary Indian,-- was the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee an exception in many respects, but at bottom an epitome of his times and people--of that Bengali race of which so much good and so much more evil has been said and written. He had the true Bengali industry, suppleness, tact, tenacity, versatility, its subtle intelligence, its susceptibility, and, above all, its marvellous aptitude for assimilating foreign ideas rapidly, and, so to speak, by simple contact with them. Externally, and I use the word in its widest sense, he was a very refined English gentleman. Internally, he remained a Hindu, and after a life of struggle and expedients he died at fifty-five with an unstained reputation. His career was apparently full of movement and incident; but in reality was very consistent. Born in 1839 of Brahmin parents who were shop-keepers but of high caste and descended from Sirharsha, the author of the *Nairbadhya*; educated, against his father's wishes and by fits and starts, at the Metropolitan College, Calcutta, a father at nineteen, we find him by turns the minister of divers Rajas, mixed up in the affairs of the Oudh Taluqdars' Association as its Secretary, beginning to study law and medicine, an honorary doctor of homœopathy of Philadelphia. But, in spite of all this zig-zagging, he was through-

out his life a journalist, first on the *Hindoo Patriot*, while still a mere boy, later, the editor of *Reis and Rayyet* which he founded in 1882 and conducted till his death on the 7th of February 1894.

Mookerjee, like his Bombay rival Malabari, was self-educated, from assiduous contact with men and affairs and also with books. For he was a voracious reader: and it is certainly a fact worthy of note that the most brilliant pens in the service of Hindu journalism owe nothing or almost nothing to the training provided in the local universities. Furthermore, his powers developed with great rapidity: for at the very outset of his journalistic career his articles bore the stamp of maturity and experience and were composed with that perfect mastery of the English language which was the distinctive mark of his talent. As editor of *Reis and Rayyet* he exercised for many years a great influence over public opinion, not only in Bengal and India, but in England and even on the Continent. Government found that in him they had a force to be reckoned with: for they knew that, if he generally liked to take the safe side, he was also attached to his liberty of speech. His character was as lofty as his abilities. He neither sold nor prostituted the power which he owed to his pen. Whilst he was perfectly "loyal," as our neighbours say, and opposed on principle to noisy Utopias, he sympathized with the healthy aspirations of his race; and every liberal measure put forward by Government found in him a sturdy champion. But he was none-the-less faithful to the custom of his race, a "Hindu of Hindus," as he loved to style himself, and without submitting to all the rules of rigorous orthodoxy, he wandered from it as little as possible. He occasionally consented to take his seat at the table of a *mleccha*, and he even advised a young fellow-countryman to make a trip to Europe; but he would not have received him as a visitor on his return without proceeding afterwards to purify his reception room. The thousand and one essentials of usage and tradition which this great ally of England and English ideas knew how to insist upon in his own case and to respect in others, are, in fact, the barrier behind which the Hindu national spirit shelters itself,--a barrier stronger than the aspirations of politicians, and which will be long in disappearing, for it rests on the innermost self of the Hindu. I will give a single instance of this feeling. But for a cursory remark of his biographer we should never have known that a man who discourses so copiously on so many subjects was married, twice, indeed, if I am not mistaken, and had children. In his letters, and there are many confidential ones, he says not a word of his family. The reader may see Mookerjee in his editorial sanctum: but his *home* remains hermetically sealed and those whom it shelters do not exist, as far as we are concerned.

Mr. Skrine more than once expresses regret that Mookerjee did not focus his powers on a given branch of human research; for he thinks that, had his subject done so, he must infallibly have had a brilliant scientific career. This is not precisely the direction in which the aspirations and talents of "Young Bengal" seem to tend: and I fancy that Mookerjee knew his own better than his biographer. Amongst his letters is one to Rajendralala Mitra, who had asked him for some general information about human sacrifices. It is only an improvised summary: but it tells us much of Mookerjee's want of the critical faculty and the fashion in which a man of vast reading indulged of bringing it to bear on a given point. He had in him, doubtless, the stuff to furnish out several artists; but nothing of the man of science or the man of action.

The biography would have gained had it been longer and, above all, had it been written in a directer and more simple style. Amongst the letters there are many curious ones and many which are charming. But there, too, one would have liked a little more of precision and "matter of fact" (*sic.*) in the notes. The latter are hardly copious enough for the Calcutta public and are inadequate in the eyes of a European reader.

A. BARTH.

## THE SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY; AND THE ALARMING INCREASE OF SCARCITY OF WATER IN BENGAL.

(From *The Calcutta Journal of Medicine*, March, 1896).

In the present distressful condition of Bengal on account of the scarcity of drinking water, the very useful paper on "Water and Health" of Dr. Charles Platt, Professor of Chemistry in the Philadelphia Hahnemann Medical College, published in the *Hahnemannian Monthly* of January last, deserves an attentive perusal. Its chief recommendation lies in the fact, that it does not treat of ambitious and expensive schemes of public water supply but of simple means of procuring pure water in villages and small towns, where poverty prevents the outlay of large sums of money for the purpose.

Chemically, Water, has a definite composition, and therefore pure water can only mean a compound of Hydrogen and Oxygen in the proportion of 2 parts of the former to 15.96 of the latter by weight, or very nearly of 2 volumes of the former to 1 volume of the latter. But from its remarkable and important property of being almost a universal solvent, capable of dissolving a very large number of substances, solid, liquid and gaseous, it is seldom if ever found in a state of purity in nature. The fact of its being an essential constituent of all living beings, vegetable and animal, has invested it with peculiar interest. And accordingly in all ages and in all countries it has been looked upon as a sacred thing. In our own country it is looked upon as a form of Vishnu himself, the preserver of the universe. Hence, especially by the Hindus, the pollution of sources of water is considered as a great sin.

When it is remembered that water forms more than half the weight of the human body (nearly 60 per cent.), that the remaining 40 per cent. constituting the solids can be introduced into the body only in a state of solution in water, that all the tissues even the hardest must have water as an essential constituent,—the enamel of the teeth having 2 per 1000, fat 209, the liver 693, the spinal cord 697, the skin 720, the brain 750, the muscles 757, the spleen 758, the thymus 770, the nerves 780, the heart 792, the kidneys 827,—it will be seen how the instinct of our race has guided it in its early days in forming a true estimate of the importance of this universal agent.

The fact, that the maintenance of the purity of water is enjoined as a religious duty among all nations, shows both the strength and the unerring character of that instinct. But in the absence of intelligible reasons which could only be assigned by knowledge, the injunction could not be carried out in the fullest measure by the ignorant majority. And even in the present day when science has made plain how water is easily liable to pollution, and how this pollution is the fertile source of disease, the sanitarian has to encounter opposition from ignorance of the most lamentable description. Dr. Platt states but a fact when he says: "It would be difficult to cite an instance when the struggle against an unpleasant truth is more determined. People will use poisoned or dangerous supplies in face of the most earnest advice to the contrary and in face even of family deaths. We are told that 'our family have used that well from time immemorial, what was good enough for my grand father is quite good enough for me,' or, 'the water is sparkling and clear, and cannot possibly be contaminated,' or, 'that well has given good water so many years that I guess it will continue to do so awhile longer,' and so on. The water is supposed to remain the same whatever the change in conditions, and the only criterions of purity are the color and the taste, neither of value."

If such is the case in the enlightened countries of Europe and America, it is useless to fret at similar ignorance in this country. As sanitarians it should be our duty to enlighten the masses, and do our best to maintain as much as we can the purity of all the available sources of our water supplies. These, it is easy to see, and as Dr. Platt has pointed out, are reducible to four classes;—1. rain water; 2. surface waters; 3. sub-soil or ground water; and 4. deep seated or phreatic waters—the first being the ultimate source of the three others. On each of these Dr. Platt has made valuable remarks which we present in a condensed form in the following paragraphs:

The rain as it falls from the clouds dissolves certain gases existing in the atmosphere, and also removes from it certain floating solid bodies. The condition in which it reaches the surface of the earth is dependent upon the condition of the air through which it has passed; in rural districts it is comparatively pure, while in the cities and manufacturing districts the reverse is the case. After reaching the ground it may pass directly into lakes, rivers, &c., forming surface water, or it may sink into the earth, and be held by the upper strata of soil, forming subsoil water, or it may percolate deeply, be collected in natural reservoirs far beneath the surface and form deep-seated water. Rain water may be preserved by collections from roofs, storage in cisterns, &c. At this stage, pollution may take place by the accumulations of organic matter from caves-troughs and water pipes being washed into the storage vessels, and the putrefaction of the organic matter renders water

most unwholesome. "The cistern itself may be open to pollution either from its imperfect construction whereby subsoil water enters through the sides or bottom, or by direct contamination from exposed tops." Precautions may be easily taken against all these three factors. The pipes are best made of terracotta, and the next best are the metal pipes; but wooden pipes are objectionable. The water courses should be kept clean or when not exposed, provision should be made for the diversion of the water that first passes through. "The water, before entering the cistern, should pass through a filter box containing alternate layers of gravel, sand and charcoal, whereby organic matter is removed, and, finally, the cistern is to be built with sides and bottom both sealed and with a close-fitting protected top." Attention to these simple points will insure a supply, however small, of pure, wholesome drinking water.

In deciding upon the condition of surface water, which is regarded with suspicion by people of all countries, it may be considered "whether the stream is storm-fed, spring fed or of composite nature; the character of the soil over which it has passed, the nature of the watershed whether populated, wooded or tilled; and of course the opportunities, direct or indirect, of pollution from sewage or manufacturer's waste."

The danger of pollution from manufacturer's waste is threatening to be very great in this country, and the river Hughly seems to be in particular danger, as will be evident from a characteristic instance mentioned in the Administration report of Bengal for 1894-95. It is stated in that report that "the question of the alleged pollution of the river Hughly by the discharge of noxious matter from certain mills situated in the neighbourhood of the intake for the Calcutta water supply at Phalta came specially under the consideration of Government. Enquiry was made as to the desirability of special legislation with the object of putting an end to a practice alleged to be injurious to the public."

But what was done in the matter? Was the Sanitary Commissioner, or any Medical Board, Sanitary Engineer, or Health officer consulted? No. "The Chamber of Commerce and the Special Inspector of Factories were consulted, and both were averse to any such special legislation on the ground that the risk to public health, if it existed at all, could only be very small. In deference to these opinions the Lieutenant-Governor decided to abandon the proposal to undertake legislation in the matter." It is impossible to imagine a more evident shirking of duty on the part of a responsible ruler than the light-hearted manner in which a most serious matter, involving the health of the metropolis of India, was thus disposed of. Happily for Bengal we now live under a better regime. We trust this question will be soon taken up by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and a proper decision arrived at, which may not run counter to the advanced views of Sanitary Science. More than a crore of Rupees has been spent in improving the water-supply of Calcutta, and as its contamination may affect the health of a large community we hope the question will be thoroughly sifted, and suitable measures taken after due deliberation to prevent the pollution of the river Hughly.

The zone of subsoil water is not of uniform depth at all places, and though generally, does not always, conform to the surface contour. The quality of the water depends upon the nature of the soil and upon the local conditions, being of a high degree of purity, when these factors are kept free from pollution, and organic matter is removed by filtration and aeration. The gases dissolved by the rain in falling are replaced by the mineral matter of the soil. This is generally the case with wells in new and thinly-populated districts. From barnyards, outhouses, kitchens, distilleries, fields spread with fertilizers, and other similar sources, the upper stratum of soil becomes surcharged with impurities, which are carried into the subsoil water by the rains. In the downward percolation through a soil exposed to the action of pure air, the organic matter is removed and destroyed, and so the water entering at the bottom of a deep well will remain pure in spite of defilement at the surface, provided a constant source of pollution extending downwards, a cesspool for instance, does not exist in the immediate neighbourhood. The insalubrity of city wells is chiefly owing to the fact that the soil of cities is not much exposed to the free action of the air. If then the soil be in proper physical condition and the well were dug to a sufficient depth, and if the water was derived entirely from the base, there would be little reason to doubt its purity. But the mischief is that water passes into the bottom of the well through the sides and from the top without being subject to the wholesome processes of filtration and percolation, and even in closed wells the surface washings are conducted along the cuttings rather than through the soil itself. Geologically the well should be above all source of pollution, its position being such that the flow will be away from and not towards, the reservoir,—a condition to be satisfied by a determination of the dip of the underlying strata rather than by the surface contour."

"The open well with wooden buckets represents the most dangerous use of subsoil water, the closed well with iron pumps the most

satisfactory ; but in either case, due attention must be paid to the location and cleanliness." We do not quite agree with Dr. Platt when he says that the mere presence of organic matter, even in the form of animal excreta, is not so much an impurity as a proof that the well is open to pollution and may at any time develop poisonous qualities, and that the mere presence of a minute quantity of sewage is not so much in itself injurious as evidence that if at any time disease germs should pass into sewage they would in turn enter the drinking water and render it poisonous. We are of opinion that the minutest quantity of animal and human excreta may be impurity enough to seriously affect susceptible constitutions, and therefore all possibility of contamination with them should be avoided.

The fourth class of potable water is what has been called the phreatic or deep-seated water, about which the following remarks are important :—"Should the subsoil water find its way through the strata near the surface, it may percolate downward for a considerable distance before it again reaches a stratum sufficiently impervious to sustain it. Should this lower stratum be basin-shaped, the water will accumulate until by its own pressure, it is brought to the surface through artificial boring--artesian well--or it may accumulate in the reservoir until it tops it, overflows, and finds an outlet in some ravine or upon some mountain side. In this passage downward the water undergoes many important changes ; organic matter is reduced, and destroyed, while mineral matters, and, under pressure, certain gases, are dissolved. The character and temperature of the resulting water will thus depend upon the character of the soil and the depth to which it has penetrated. In soils rich in soluble mineral salts, mineral waters will result, or when the soluble salts are absent, we will obtain an ordinary artesian or spring water, varying in temperature but generally pure, at least free from contamination by specific germs. The location of the artesian well is, however, of considerable importance, and before driving such a well the advice of one versed in the geology of the district should be asked. The source of the water-supply is dependent upon the geological structure of the district, and is rarely, if ever, coincident with the location of the well-head." In this country, it must be remembered, geological experts are rare, and in their absence all that we can do is to depend upon chance borings.

It will thus be seen that rain water properly collected, filtered and stored, is one source of obtaining pure water ; a closed well properly located and attended to is another ; while the artesian well is perhaps the best of all ; and that the location of the well should be decided upon with due regard to the geological as well as the surface conditions.

The above remarks on the sources of pure drinking water, and the cheapest and easiest ways of procuring it, are of special value to our country at the present moment when accounts of the distress from want of good, wholesome water for drinking and culinary purposes, and of the diseases which spring from insufficient water supply, are coming from all sides. In former days prior to the introduction of the British rule, wells and tanks without number used to be constructed and kept in repairs by private individuals from pious and benevolent motives. But from causes which need not be recounted here, there has been a decay of this religious sentiment, and charity has, to a large extent, been diverted to other channels. Magistrates, Commissioners, and Governors, of Provinces appear to have been hitherto busy with elaborate schemes of hospitals for females, and of irrigation, drainage, and other sanitary works, but whenever the question of the improvement of water supply in villages and small towns was presented before them, they generally turned a deaf ear to such representations, and left the people under distress to their own resources, or, if they paid any attention to rural water supply it was on a scale far out of proportion to its importance.

For some years past the Government has very properly taken upon itself the responsibility of preventing death from famine. Now famine being ordinarily understood to mean starvation from scarcity or want of food, and water not being ordinarily looked upon as food, nobody seems to have thought of the necessity of providing against a possibility of famine from scarcity or want of water. But if whatever supplies the essential constituents of the body be food, water must be considered to be the most important of all our foods. The originators of the Famine Fund should have kept this in view and not left it out of account altogether, for then

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there would have been no want of funds to meet the present distress from the water-famine that has overtaken Bengal. And we are bound to add that if the Road cess had been devoted strictly to the purposes for which it was originally intended and to which the Government was pledged, the present crisis could have been averted.

The present water famine has not come upon us as a surprise. We were receiving warnings regarding it for sometime past when the rainfall was becoming less and less from year to year, and our tanks and other reservoirs of water were, in consequence, drying up and threatened with complete exhaustion. We heeded not these warnings. We have not excavated new tanks, we have not even deepened by re-excavation old ones, for the storage of whatever rainwater we were having. The threatened exhaustion of the chief sources of the water-supply of the villages and most of the towns of Bengal, as an inevitable result, has come ; and unless prompt measures are taken, it will be impossible to avert the consequences of a water-famine which are far speedier and far more frightful than those of food-famine. Already cholera, the offspring of dirty and polluted drinking water, is raging with epidemic virulence, and if the present state of things is allowed to continue, the mortality from this disease alone will be something which it is appalling to contemplate.

### A CASE OF NERVOUS PROSTRATION RESULTING FROM INDIGESTION.

THEY say that misery loves company, and they have had it so often it has passed into a proverb. Yet it isn't an all-round truth. Some kinds of misery detest company. They want to be left alone. They hate to be elbowed and questioned and talked to. A wounded dog will always crawl into some retired place by itself. The instinct of badly injured men, after a battle, is the same. Ailments that are *mostly fancy*, tend to set tongues wagging. But real, genuine and dangerous diseases don't invite to speech. Cures which are big with fate usually come and go in quiet.

That is why Mrs. Suffham had no desire for the society of even her best friends at a certain time she is going to tell us about.

"Up to April, 1881," she writes, "I never knew what it was to be ill. At that time I began to feel that something was amiss with me. I had no relish for my meals, and after eating my chest felt heavy and painful, and my heart would beat and thump as though it meant to leap out of its place. Presently I became so swollen round the waist that I was obliged to unloose my clothing, as I could not bear anything to touch that part of my body.

"Even the lightest foot gave me pain ; a little fish setting my heart to beating at a great rate. My feet were cold, and cold, clammy sweats would break out all over me, leaving me exhausted and worn out. At night I got no sleep to speak of, and in the morning I felt worse tired than when I went to bed. I also suffered a great deal from my feet being puffed up and sore. I could scarcely get about the house. When I went shopping I had to ride to the town and back as I could only walk a few yards.

"As time went on I lost my flesh and strength more, and gave up hope of ever recovering the precious health I had so sadly lost. I took medicines, and consulted a clever doctor at Derby who examined me and said my heart was weak. He also gave me medicines, but I got only temporary ease from them, and in a short time was as bad as before. All this time I was so nervous and depressed that I had no desire for company. On the contrary, I seemed to want to be alone with my misery. Even a knock at the door frightened me, as though I expected bad news, yet I did not really. My nerves and fancies ran away with my knowledge and judgment. Thousands of women who have suffered in this way will understand what I mean.

"Year after year I remained in this condition, and what I went through I cannot put in words, nor do I wish to try. It will answer the purpose to say that I existed thus for eleven and a half years, as much dead as alive. I spent pounds on pounds in physic, but was not a whit the better for any of it.

"In October, 1892, a book was left at our house, and I read in it of cases like mine being cured by Mother Seigel's Syrup. I got a bottle from Mr. Budel, the chemist, in Normanton Street, Derby, and when I had taken this medicine for a few days, my appetite was better and I had less pain. I kept on taking it, and soon my food agreed with me and I gained strength.



"After this I never looked behind me, but steadily got stronger and stronger. When I had taken three bottles I was quite like a new woman. All the nervousness had left me, and my heart was sound as a bell. Since then I have enjoyed good health, and all who know me say my recovery is remarkable. I am confident that Mother Seigel's Syrup was the means, in the hands of Providence, of saving my life ; and out of gratitude, and in hope of doing good, I freely consent to the publication of this statement. (Signed) (Mrs.) Ann Suffham, Cooper's Lane, Laceby, Grimsby, May 1st, 1895."

This letter is endorsed by Mr. William J. Toller, of the same town, who vouches for the truth of what Mrs. Suffham has said, as he personally knew of the circumstances of her illness at the time they occurred. No comment can add a jot to the force of this open, candid, and sincere communication. Whosoever reads it must needs be moved and convinced by it. The disease which filled this woman's life with pain and misery for nearly twelve years was indigestion or dyspepsia, an ailment sly and cunning as a snake in the grass—and as dangerous. Send for the book of which Mrs. Suffham speaks, and read the symptoms in order that you may know what it is, and how to deal with it. The book costs you nothing, yet it would be worth *buying* as if every leaf were numbered gold.



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HIS LIFE STORY.

CORRESPONDENCE OF DR. S. C. MOOKERJEE.

### LETTERS

to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J.C.,  
to Atkinson the late Mr. E.F.T., C.S.  
to Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodprasada.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chhlu, R. Bahadur Ananda.  
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.  
to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.  
to Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.  
to Ghosh, Babu Kuli Prasanna.  
to Graham, Mr. W.  
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.  
from Guha, Babu Suroda Kant.  
to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.  
from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
to Jenkins, Mr. Edward.  
to Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.  
to Knight, Mr. Paul.  
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.  
to Law, Kumar Kristodas.  
to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
to Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
to Malik, Mr. H. C.  
to Marston, Miss Ann.  
from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.  
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakhinaraman.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from McNeil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.

from Nayarain, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.  
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.  
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.  
to Rao, the late Sir F. Madhava.  
to Rattigan, Sir William H.  
from Rosebery, Earl of.  
to, from Runtledge, Mr. James.  
from Russell, Sir W. H.  
to Row, Mr. G. Svamala.  
to Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.  
to Sinha, Babu Brahmananda.  
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.  
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.  
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
to Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
to Vencataramanah, Mr. G.  
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

### LETTERS & TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from

Abdus Subhan, Moulvi A. K. M.  
Ameer Hussein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.  
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
Banerjee, Babu Manmathanath.  
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Shib Chunder.  
Barth, M. A.  
Belchambers, Mr. R.  
Deb, Babu Manahar.  
Dutt, Mr. O. C.  
Dutt, Babu Prosaddoss.  
Elgin, Lord.  
Ghose, Babu Narendra K.

Ghosh, Babu Kuli Prasanna.  
Graham, Mr. William.  
Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
Hindus Vihari is Desai, the late Dewan.  
Iyer, Mr. A. Krishnaswami.  
Lambert, Sir John.  
Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
Mitra, Mr. B. C.  
Mitter, Babu Sidheshur.  
Mookerjee, Raja Peary Mohan.  
Mookerjee, Babu Surendra Nath.  
Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
Runtledge, Mr. James.  
Roy, Babu E. C.  
Roy, Babu Sivat Chunder.  
Sanyal, Babu Dinabandho.  
Savani Library.  
Tippera, the Bara Thakur of.  
Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
Vizianagram, the Maharaja of.

### POSTSCRIPT

After paying the expenses of the publication, the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal of the family of the deceased man of letters.

Orders to be made to the Business Manager, "*An Indian Journalist*," at the Bee Press, 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Bingham Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his life and letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahmin of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspiced by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man. Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Munny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 724.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### VERSICLES

(For fathers and mothers only) on an infant daughter's first walking.

BY JAMES GREGOR GRANT.

HA! ambitious little elf!  
Off by thy adventurous self?  
Fairly off? O fair betide thee!  
With no living thing beside thee;  
Not a leading string to guide thee;  
Not a chair to creep or crawl by;  
Not a cushioned stool to fall by;  
Not a finger tip to catch at;  
Not a sleeve or skirt to snatch at;  
Fairly off at length to sea,  
Full twelve inches (can it be  
Really, truly?) from the lee  
Of mamma's protecting knee!

Fair and softly—soft and fairly—  
Little bark, thou sail'st it rarely,  
In thy new-born power and pride,  
O'er the carpet's level tide,  
Lurching, though, from side to side,  
Ever and anon, and heeling  
Like a tipsy cherub reeling,  
(If e'en cherubs, saucy gypsy!  
Smile like thee, or e'er get tipsy!)  
Even as though yon dancing mote  
In the sunny air afloat,  
Or the merest breath that met thee,  
Might suffice to upset thee!

Helin a-weather! steady, steady!  
Nay, the danger's past already;  
Thou, with gentle course, untroubled,  
Table-Cape full well hast doubled,  
Sofa-Point has shot a-head,  
Sifted Footstool Island sped,  
And art steering well and truly  
On for Closet-Harbour duly!

Anchor now, or turn in time,  
Ere within the torrid clime  
Which the tropic fender bounds  
And with brazen zone surrounds;  
Turn thee, weary little vessel,  
Nor with further perils wrestle;

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

Turn thee to rest awhile  
In the sweetly sheltering smile  
Of thine own Maternal Isle—  
In the haven of dear rest  
Proffered by the doating breast  
And the ever ready knee  
Of a mother true to thee  
As the best of mother be!

Nay! adventurous little ship!  
If thine anchor's still a-trip,  
And, instead of port, you choose  
Such another toilsome cruise,  
Whereso'er the whim may lead thee,  
On! my treasure! and God speed thee!  
Hackneyed as, perchance, they be,  
Solemn words are these to me,  
Nor from an irreverent lip  
Heedlessly or lightly slip:  
Even He whose name I take  
Thus, my dear one, for thy sake,  
In this seeming idle strain,  
Knows I take it not "in vain,"  
But as in a parent's prayer  
Unto Him, to bless and spare!

## WEEKLYANA.

GENERAL JAMES T. WALKER, R.E., C.B., F.R.S., LL.D., the late Surveyor General of India and Superintendent of the Great Trigonometrical Survey, is dead. The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society writes of him thus:

"There are few men who have during a service of upwards of fifty years worked with such zeal and industry, and with such signal ability for the public interests and for the good of his country. Born in 1826, James Walker was the son of Mr. John Walker, of the Madras Civil Service. Passing at Addiscombe in December 1844, he was appointed to the Bombay Engineers, and arrived in India on May 10th, 1846. His active service commenced with the second Punjab campaign. He was field engineer at the second siege of Multan. When the town was stormed, he was in charge of a party of fifty sappers and miners. While charging the Mohon Gate a powder magazine exploded, killing eleven and wounding thirty-three of his party. Dashing through the blazing wood work and falling walls, Lieutenant Walker, at great personal risk, succeeded in extracting three of the party from the debris. He also served at the battle of Gujrat, and in the subsequent pursuit. From 1849 to 1853 he was engaged on the military reconnaissance of the Trans-Indus region from Peshawar to Dera Ismail Khan, arduous work well performed, and all the more meritorious because it was executed single handed, in a very disturbed region. During this period he served with distinction in many of the encounters with hill tribes on the frontier; and he completed a Military survey over 8,761 square miles.

On December 1st, 1853, Lieutenant Walker became an assistant in the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India under Sir Andrew Waugh, his first employment being the measurement of the Chach base near Attock. The Indus series connected the Chach and Karachu bases, and Walker had charge of the Northern Section. He was occupied with this work when the mutinies broke out in 1857. Walker was then attached to Sir Neville Chamberlain's moveable column. At the siege of Delhi he had been told off to blow up the Kashmir gate, but

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he was severely wounded, and afterwards was attacked by cholera. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in December 1857, and of Major in 1858.

Returning to his surveying duties at the close of the war, he resumed work on the Indus series, which was completed in 1860, and he was afterwards employed on the Jogi Tila meridional series. On the completion of this work the Surveyor General wrote to him in the following terms: 'The brilliant success which invariably attends your undertakings is a proof of the high professional qualifications, the foresight and judgment which you bring to bear on the important geodetical work on which you are engaged.' During 1860 he served in the Mahsud Waziri Expedition.

On March 12th, 1861, Major Walker succeeded Sir Andrew Waugh as Superintendent of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, and in the next two years the three last meridional series in the north of India were completed. Walker's first independent work was the measurement of the Vizagapatam base line which was completed in 1862. To show the accuracy of the calculations, it may be mentioned that the difference between the measured length of the base line and the length as computed from triangles, commencing 480 miles away at the Calcutta base line, and passing through dense jungle, was half an inch. A revision was next undertaken of the triangulation of Laubton in the south of India, work executed during the early part of the century, with re-measurements of the base lines. In February 1864, Walker attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

On his way home on leave in 1864, Colonel Walker visited Russia and established very friendly relations with the geodesists of the Russian survey. Through this wise step he was well supplied with geographical information from Petersburg, and there was a cordial feeling of co-operation between the officers of the two services. For instance, when Colonel Walker undertook a series of pendulum observations, the convertible pendulums were lent him by the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Petersburg. Colonel Walker was again on leave in 1871-72, when he, in conjunction with Sir Oliver St. John, fixed the difference of longitude between Teheran and London. He also made a thorough investigation of the condition of the plates of the Indian Atlas remaining in England, and wrote an important memorandum on the projection and scale of the Atlas. On his return he gave much attention to the question of the dispersion of unavoidable minute errors in observations for latitudes, longitudes, and azimuths, to obtain the closest approach to accuracy. At about the same time a gigantic work was undertaken, the 'Account of the operations of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India,' to consist of 20 volumes. The first nine were published by General Walker, and the first appeared in 1871. It contains his introductory history of the early operations of the survey and his account of the standards of measure and base lines. The second volume, also mainly by Colonel Walker, consists of an historical account of the triangulation, with descriptions of the method of procedure and of the instruments employed. The fifth volume is an account of the pendulum observations by Colonel Walker. The Superintendent's work as a geographer was only second in importance to his geodetic labours. His office at Dehra Dun was a hive of ceaseless and intelligent industry. Explorers were trained, Survey parties were organized for every military expedition, native surveyors were despatched to make discoveries, and their work was reduced and utilized. Numerous valuable maps were published and Walker's map of Turkistan went through many editions, and was the leading authority for upwards of twenty years. On January 1st, 1878, Walker, who had become a full Colonel in 1869, undertook the exceedingly laborious post of Surveyor General of India, in addition to the work of Superintendent of the Great Trigonometrical Survey; and he continued to transact the whole business of the combined surveys until he retired.

After a most arduous service of twenty-two years as Superintendent, Walker retired, having become a Major-General in December 1878, and a Lieutenant-General in 1881. The date of his retirement was February 12th, 1883, and in January 1884, he was promoted to the rank of General. He was F. R. S. and LL.D., of Cambridge.

General Walker saw the principal triangulation of British India completed during his incumbency, including ten base lines and 3,668 stations, those on the plains being towers 30 to 40 feet high. As the Duke of Argyll well observed in his despatch of 1871, this great survey, as a record of accurate geodetical measurement and of arduous services well performed, will yield to none that has hitherto been published by any European nation either in interest or in scientific importance, while the final harmonizing of results necessitated the most elaborate calculations that have ever been undertaken for the reduction of triangulation. It was no small honour to have been the leader, during nearly a quarter of a century of that devoted band of able public servants which composed the staff of the survey—*primus inter pares*. These men combine the knowledge and habits of thought of a Cambridge wrangler with the energy, resource, and presence of mind of an explorer or a backwoodsman; adding also all the gallantry and devotion which inspire the leader of a forlorn hope. The danger of service in the jungles and swamps of India with attendant anxiety and incessant work is greater than that encountered on a battle field; the percentage of deaths is larger, while the sort of courage that is needed is of a higher order, yet the well-earned rewards are withheld. When General Walker retired, his great services received no recognition whatever. Nevertheless the story of the Great Survey forms one of the proudest pages in the history of English domination in the East.

After his retirement, General Walker gave himself little rest. In 1885 he became a member of our Council, and for ten years he has been one of its most active and most valued labourers in the field of geography. In the same year he was President of the Geographical Section of the British Association at Aberdeen. He kept up a large correspondence with geodesists throughout the world, always ready to give advice and to supply information.

General Walker was married in India on April 27th, 1854, to Alicia,

daughter of General Sir John Scott, K.C.B., by Alicia, grand-daughter of Dr. W. Markham, Archbishop of York. His widow survives him, and he leaves one son, Herbert, a promising young officer in the Royal Engineers, and three daughters to mourn his loss."

THE Government of India moves with no electric speed. The *Gazette of India* of May 2 republishes, for general information, from the second Supplement to the *London Gazette* of 16th February 1896, the Queen's Letter to Her Secretary for the Home Department on the death of Princess Beatrice, Princess Henry of Battenberg. It has already appeared in all the Indian newspapers. It is a touching letter and would not have lost its mournful interest if it were republished in the Indian Official Gazette another four months hence.

AT Simla, on the afternoon of Saturday, the 2nd of May, Mr. Arthur Charles Trevor, C.S.I., I.C.S., took upon himself the execution of his new office as Public Works Minister under the usual salute.

31,769 persons visited the Indian Museum during the month of April, that is, 440 male and 136 female Europeans, and 24,742 male and 6,451 female natives, the daily average during the 21 open days being 1,512.

NASHIPUR has been the scene of gay festivities. A telegram of the 6th instant reports:

"The marriage of the daughter of Raja Rannajit Sinha Bahadur of Nashipore with the eldest son of Babu Isri Persad of Ula, Monghyr, came off with much eclat on Sunday last. Nashipore has worn quite a gay appearance and there is general rejoicing all round. The bridegroom's party consisting of more than five hundred men about one hundred and fifty of whom are relations of the bridegroom, representing the communities of Gya, Begonserai, Daraly, Mozafferpore, Ula, Gazipore, Telhara, Bahadurgunj, Mowkupa, Gorukhpore, Mobarakhpore, Durbhanga, Bhagalpore, Ekangar and other centres on the side of the bridegroom, and Patna, Calcutta, Benares, Cawnpore, Lucknow and other centres on the side of the bride's father arrived at Azimganj by special and ordinary trains and went in procession to the Katgola gardens where arrangements on an extensive scale were made by the Raja Bahadur for their accommodation. The next evening the nikasi consisting of complements of procession, the largest seen for years, sent by His Highness the Nawab Bahadur of Moorshedabad and Maharani Surnomoyi of Cossimbazar, went round the town arriving at the Rajbari at 10 P.M. and returning to Katgola where music and dancing were in full play. The next evening the bridegroom in procession came to the Rajbari and the wedding ceremony was performed in the presence of the members of the beradari and several local leading gentlemen. Both Katgola and Nashipore are *en fete* and the happy festivities will go on till Thursday next when the bridal party will leave for Ula. The native community of Nashipore, Moorshedabad, Berhampore and other places and the Jains of Baloochar and Azimganj were entertained on Saturday, the members of the beradari being daily entertained to sumptuous feasts at the Rajbari. The whole bridal party are guests of the Raja Bahadur. The happy pair take with them beside universal blessings most valuable presents from the Raja Bahadur of Nashipore."

We publish the telegram as we find it. We will be glad to know more of "the *nikashi* consisting of &c."

READ this and learn:

"Dr. Linsley, of the Connecticut State Board of Health, in his last report earnestly urges the people to vigilance in the use of ice; there is no doubt that much ice is gathered from ponds and rivers that would receive unqualified condemnation as drinking water, and repeated analyses have shown that the impurities do not 'freeze out' as many imagine, but are entangled in the ice, ready to be just as bad as ever when thawed out, and many kinds of bacilli survive freezing for many days, especially the typhoid. It seems like sheer folly to pay millions of dollars to procure pure water, and then to deliberately poison it with polluted ice. People can live without ice."

Artificial ice is worse, not only for the bacilli it may contain but also for its ingredients.

THE L. M. S. Examinations which were conducted this year much quicker than usual, give the following results:

|                                 |     |     |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Preliminary Scientific L. M. S. | ... | ... | 102 |
| First L. M. S.                  | ... | ... | 63  |
| Second L. M. S.                 | ... | ... | 14  |



AT the Muktearship Examination held in February last, 265 candidates have passed.

ON account of the sudden death of the Rani of Koti, wife of the giver of the fete, the Sipi fair, which was to have been held on the 12th and 13th instant, will not take place this year.

THE *Englishman* says :

"There are very few vacancies in the Orders of the Star of India and Companionship of the Indian Empire, and it is believed that the forthcoming Birthday Honors List will be but small. There are two vacancies in the K.C.S.I., and no C.S.I. or K.C.I.E., to spare. The number of C.I.E.'s is of course unlimited."

Our contemporary is very liberal with C.I.E.'s, but has no C.S.I. or K.C.I.E. to offer. It evidently takes no note of the death of the Hon'ble Prince Jehan Kadr, which has caused a vacancy in the knighthood of the Indian Empire.

THE "Scientific American" of March 28, 1896, has the following :—

"London oculists are up in arms against the very serious danger to the community caused by the electric light. Several eminent eye doctors are agreed on the point that unless a stop is put to the exposure of uncovered electric lights in the streets and in shops and offices nearly all the population will become blind. Experts are so greatly exercised in the matter that they even suggest that Parliament should take it up, and prohibit the use of plain glass globes for electric lights unless they are properly shaded."

Commenting on this, a London electrical journal says :

"It is not customary to look at the Sun, and not even the most enthusiastic electrician would suggest that naked arcs and incandescent filaments were objects to be gazed at without limit. But naked arc lights are not usually placed so as to come within the line of sight, and when they do so accidentally, whatever may result, the injury to the eye is quite perceptible. The filament of a glow lamp, on the other hand, is most likely to meet the eye, but a frosted bulb is an extremely simple and common way of entirely getting over that difficulty. The whole trouble can be easily remedied by the use of properly frosted or closed glass globes. In any case, however, the actual permanent injury to the eye by the glowing filament is no greater than that due to an ordinary gas flame."

You can avoid looking at the Sun but your eye cannot escape a long line of electric lamps.

Mr. Harry de Windt is a great traveller. He had been to Siberia three times, in 1887, in 1890 and in 1894. He has besides travelled from Pekin to Calais by land. Recently he started on a tour from New York to London by Alaska, the Bering Strait and Siberia. He will be out eight months, half of the time being spent in the sunless polar regions. Born of English father and French mother, in 1856, near Paris, he has the hardihood and eccentricity of both the nations.

THE Michigan Supreme Court of the United States, America, has decided that a critic, however hostile, is not amenable to a suit for libel and damages. But for wilful misstatement of any material fact contained in the book and attack on the private character of the author, he may be held to account. The rapid development of the judge-made law of libel in India requires a check.

PANCHANANDA has his counterpart in Europe in angel Gabriel. He has the power of possessing young women and more—of giving the past, the present and the future of a human life. Such is the announcement from Paris, the spokesman or rather woman being Mlle. Cudélon, a young lady of twenty three and personal attractions. She has maddened all Paris. Her house in Rue de Paradis is always crowded. All the principal newspapers publish reports about her. M. Zola who went to her discovered nothing surprising. But the representative of the *Figaro* was struck and charmed. He was informed of many things connected with his private life and journalistic career which were only known to himself. She has predicted the advent of a hero in Paris, who will deliver France from radicalism and socialism. She sees a near European war, in which France will suffer mutilation. There will be a Commune worse than that of 1871.

A hero may come or not, but she is now the heroine of France.

THE French Academy of Medicine have decided to divide the Saint Paul prize of £10,000 for a remedy for diphtheria between M. Moux of the Pasteur Laboratory and M. Behring of Berlin. Shall we take it then that a remedy has been found for the disease?

The Government of India prize of a lakh of rupees for cure of snake bite remains unrewarded, although we are reminded by Dewan Bahadur Mombhai Jashbhai that ancient India possessed the art. The Dewan Bahadur in opening the New Arya Medical School at Anund Rishi's Will quoted Surgeon-General M. C. Fournell, who, in his address at the Convocation of the Madras University in 1878, thus referred to the excellence of the Indian system of medicine :

"When the Greeks came to India with Alexander, they found, among the traces of civilization which raised their astonishment and admiration, the practice of medicine far advanced. Thus Arian informs us : 'The Grecian physician found no remedy against the bites of snakes, but the Indians cured those who happened to fall under that infortune.' And, again, Nearchus informs us : 'Alexander having all the most skilful Indian physicians about his person, caused a proclamation to be made throughout the camp, that whoever might be bitten by one of these snakes should forthwith repair to the Royal Pavilion to be cured.' This was 300 years before Christ, and now in 1878, more than 2,000 years after, we have the Government of India and Dr. Smith vying offering a reward for the precious but lost knowledge. These physicians are also said to have made other cures."

Not only did the Greeks derive much information direct, during Alexander's and his successor's invasion of India, but from the Egyptians subsequently and they owed their knowledge to some mysterious nation of the East India, no doubt. But our indebtedness to India can be more directly traced some-what later. When Bagdad, under the Caliphs after the destruction of Alexandria, became the great seat of learning, medicine was cultivated with much diligence and success. Hindu physicians were invited to settle in Arabia, and the works of Charak, Susruta, and the Treatise, called Nidan, were translated and studied by the Arabians in the days of Harun and Mansur, A. D. 773. With the great wave of Mussulman conquest which spread along the shores of the Mediterranean, medicine and mathematics were brought by the Arabians to Spain, and found a congenial home in the Saracenic Colleges of the Iberian Peninsula. The Arabians were not only great physicians, but famous alchemists, and to their teachings we owe the foundation of those sciences which have now grown to the far dimensions of modern medicine and chemistry.

"The science of medicine has to do with everything that concerns man's material comfort and safety, not only to cure, but to prevent disease, and thus the very elements from subjects of its investigation. Your ancestors here again seem to me to have forestalled modern civilization. Pure water enough and ample enough for all wants, is the great cry now of our large cities in Europe, thanks to the teachings of modern hygiene. If I am not mistaken, your ancestors, especially the Brahmins, had grasped this fact ages ago."

I have said enough, I think, to convince you that medicine is not a science which the people of India of all people, and especially the Brahmins, should despise or neglect. It originated with you, and the prejudices which now debar you from its study, had no existence in your olden age."

THE trial of Mrs. Emily Ghose, a daughter of the late Koylas Chunder Bose, charged with poisoning by arsenic her husband, the Rev. Baroda Churn Ghose, a Native Christian clergyman of the Church of England in charge of St. Saviour's Church, commenced on Tuesday at the Criminal Sessions, before Mr. Justice Trevelyan and a special jury. The Coroner's jury had found nothing against her, but the Chief Magistrate, under legal advice, sent her up. Mr. Dunne, the officiating Standing Counsel, prosecutes, while Messrs. Allen and W. H. Knight defend the prisoner. In an unusually long statement, Mr. Dunne opened the case, giving a synopsis, with occasional comments of his own, of the evidence recorded at the magisterial enquiry.

Indian Magistrates have grown wise. They no longer order the presence of the *chundimundip* to depose to an occurrence in its front, but require a plan of the place where a crime is said to have been committed. The first person examined by Mr. Dunne was a draughtsman who proved the plan of the house. The next witness was a student of 15, a Native Christian, who deposed to accompanying the prisoner to one Salomo (charged in the magistrate's court with abetment of murder, and set free by him) then to a dispensary and to her administering four times a white powder smelling camphor to her husband who vomited and purged after each dose. He also spoke to Mrs. Ghose throwing the evacuations into a drain downstairs. Another boy, much younger, said that he had seen the prisoner administer something to the deceased after which he vomited. Alfred Downes, an agent and broker, who had lived with the Ghoses for five days before Mr. Ghose died, had found him all right the morning of the day of his death. He deposed :

"I went upstairs about a quarter past seven to ask Mr. Ghose if he was going to service that morning. I called out to Mr. Ghose, and receiving no reply, I went upstairs. I then found Mr. Ghose on his stomach with his hands stretched. Mrs. Ghose was in the room upstairs. I first called out to Mr. Ghose, and receiving no reply, I put my hand on him, and found he was cold. I then put my hand on his wrist, and found he had no

pulse. I said, 'Mrs. Ghose, what is this?' She said, 'cholera, cholera,' and put her handkerchief to her eyes. She asked me to turn the body. I told her that she might have come to me in the morning. I would have got her the best doctor available. She said, 'What is the use of talk as he is dead now.' No further conversation took place. I saw some vomit in a basin. There was a very bad smell in the room. I noticed that she was not weeping. I know a man named Solomon. I saw him at the house at about eight o'clock. At eight o'clock Mrs. Ghose asked me to go to the thanna and fetch a constable. She said that the Mohamedans were very troublesome, and unless a constable was there to keep order, they would rush upstairs to see Mr. Ghose. I saw several Mohamedans outside. I went to the Collinga Thanna between 8 and 9 o'clock, and gave information of Mr. Ghose's death, which I said was due to cholera. I returned with a constable, whom I placed at the gate. I was present when Mr. Dowling, the undertaker, came to the house at eleven o'clock. I don't remember prisoner saying anything to Dowling. After that I saw prisoner and Solomon outside. Mrs. Ghose told me that they were going to Dowling's to arrange about the funeral, and to get a death certificate. I said I would try and get a death certificate, as it was a case of cholera. I went with Solomon and Mrs. Ghose to Messrs. Smith and Stanstreet in Durruntollah, Messrs. Scott, Thomson & Co., in Esplanade, and Messrs. Bithgate & Co. I then went to Dr. Wallace and to a Native doctor in Jann Bazar. Solomon and Mrs. Ghose suggested going to the Native doctor. I don't remember the Native doctor's name, but I can recognise him. I did not get a death certificate from anybody, and I returned to the house. There is a dispensary about 400 yards away from the deceased's house."

Other persons have been examined to prove, if not the actual administration by the wife of arsenic of which the husband died, but of her behaviour after death, to shew that she knew the cause and had helped it, was anxious to suppress all enquiry after death, and had gone the length of offering bribes to the police. The trial has not yet ended.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE divinity that doth hedge a king is no guarantee against vaillanism. Western Republican States equally with Monarchical Empires are a prey to it. That crime is a growth of modern civilization and has not yet travelled to the East. Here the assassination of kings, though not unknown, is due to other causes than socialism. Wading through blood to a throne is an Eastern potentat's privilege. But he has been always safe from his subjects. Religious fanaticism is, however, rivalling socialism. We have had a taste of it in British India. Now comes the intelligence of such a diabolical murder from the Oriental Kingdom of Persia. The King of Kings, the Shah Nasiruddin of Persia was shot by a fanatic while entering a shrine near Teheran on Friday, May 1. His Majesty was at once conveyed to his Palace, and died at four in the afternoon. A telegram received by the Persian Consul-General at Bombay from Teheran, stated that the Shah was assassinated by a Bihree. His Majesty had gone to the celebrated mosque of Shahzada Abdul Azim which is situated five miles from the Persian capital, for the purpose of worshipping. As he was entering the compound of the mosque the fanatic shot him dead with a revolver, the bullet entering the Shah's neck. The murderer was immediately arrested. It seems that the Babees belong to a new religion established about sixty years ago in Persia by Mozzu Ali Mahomed, who was shot by order of the Shah Nasiruddin, and whose followers have now taken this revenge. The name of the assassin is Mirza Mahomed Raza. He is a follower of Djemaleddin. He has confessed his crime and named eight accomplices. The eldest son of the Shah, Governor of Ispahan, his mother not being of royal blood, has been excluded from succession. Mozzafferuddin, the second son, was proclaimed the next Shah and summoned to Teheran from Azerbaijan. He was enthroned at Tabreez on May 3. Great Britain, Russia and Turkey have recognized Mozzaffer as the Shah of Persia. The Consul-General at Bombay had issued invitations for an evening party, in connection with the Shah's Jubilee, which was of course abandoned. Immediately the news of the assassination was made known, the Imperial Standard was hoisted half-mast at all public buildings and also on the ships in harbour. The Consul-General telegraphed the sad news to the Viceroy and Lord Sandhurst, and in the course of the day received sympathetic messages in reply.

THE May Day celebration passed off in Europe generally in a quiet manner. Only in Vienna, serious rioting took place. The police and military were summoned. Numbers of rioters were injured, and many arrests made.

THE whole Italian force advancing in three columns has relieved the Adigrat garrison.

EARL Grey has arrived at Bulawayo, and telegraphs that he considers the back of the Matabele revolt is broken, and that Bulawayo is now as safe as London. The column from Salisbury, with which Mr. Cecil Rhodes is, has defeated the Matabele near Gwelo, killing thirty of them.

THREE hundred and Mounted Infantry and 150 men of the Middlesex Regiment sailed for the Cape on Saturday. Mr. Merriman, member of the Cape Council, brought forward a motion in the House of Assembly that an address be sent to the Queen to consider the revocation or alteration of the Chartered Company's charter.

AT the opening of the Volksraad, President Kruger made a speech, in which he said that he hoped for the assistance of the assembly in developing the prosperity of the Transvaal which had been interrupted by Jameson's raid. The foreign relations of the Republic, he said, were friendly, and the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were discussing the question of a closer union. No mention was made of the Unlanders' grievances in the speech.

MR. Chamberlain read in the House of Commons a telegram from Sir Hercules Robinson, stating that he had not the slightest hint of Dr. Jameson's raid which came upon him as a bolt from the blue. Mr. Chamberlain said he placed implicit confidence in Sir H. Robinson's statement.

MR. Cecil Rhodes has tendered his resignation to the Chartered Company, and the Board of Directors are now considering the same. He has also tendered his resignation as member of the Privy Council to Mr. Chamberlain, and offered to return to England immediately. The majority of English papers urge generous treatment of Mr. Rhodes for the sake of the great work he has done in South Africa which may be lost without him. Mr. Hawksley, Solicitor to the Chartered Company, cabled to Mr. Cecil Rhodes at Gwelo on the 4th that, owing to the altered situation in Rhodesia, the Board hesitate to accept his resignation, and they ask what Mr. Rhodes's view is. Mr. Rhodes cabled on the 6th to let his resignation wait, "as we fight the Matabele again to-morrow." The Board next day resolved to defer the acceptance of Messrs. Rhodes and Beit's resignations, but this was only temporarily approved by certain Directors, who consider the resignation of Mr. Rhodes and Beit to be inevitable, otherwise they will resign themselves.

A SHARP skirmish has taken place near Akasheh between three squadrons of Cavalry and 300 Dervish Camelmen, in which the latter were repulsed with heavy loss. The Egyptian loss was trivial. Captain Fattan was slightly wounded.

A COMMERCIAL treaty between Japan and Sweden has been signed at Stockholm.

OWING to the famine in Tonquin, the French Government has abolished the duty on rice from Honkong until June.

LI-HUNG-CHANG has been sumptuously received by the Czar and Czarina at Larskoe Selo, their summer residence. The Chinese ambassador, after attending the Czar's coronation, will visit the courts of the Treaty Powers partly with a view to obtaining an increase of five to eight per cent. in ad valorem import duties at the treaty ports in China.

NOTWITHSTANDING semi-official denial regarding the railway line to Herat, the *Sivlet* confirms the statement that it is to be laid from Merve to Kushk with a northern terminus ninety-four miles from Herat.

SEVENTEEN cases and eleven deaths from cholera took place at Alexandria on May 5.

LORD Wenlock has been presented with the freedom of the city of York. In a speech made on the occasion he dwelt upon the importance of railway extension in India, and praised the excellent work done in the Madras Presidency in this direction.

THE Indian Parliamentary Committee wrote to Lord George Hamilton, urging him to exempt from all duty all cloths made in India or imported, which contain no yarn higher than twenties. Lord George has replied reciting at some length his reasons for declining to disturb the recent equitable arrangement.

THE *Advocate* of Lucknow reports that

"The Collector of Shahjahanpur's Orderly has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for using service stamps."

An orderly of an official is entitled to many extra emoluments. Is he not competent, like his master, to send his private letters under official frank?

AGAIN :—

"A sweeper of Bijour who allowed his five years old girl to play on the public road and to be run over by a carriage has been sentenced to five months' imprisonment."

Who is the owner of the carriage? Has the driver been prosecuted for negligence, or is the father alone made responsible for the death of the child? The magistrate was evidently anxious more for the safety of the carriage than of the girl crushed under its wheels. A jocosely friend of ours once warned a man talking by the side of a carriage to move away lest he might injure the wheels by their going over his feet. The Indian Penal Code prescribes penalties for not taking order with one's property and animals. Under which law was the sweeper punished for letting loose his child not to kill but to be killed? We smell a rat. We hope our contemporary will publish the full facts and the judgment of the magistrate.

We quote the same paper again :

"The friends of female education will be glad to learn that in a marriage at Meerut the services of the Pundits were not required to conduct the marriage. The bride, daughter of Lala Ram Chandra, cloth merchant, was sufficiently well versed in Sanskrit so was the bride-groom a graduate, to conduct their portion of the work."

Was the priest entirely discarded? There are various kinds of marriage. To what class does the present belong? It could not be a valid marriage as is now ordinarily understood. The priest is indispensable. He is as much needed for the learned as for the ignorant. He is the chief witness to the matrimonial tie.

THE Simla or rather the Hyderabad bribery case has entered a new phase. Mr. Monomohun Ghose has been retained for the defence.

We read in the *Madura Mail* :

"The month of February, 1896, was in one respect the most remarkable in the world's history. *It had no full moon.* January had two full moons, and so had March, but February had none. Do you realise what a rare thing in nature that was? It had not occurred since the creation of the world. And it will not occur again, according to the computation of astronomers, for how long do you think? Two million, five hundred thousand (2,500,000) years! Was not that a truly wonderful month?"

This appears in the column of News and Notes. There is nothing to shew that it is original news and no reproduction from any other journal. Original or not, it is wonderful to be sure, and the originator has succeeded in his object. The news has appeared in *Madura*, if not anywhere else, and now sees the light in *Calcutta*. Our contemporary publishes the strange non-occurrence without any comment or note. We cannot silently pass it on to our readers. It is all bosh of course. It could not have been seriously meant. Yet there are people who will be set athinking by the strange news. To save them any trouble we will point out that the first day of February began on the second day after a full moon. The 13th was thus the day for a new and the 28th for a full moon. The 28th of February was remarkable for two natural phenomena—the full moon and a lunar eclipse. That was also the day for the celebration of the *Aoli*, not with red powder but flowers. It was pre-eminently a full moon night.

AT the election of the General or the ruling Committee of the Calcutta

Corporation, the amalgamated area gained two seats. So there are now 3 suburban Commissioners in that Committee instead of one. Almost all the old members among the elected Commissioners have been re-elected. Only four have gone out.

THE *Madras Standard* of May 2 writes :—

"We are desirous to draw attention to the fact that on Wednesday and Thursday nights at the Victoria Public Hall, during the performances given by the Saunders-Gould Combination, absolutely no Police assistance was provided for the regulation of vehicular traffic. We can quite understand the stupid system obtaining by which the performing company, professional or amateur, is expected to pay for Police attendance. The question therefore arises whether this anomalous practice should not be abolished, if only on the principle that wherever two or three are gathered together in lawful or unlawful assembly there the Policeman should be present to guard against accidents and offences. To expect that he should be remunerated by a company which is more or less indifferent as to how its audience comes to or goes from its show, for this service, is plainly a matter of unwarranted exaction, and we are glad to notice that the Saunders-Gould Company, on principle, did not apply for the services of the Police, notwithstanding that on the first night there were two accidents of a more or less serious nature at the gates of the hall. To our mind a Circus Company may be reasonably charged for Police services seeing that order must be preserved among eager, excited mobs, but as regards the regulation of vehicular traffic at any other form of public function, the services of the protectors of public safety should be freely given.

The question raised by our southern contemporary is not to be lightly answered. Yet it is a matter which requires solution. It is not easy to make a distinction between occasions when the Police should be supplied free or on payment. The rule ought to be that except on special occasions and for special purposes to be named, the Police must not expect payment but do the ordinary work as a public duty. The Police are same in *Madras* as in *Calcutta*. You are expected to pay for every service done, and when you pay or are made to pay you are supplied with more men than you require. The *Calcutta* Police have thus opened a source of income which is not unacceptable to Government. A vicious system has grown up to ask for payment on the slightest pretext. That cannot be tolerated.

THE Police are identified with oppression. Not only the honour of individuals is safe but the Police Commissioner has extended his hands to men's pockets. He has imposed a tax unsanctioned by law or regulations. More of it in our next.

THE week has been full of marriages. The expiring month of Baisakh is auspicious for happy unions and has been too much utilized because the following months happen to be inauspicious.

RAINS are reported from several districts of Bengal. We had two good showers at *Calcutta* this week. But the mortality from cholera maintains its high figure.

THE following telegram dated Peshawar, May 3, appears in the *Englishman* of May 4 :

"Lieutenant Stevens, of the 20th Punjab Infantry, whilst placing his ponies into a horse box at the Peshawar Cantonment station on Friday, the 1st May, was stabbed from behind. The assassin tried to escape, but was captured. Time about 9-30 A.M. The man is supposed to be Sudan Koro, a Sonwari from the country west of Bajawar and a follower of the Hadli Mulla. He was tried on Saturday and executed at about 1 P.M. Lieutenant-Stevens is doing well, and hopes are entertained that he may get over this terrible calamity."

This is swift (or shall we say? with) justice. No. It is frontier justice, the justice of the Frontier Crimes Act. The Puthan was arrested, tried, sentenced and executed within 15½ hours of the crime. Yet not so long a time! Another telegram dated May 6 says :

"The fate of the murderer did not take long to decide. Making the attack at half-past nine he was tried at half-past eleven, and by half-past one the capital sentence had been completed. In such cases of unprovoked murder short striving has the best moral effect, and Peshawar is to be congratulated on having a Deputy Commissioner strong enough to take prompt action and thereby discourage future crimes of the sort. The lesson has been needed long and will not be lost."

"The would-be murderer was captured by a porter named Devi Dial, who happened to be in the vicinity, and at once admitted having come in from the frontier with the deliberate intention of killing a European." Saida Khan, it is also reported, was 25 years of age, was a Sonwari of the Batmar district, and attempted the life of the Lieutenant with an Afghan knife. The execution was of course

public and was attended by a large body of troops of the garrison. Whatever its effect on those who attended, the prisoner was sorry that it was not more public. "The prisoner, who was a miserable, undeveloped surplung, not only acknowledged his guilt, but bragged of it, and went cheerfully to his doom, disappointed only that the police had refused to first take him round the city and exhibit him to the people."

There will be a disappointment, indeed, if Mr. Maude does not figure in the Birthday Gazette.

The quick despatch of fanatics may satisfy British revenge, but it is hardly a deterrent to martyrs to faith who hope to attain Heaven through British blood.

Lieutenant Stevens, has not, as was fondly hoped, survived his wound. He died on Thursday last.

EVERY one taking an interest in India ought to know something of the character of the country, its inhabitants, its resources and its commercial financial and educational condition. The development of the country to the requirements of modern civilization demands a knowledge of these subjects much more than of anything else. But the subjects are so vast and varied that it is not possible for everybody to study each in detail, though it is desirable to have a general idea of the main features of all. It is for the latter purpose that the "Statistical Atlas of India" was first prepared by the Government of India in 1886. "Since then another census of India has been taken and the Atlas has now (in the 2nd edition) been revised and brought up to date." It consists of thirty five maps and diagrams illustrating India's Physical Configuration, Geology, Rainfall, Irrigation, Famine, Crops, Forest conservation, Horses and Live-stock, Economic Minerals, Railway, Prices, Foreign Trade, Finance and Taxation, Revenue and Rent systems, the People, Languages and Religions, Education, Emigration and Feudatory States. The value of the maps and diagrams has been considerably enhanced by explanatory chapters, which have been written by Sir E. C. Buck, Dr. W. King, Mr. John Elliot, Mr. George Wait, Mr. B. Ribbentrop, Mr. J. E. O'Connor, and Veterinary-Lieutenant H. F. Pease, possessing special knowledge of the subjects. In the maps, clearness has been secured by the omission of all unimportant details. The object has been not to give mere *compendia* of technical information, but to sum up, as shortly and clearly as possible, the leading points. It is true that some of the subjects are still wrapped up in obscurity, but the maps give all up to date information. They as well as the diagrams are singularly neat and the explanatory chapters sufficiently lucid. In every way the publication is an agreeable addition to a library.

WE will glean from the Atlas a few facts regarding the water supply of India, both natural and artificial. The subject engages a deal of public attention, mainly as regards drinking water.

LOOKING at a map of India one cannot but be struck with the vastness of the country. The physical features are again so well-regulated that it may without hesitation be said to be one of nature's favourites. There are countries whose immensity does not compare unfavourably with that of India, but there the mark of special favour is generally wanting. Egypt, for instance, which is one of the most fertile lands in the world, has an area more than a third of that of India. Comparing the inhabited and cultivated areas of the two countries, the British provinces in India exclusive of the Native States are, however, equal to about forty-two Egypt's. This pre-eminence is due to the physical configuration of India. The Himalayan range in the north standing "like a high wall bounding and protecting a rich garden," and regulating its singularly unique drainage system, contributes vastly to the wealth and fertility of the country. "The Himalayan range stops and holds the vapour blown in from the sea and gives it back to India in rains and fertilizing streams. Beyond lie the steppes of Asia, dry or arid and unprofitable." "Even the drainage that flows down the north side of the great mountain wall is carried half to the east and half to the west in the two mighty rivers which become the Indus and the Brahmaputra respectively, hugging the very foot of the wall, until they are able to find openings *through which they burst their way* southward into the Indian continent. Thus the northern drainage to which geographically the trans-Himalayan region would seem to have a prescriptive right is almost unfairly captured

by India, and by its fertilizing service frees its master from all fear of rivalry from the lands beyond the mountain zone." Another remarkable feature is the mountain wall on the west coast—the Sahyadri range which arrests the vapour-bringing winds of the South West monsoon and deprives the country lying to the lee side of a sufficient rainfall. Nearly the whole of the drainage flows towards the east. And the alluvial denitus borne by the streams contributes to the formation of a rich soil of considerable agricultural value. Thus the peculiarly favourable physical configuration of India is a key to the distribution of the rainfall, climate and agricultural wealth, as of the vast and varied population.

India is essentially an agricultural country and agriculture depends on moisture. Moisture is available in the forms of rain and atmospheric vapour, river-floods and inundations, shallow tanks and ponds, retention of moisture in soil, rivers fed by snow and mountain springs, underground reservoir and deep lakes or surface reservoirs. The distribution of these over India is very unequal. Some provinces are plentifully supplied, while in others artificial means are resorted to. Various methods are applied for a more or less uniform supply all over the country, with some of which, as for instance canals, Indians were familiar before the occupation of the country by the British. These methods are of course varied according to the requirements of the different provinces. The Indo-Gangetic alluvium from Peshawar to Calcutta is a level tract, slightly raised above the sea level. Under this tract stretches a steady zone, soaked with fresh water forming a vast underground reservoir. This reservoir is utilized for water supply by sucking wells. "It is more largely used in the central section (of the alluvium) than at either extremity, because towards the Western or Punjab end, the water lies at too great a distance for the surface of the soil to admit of its being lifted without great labour and expense, while towards the eastern or Bengal end, rain and moisture are so plentiful as to make irrigation unnecessary." Hence the N.-W. P. is "well" watered far in excess of any other province. In the Punjab system of irrigation "whole rivers of great size are lifted bodily into canals constructed just above the foot of the Himalayas and are spread over the plains in a network of distributing channels. A very large portion of Western and Central India is a large plateau of basaltic rocks, consisting of successive sheets of igneous outflow known as the Deccan Traps. It is like a huge sponge and contains "so large a proportion of rich, black, water holding soil that it seeks for no other form of water supply." The formations of Peninsular India are Archæan consisting of hard crystalline rocks—gneisses, schists and granites. They are extremely old, in fact, the oldest to be found on the face of the earth. They have been subjected to a high degree of metamorphism and are consequently "covered with fissures, corrugations, and hollows, in which surface water can be collected with or without the aid of artificial means."

The natural supply of water is thus very considerable in India, and the existing and possible functions of artificial irrigation show that it can be extended to a very small proportion of the total area. There are 33 millions of uncultivated acres which can be made cultivable, and 43 millions of cultivated acres whose produce can be largely increased by irrigation. And the Government recognizes a "great duty before it in aiding the cultivating population—either by loans of money or by engineering assistance—to make extended use of various forms of water and moisture available to them."

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, May 9, 1896.

### HOW A MAGISTRATE ERRS TO PRE-SERVE PRESTIGE.

WE have already published (*R. & R.* of 25th March) the judgment of Mr. L. P. Shirres, the District Magistrate of Dacca, in the complaint of a wealthy citizen against the police for wrongful restraint and assault accompanied with violence. That judgment, as we said, is possible only in a country like India where judicial and executive functions are combined in the same official. The complainant had cited



many witnesses. Processes had been taken out. A few among them were examined. All of them happened to be public servants whose prospects of pay and promotion, or at least of peace, depend upon the good will of Mr. Shirres. Every one of them deposed to the arrest and the dragging. The dragging could not be a gentle operation. The complainant's vakils desired to prove the violent character of the assault. They applied for time to produce other witnesses—men unconnected with either the police or the Magistracy and, therefore, better able to depose to the facts. No Magistrate that was not prejudiced on behalf of the accused could refuse such an application. Mr. Shirres, however, in the exercise of that discretion which is vested in the trying Magistrate, refused the prayer. With him judicial discretion, instead of being a science, probably means unfettered license. "I see no reason to grant the petition" is his curt reply. That short sentence embodies his reason for the refusal. The accused had not been called. They had not examined any witnesses. Upon the evidence, however, such as it was, tendered by the prosecution, Mr. Shirres held it was proved that music is never allowed near the Cutcheries. As a matter of fact, it was only one or two witnesses, inferior clerks of the Magistracy, that had said so. Our information is that it is only in ordinary processions that music is so prohibited. The unpublished rule does not apply to processions which are costly and whose magnificence is greater than usual. The reason is obvious. Such processions are rare in even that city of shows. The procession of the Bysakhs, it was known from the beginning, would be a grand affair. Hence, the usual interdiction of music did not apply to them and it was not mentioned in the license. Mr. Shirres, however, having come to the conclusion that music is never allowed in the vicinity of the Cutcheries, indulges in a clap-trap for blinding the superior Courts and the public. He says that "the necessity of the rule (interdiction of music) is obvious when it is considered that there were 150 processions on the day in question." From what source did he derive this information? As a matter of fact, no witness had stated so. Is this a fact of which Mr. Shirres could take judicial cognisance? Obviously enough, he must have been told so by the police and we will do him the justice to suppose that he believed what he had heard. A cursory enquiry, however, if he had been free to make it, would have established the fact that so far from 150, not one procession, excepting that of the Bysakhs, passed by the Cutcheries that day. The statement, therefore, about 150 processions is an inaccuracy not of the ordinary but of official magnitude. But even this is nothing compared to the reasoning of the next few lines. Briefly stated, it is this: the license granted by the District Superintendent of Police did not especially interdict music. Directions, however, unknown to the licensee, had been given to the police not to allow it. The procession continued to

play music notwithstanding the prohibition by the police. It is not known whether the complainant himself ordered the music after the police had forbidden it. But the music not having been stopped, the police arrested the complainant, and as he would not submit, force had to be used. In the first place, is there a tittle of evidence on the record to show that the District Superintendent had given orders to the police to stop the music, after having apparently allowed it in the license, or, at least, after his omission to interdict in the only regular way? Was this also a fact of which Mr. Shirres was competent to take judicial notice? Verily, it was his mentor that had said so and he could not possibly distrust him. To what a depth would British prestige sink if a Magistrate, sitting as a Judge, were to regulate every part of his proceedings according to, not the technicalities of Westminster Hall, but the law of evidence and procedure as laid down by the Indian legislature itself? Mr. Shirres could not be a party to such a sacrifice of prestige at the bid of an oleaginous native. Supposing, for argument's sake, that the District Superintendent of Police really chose to act with the wisdom Mr. Shirres had the goodness to impute to him, *viz.*, verbally ordering the police, behind the back of the licensee to stop, at a particular point, the music after having granted an unlimited license, were there not other questions to dispose of before dismissing the case? The complainant was not the man who had applied for the license. Nor was it issued to him. Some one else had obtained it. Who, under the law, could possibly be responsible for any breach of the license? It is true that the complainant is the father of one of the bridegrooms. Is that fact sufficient to make him responsible in the eye of the law? Then, again, the license had been entrusted to a Head-constable, who, with ten constables, had been told off to see that everything went off as it should. What becomes of the allegation about the District Superintendent's verbal orders to the police to stop the music when the Head-constable and the constables in especial charge had done nothing to carry them out? That man and his assistants, finding no interdiction in the license, had walked with the procession without having once called upon the musicians to stop playing. It is no special pleading in which we are indulging. Criminal responsibility, such as would justify the forcible seizure of a man and dragging him away with violence, is a grave thing. It is not even proved that when the police gave the order for stopping the music, the complainant, in a spirit of contumacy, set that order at defiance, telling his men to go on. Why arrest him? why not arrest the musicians if they disobeyed the order? why not punish the Head-constable and the ten constables who had the license in their keep and who had done nothing to prevent the music? Is it possible to suppose that the musicians would have gone on playing if the police had prohibited them? The fact is, the arrest of the complainant was utterly indefensible. This could easily have been shown to the satisfaction of Mr. Shirres if he had only allowed the complainant's vakils to address him after the examination of the witnesses.

The concluding portion of the judgment, where the Magistrate gives his reasons for holding the complaint frivolous and vexatious, is ridiculous. That a gentleman of the boasted Civil Service of India

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could descend into such bathos, would be almost incredible but for the actual fact. "The complaint appears to be frivolous because based on no substantial ground whatsoever, and vexatious because it has been brought with no hope of obtaining a conviction but merely in order to harass the police." Not only was there no ground, but no ground whatsoever, for the complaint, for the forcible seizure of a man and dragging him violently away, when the seizure and the dragging are acts of the police, are very ordinary things, to which, besides, every subject of the crown in India should submit. The statement that there could be no hope of obtaining a conviction, may, after all, be correct. Mr. Shirres has probably succeeded in inspiring the people of Dacca with the conviction that he is not the Magistrate to punish the police. The complainant, therefore, must be held to have acted thoughtlessly in not taking note of this. He must suffer for his rashness in rushing into court.

Such then is the extraordinary judgment which Mr. Magistrate Shirres delivered in the complaint of a citizen for wrongful arrest and violence done to his person by men who are supposed to be guardians of the peace for the badges they wear and the pay they draw from the public funds. This, however, is not all. The finale is still behind. Not satisfied with their victory, the police wanted a triumph. Their dearest wish was accomplished. They brought two complaints against the brothers Priya Nath and Dharani Nath. On the day of marriage, *viz.*, the 7th of March, the Bysakhs were alleged to have allowed certain fire-works to be discharged. These consisted not of bombs or rockets or anything of the kind, but *tubris*, or as they call them at Dacca, *Turnis*. By what accident phosphoric torches also have come to be classed under fire-works at Dacca is not known to us, but somehow people using such torches for light are regarded as letting off fire-works. The police called three witnesses from their own force. The defence alleged that fire-works had not been let off from any part of the public road, but that private land had been used for the purpose. The Magistrate disbelieved the defence. The evidence of the three policemen was enough. Both the brothers were convicted of offences under section 32 of Act V of 1861 and section 283 of the Indian Penal Code. The beauty of the conviction is that none of these sections applies. Section 32 of the Police Act refers to cases where there is opposition or disobedience of orders issued (1) with respect to the conduct of processions, the routes they are to take, the hours allowed, and the use of music, and (2) about the prevention of obstruction on thoroughfares. It also refers to the breaches of the conditions laid down in licenses. Supposing, that the section applies, at Dacca itself convictions have taken place for letting off fire works upon only a prosecution by the municipality. Then, again, one of the accused, *viz.*, Dharani Nath, could not be shown to have had any connection, however remote, with the particular procession in which it was alleged that fire-works had been let off.

The second case which the police brought against the two cousins was for violation of the condition laid down in the license about time. The contention of the police was that the procession did not break up till at least half an hour after the sanctioned time. Two witnesses were examined, connected with the force. One of the cousins was let off. The

other was convicted and fined Rs. 50. The judgment is a curious document. It is as follows:—"This would ordinarily be a petty case because if the procession was after time, the offence was not serious. Here it is quite clear from the evidence for the defence (see evidence of Radha Ballav Bysakh) that the procession was after hours, and it appears also that the accused wilfully set the law at defiance." The evidence of Radha Ballav, which is expressly referred to as proving the wilful character of the breach is to this effect: "I was with the procession. Dharani Babu was not with it. No one ordered the procession to stop when we are near the Kutwali. The police went with us—accompanied us to the end, and no one told us to stop." How far this evidence justifies the conclusion about wilful disobedience may be left to the reader to judge. Supposing that there was some delay in breaking up the procession, it should be remembered that Babu Priya Nath had been arrested and that it was the police which, by that arrest, had caused the delay. Then, again, the procession having started from the house of the Bysakhs was to return to that point. If it was late by half an hour, with whom would the responsibility lie? The men walking with particular things could not stand on the way or leave it altogether just as the clock struck the hour of 4 P.M. What were they to do for observing the law? Were they to come to a dead halt throwing down every thing on their persons, as soon it was time, or were they to reach the point from which they had started? Nobody had ordered them to stop. Why had a number of policemen been told off to regulate the procession? Was it not their duty to see that the prescribed time was not exceeded? In this case again, the question of criminal liability required to be fully discussed before the accused could be convicted. Who could be said to be guilty of a breach of the conditions of the license? The license had been granted to one man, while another was convicted for having disobeyed its conditions! This may be law with the District Magistrate of Dacca, but few men will accept it as such. How long will the country groan under this intolerable state of affairs? How long will the same person that practically prosecutes be allowed to sit as a judge in his own cause? Mr. Shirres of Dacca, we may be sure, is not actually so blundering a judge as not to know that many issues of law had to be decided before there could be a conviction in the two complaints by the police. That he gave his judgments without deciding them,—without, in fact, having allowed the vakils of the accused to argue the cases—is due only to the administrative blunder of combining judicial and executive functions in the same official. The plea of economy urged in its defence is no longer tenable. It has been shown that the desired reform may be effected without additional cost. The argument connected with this maintenance of official prestige is an insult to the intelligence of the people.

#### OUR LONDON LETTER.

April 17, 1896.

The principal events in the Imperial Parliament during the past week, have been the introduction of the Irish Land Bill on Monday, by Mr. Gerald Balfour (brother of Mr. Arthur), and of the Budget last night by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The former is a Bill so bristling with technicalities, the common saying is, only five members in the House are competent to deal with it, and of these five, two only are experts. The five are the Brothers Balfour, Mr. John Morley, Mr. T. W. Russell and

Mr. Tim Healy, the last two being the experts. Roughly speaking, the Bill is said to hold the *juste milieu* between the extreme landlord party on the one hand, and the extreme tenant right party on the other.

The passing of the Bill depends largely on the action of the Irish members, as the Education Bill has precedence, and will be fought in committee, by the Radicals, clause by clause, if not line by line. On this Bill, the Radical party is hopelessly demoralised.

It will lose the support in the Division Lobbies of the entire Irish party making a difference of 150 to 160, in favour of the Government, on each division. The reason of this is, the Bill favours the R. C. schools, and the Catholic Hierarchy has given it a general support, and has called upon all Catholics in the House of Commons to vote for it.

It is too soon yet to judge of the merits of the controversy, as between Sir John Gorst, representing the present Government, and Mr. Acland as the spokesman of the Radicals.

One thing only is clear. It will be a very bitter struggle. Party feeling will run high, and what Macaulay called the "braying of Exeter Hall" will make itself heard with blatant noise. Already the Gladstonian clergy who turn their pulpits into mere political vehicles, are screeching and braying, the Guinness Rogers, the Cliffords, the Hughs of London, are already in full chase, denouncing, perorating, and misrepresenting as only a Radical dissenting clergyman can. When the Education Bill has passed the Commons, the Irish Land Bill will have its turn.

It is to be hoped the Government will be firm over the former. With the aid of the Irish vote, it is reckoned the majority will run from 250 to 300 on each division and with such an enormous force at its command, it should be able to crush needless obstruction, after giving the fullest opportunity for debating *ad nauseam* the principle of the measure.

*The Budget.* I wonder how our foreign critics---French and German---who gloat over what they call Great Britain's "splendid isolation," feel this morning on reading the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech, last night, in Committee of Ways and Means, when introducing his Budget. The simplest analysis I have seen of it, is this:

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Estimated revenue for 1896-97 | ...£101,755,000  |
| Estimated expenditure         | ..., 100,047,000 |

Surplus £ 1,708,000

I quote from the *Standard*:

"In the customs the increase arose from tobacco, tea, and wine, tea was driving coffee out of the market."

British and Irish spirits were driving foreign spirits from the market. No less than a million sterling a year was literally thrown into the gutter in the shape of cigarette and cigar ends.

Out of the number of new companies that were floated, an almost innumerable number were christened by the consumption of 1,200,000 extra bottles of champagne. The net receipts from beer were £10,719,000 and the net revenue from British spirits was £15,603,000.

Death duties yielded £11,600,000.

Stamps yielded £7,350,000.

*Continental News.* The visit of the Emperor William to the King of Italy at Venice, and to the Emperor of Austria at Vienna, is supposed to be of first class political importance, as cementing more strongly than ever, the *Triple Alliance*. That is the alliance of Austria, Germany and Italy, as against that of France and Russia.

But an event which in its far-reaching consequences, may vastly transcend the importance of the Triple Alliance, occurred at Berlin this day week. Herr von Schrader fought a duel with Herr von Kotze. The former was fatally wounded, and died on the 11th. The event has caused the most profound sensation in Germany, and in the result may shake the throne of the Hohenzollerns to its foundations. The quarrel arose out of that abominable Court scandal connected with anonymous letters bringing foul and loathsome charges against the Imperial entourage. Schrader accused Kotze of being the author. Instead of seeking redress---as in this country---by an action for libel, the code of honour in the German army insists upon a duel being fought. The Emperor could have forbidden it, but apparently the arrangements for the fatal encounter were made with his active connivance.

This is the serious part of the matter. The whole German Press, from the extreme conservative, to the wildest socialist, agrees in condemning him.

I enclose the letter of the *Times'* Berlin correspondent under date the 14th which will show you I have not exaggerated the incident. Perhaps you might find room for it in full.

In Paris, duelling is carried on more as a piece of tomfoolery, and therefore one is not surprised that in the duel between the Prince de Sagan and Mons. Abel Hermant, both left the field of honour (?) unscathed though 20 paces only separated them!

*Africa.* Our most serious trouble at the moment lies in Ma-

tabelle land and not in Egypt. Appearances are somewhat against Sir Hercules Robinson, the High Commissioner at the Cape. He seems to have underestimated the crisis.

But as Mr. Chamberlain said the other night in the House of Commons, this is not the moment for recriminations. The paramount duty is to restore order, and there is something startling in the suggestion of the "*Daily News*" that Dr. Jameson and his fellow prisoners should have lengthened leave of absence on bail, to return to Matabeleland and assist in suppressing the revolt.

The decisive movement in Egypt will not take place till the autumn, when, it is said, Great Britain will place 10,000 troops at Lord Cromer's disposal. The Venezuela question drags on wearily at Washington, but everything points to an amicable settlement. Chili and Argentina, it is said, have both agreed to submit the boundary dispute to the arbitration of Great Britain.

*India.* The Colonial Secretary is keeping his eye on those of your countrymen who have emigrated to the Transvaal, and you may be satisfied he will see justice done to them.

We hear little of the famine in the North-West which makes your friends on this side hope the Government are keeping it well in hand.

As a matter that may interest your readers I may mention the launch of a new steamer for the P. & O. Co. It is named most appropriately the "*India*." It is not only the largest of the fleet of the P. & O. Co., but it is the "largest steamer ever built on the lower reaches of the Clyde." It has a tonnage of 8,000 tons and will be supplied with engines of 11,000 horse power indicated. It will be placed on the admiralty list of armed cruisers. The P. & O. Director who was present at the launch declared Messrs. Caird & Co. and Greenock "had built fifty vessels for the P. & O. Co. which, if put in line end to end, would measure a length of between three and four miles!"

*Books of the week.* Since the monumental work of Mr. Lecky on Democracy, we have had no great outstanding publication. But the "*Times*" reviews with great favour the late R. L. Stevenson's "*Records of a family of Engineers*" being a biographical sketch of his ancestors.

Mr. E. F. Knight's "*Madagascar in War Time*" is described as a "readable as well as instructive work."

Baron Ferdinand Rothschild has written on "*Personal Characteristics from French History*," a book evidently well worth reading.

I commend to your friends most strongly "*Matthew Arnold's Letters*," and the "*Far East*" by Chirol. The latter gives in small compass a most graphic account of China and Japan, throwing light on the great problems now working themselves out between Great Britain, France and Russia in the "*Far East*."

I can recommend a remarkable story of English public school life, entitled "*George Eversley's Friendship*" by the eminent Headmaster of Harrow, the Rev. J. E. C. Weldon.

In a recent issue you referred to the late Sir W. Mackinnon's revocation of his bequests to the Free Church of Scotland. But you must remember, Sir William was consistent throughout. He never swerved from the Church as founded by the illustrious Chalmers, and defended in later years by such men as Prof. Thomas Smith (formerly of the F. C. Institution, Calcutta), the late Drs. Begg, Fraser, Kennedy and others. The Free Church of to-day as represented by Dr. Rainy, Marcus Dods, Lindsay, Bruce and others is not the Church as founded by Chalmers. And when some years ago the General Assembly passed what is termed the *Declaratory Act* Sir William felt released from all obligation to carry out his magnificent bequest. The wonder rather is the Church disputed his right to do so. A still greater wonder is, that the Church having lost the suit should have been allowed its costs, by the Judge, out of the estate. If the Free Church lawyers can depend on their costs being paid throughout, you will see they will carry the case to the House of Lords. No one enjoys litigation so much as your Scotch dissenting cleric, especially if the costs do not come out of his own pocket!

You will see we are having more than one average of fearful crime. The natives of India may well point the finger of scorn at us. The Muswell Hill murder, the East End murder, and the atrocious infanticides at Reading form a terrible reckoning. And this after eighteen centuries since Christ Jesus appeared on earth. The true fact is, London is as bad morally as Paris, New York, or even Chicago pace Mr. Stead and General Booth. And yet we have fanatical hypocrites who desire to deprive poor India of her right to grow opium!

#### THE GERMAN COURT DUEL.

Berlin, April 14.

The profound sensation caused by the Kotze-Schrader duel shows no signs of abatement. The miserable scandal out of which it arose, the long-drawn proceedings of the military courts of honour which rendered it inevitable after the Emperor's final intervention, the publicity given to the preparations made for it, the murderous intent with which it was deliberately fought, and its tragic outcome have combined to produce a far deeper impres-

sion than any other recent incident of the same character. Even in newspapers whose monarchical loyalty is above suspicion, the responsibility which attaches in this case to the *laissez faire* policy adopted in the highest quarters is openly recognized and deplored. The language of so responsible an organ as the *Cologne Gazette* is in this respect so significant that the leading article which it devotes to the subject deserves to be reproduced in full. It runs as follows :—

"With the death of Herr von Schrader the interminable Kotze case enters upon yet another phase. Whether it will be the last we do not know, for the Reischach-Kotze duel failed to close it, and there may still be persons living against whom Herr von Kotze has much the same grievances as against his last antagonist. Surely, however, far too much blood has already been shed, and it is high time to put an end to this scandal. We cannot, perhaps, go the same lengths as the *Reichsbote*, which compares it to the scandals of the *ancien regime* in France before the great Revolution. But we quite agree with it when it points out that the prestige of the Court has suffered severe injury, and that some strong hand should have intervened with inexorable rigour to arrest the growth of this wretched business. Instead of this, the duel was allowed to be, so to speak, advertised beforehand for weeks by sensational journals. Everything has taken place under the very eyes of the Court and of the authorities, and, apparently, with their connivance, and thus a scandal has been provoked of which the effects must not be underestimated.

"It is no exaggeration to say that in the widest circles the views which appear to be held in influential quarters with regard to the practice of duelling are causing grave misgivings. The way in which the proceedings against Herr von Kotze were first initiated was most unfortunate, and their subsequent course has been equally ill-starred. Courts of honour and court-martials have given conflicting decisions, duels have been fought, and yet to-day no one can say who the real offender is. No trustworthy accounts have been published, and as there has been plenty of misrepresentation and exaggeration only a few are in a position to distinguish truth from falsehood. Nor has Friday's duel thrown the smallest ray of light on the question at issue, or proved either Herr von Schrader's guilt or the innocence of Herr Kotze. Mischievous rumours are naturally more rife than ever. In the present state of the law public opinion is not entitled to demand any explanation, but in regretting that this should be so we are speaking much less in the interest of the public than in that of the parties concerned, among whom in a certain sense the Court itself must be reckoned. For in spite of the secrecy of all these proceedings the suspicion cannot be eradicated that they have either been parties to mean and discreditable actions, or that they have maliciously instigated an intrigue which it is impossible to condemn too severely. Seldom, in our opinion, has there been a more striking illustration of the drawbacks of secret legal proceedings. Had the matter been brought before a civil Court certain points could well have been withdrawn from publicity, but enough would still have been published to silence the evil rumours which are now current. When a bomb laden with poisonous gases explodes fresh air must be let in, lest the foul odour of the discharge contaminate the whole surroundings.

"We must not overlook the delight with which the Social Democrats have revelled in the Kotze scandal. The *Vorwärts*, using for its own purposes the clumsy quotation of a Court chaplain on a recent occasion, heads its leading article 'Ave Imperator! morituri te salutant.' We need hardly point out the application which the Socialist organ intends its readers to make of this quotation."—*The Times' Correspondent*.

#### THE SAGAN-HERMANT DUEL.

Paris, April 13.

I borrow from the *Temps* the story of the Sagan-Hermant duel. The narrative, which is extremely well done, runs as follows :—

"The proposal of a *jury d'honneur* having been rejected by the Prince de Sagan's seconds, a meeting was considered inevitable. It was decided that the parties should use pistols at 20 paces, firing twice at the word of command. This morning at 10-30 the two landaus containing the duellists, their seconds, and the doctors left the house of the Comte de Dion, where a final interview had taken place between the seconds. Instead of going to Auteuil, as had been reported in order to throw the curious off the scent, the carriages passed rapidly towards St. Ouen, and shortly before 11 o'clock entered the gate of the park which has already been the scene of so many celebrated duels.

"A few journalists succeeded, in spite of the countersign, in penetrating thither and concealed themselves discreetly behind the coppice bordering the lawn where the meeting was to take place, some 200 metres from the spot where, on a similar occasion, MM. Paul Deroulede and M. Clemenceau once stood facing each other.

"The Prince de Sagan was the first to alight from his carriage. He raised his hat as M. Abel Hermant and his seconds appeared. At the same time all hats were doffed in the group

of those present. The seconds measure out 20 paces and at each limit fix stakes, near which the combatants take their places. Both are in black from head to foot, wearing long overcoats buttoned up to the chin, with black scarves concealing the neck. The slight and thin silhouette of M. Hermant seems to offer a less easy target than the tall, broad-shouldered form of the Prince, whose white head, moreover, forms, so to speak, a good mark. In spite of the sun, which is shining brightly enough at this moment, the air is very fresh. A cold wind stirs the grass round the two men and moves the skirts of their overcoats. The preliminaries of the combat are very brief. The Comte de Dion takes from their box the pistols loaded by *employes* of Gastine Renette, and standing between the two combatants reminds them that they are to fire after the word of command 'Feu!' and that they may aim until he has counted aloud 'Un, Deux, Trois!' Then he hands them the weapons, returns to his post as *directeur de combat*, and in clear tones says, 'Gentlemen, kindly cock your pistols.' There is a click, and then, 'Gentlemen, are you ready? Fire! One, Two, Three!' M. Abel Hermant is the first to fire, almost immediately after the word 'Feu!' the Prince de Sagan between 'Deux' and 'Trois.' The two black silhouettes stand still in front of each other. M. de Dion takes from them their pistols, returns them loaded weapons, and the second exchange of shots ensues, preceded by the same word of command. This time the two opponents wait until the word 'Trois!' aiming carefully. Neither of them, however, is hit. All is over. Their friends press about them to shake hands. Only the seconds bow, and the two parties then quit the ground. —*Our Own Correspondent*.—(*The Times*.)

#### A CLEAN CUT INDIVIDUAL OPINION, BOLDLY EXPRESSED.

It is for this reason that an assertion like the following sticks up above the dead level of our stupid talk, and becomes noticeable ; "When I saw how pale I had grown I said to myself, it was because something had gone out of my blood."

There! That is a statement with the seeds of an idea in it. Suppose we follow it up by quoting the rest of the letter which contains it.

In December, 1890, says the writer, "I fell into a poor state of health. I was then, languid, and weary without any apparent cause. My appetite left me, and all food, even the lightest and simplest kinds, caused me great pain in the chest and stomach. When I saw how pale I had grown I said to myself it was because something had gone out of my blood.

"Then my sleep was broken, and night after night I scarcely closed my eyes. It wasn't long before I became so weak and dejected that I took no interest in things around me. I was so nervous that common sounds annoyed and worried me; even the noises made by my own children in their talk and at their play.

"There was a disgusting taste in my mouth; it made me sick, and often gave me a shivering sensation all over. When I saw others eating and enjoying their meals I felt as though it were a strange thing; in a way I wondered how they could do it. For myself I could eat hardly anything. Food went against me, and I turned away from it, as one turns from smells or sights that are offensive. And yet I know, what everyone knows, that without sufficient food the body languishes and weakens. And such was the case with me as month after month went by.

"During all this time, so full of pain and discouragement, I was attended by a doctor who did what he could to relieve me, but without success. I do not say he did not understand my complaint; for may he not have understood it without having the means of curing it?"

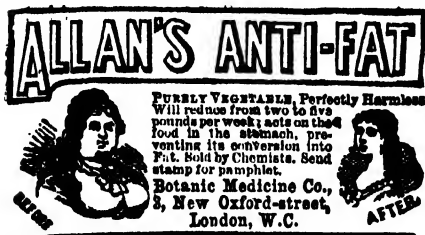
The answer to the lady's question is: Yes, easily enough. All intelligent, studious doctors "understand" consumption, cholera, cancer, &c., without (is yet) having the means of curing them. There is usually a wide gap between the discovery of a want and the way to supply it.

"I will now," continues the letter, "tell you how I came to be cured. In April, 1891, I read in a small book or pamphlet about Mother Seigel's Syrup. The book said the Syrup was a certain remedy for all diseases of the stomach, indigestion in every form, and dyspepsia; and it also said that most of the complaints we suffer from are caused by that. On looking over the symptoms described in the book, and comparing them with my own, I saw plainly that my ailment was dyspepsia.

"We sent immediately for a bottle of this medicine, and after taking it a few days I began to feel better. In a very short time, by keeping on with the Syrup according to the directions, I could eat without pain or distress, and digest my food. I also slept soundly and naturally. Then my strength came back and with it the colour to my face. In short, after a few weeks' use of Mother Seigel's Syrup, I was hearty and strong as ever. And I should be indeed ungrateful if I were not willing that others should have the benefit of my experience. You are therefore free to print my letter if you think it will be useful. (Signed) (Mrs.) M. Truman, Marton, Lincoln, April 24, 1895."

I simply desire to say to Mrs. Truman that her idea about the blood is a perfectly correct one. All our food (the digestible part of it) is turned into blood, and in that shape it feeds the entire body. When the blood gets thin and poor (lacking in nourishment), we lose flesh and grow feeble and pale. And the cause of the blood getting thin and poor is indigestion, or dyspepsia. How easy this is to understand when once you get hold of the right end of it. Mother Seigel's Syrup has the peculiar power to correct what is wrong about the digestion, and thus enables the digestive machinery to make good rich blood, which is life and health and beauty.





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late Editor of "Reis and Rayyet."

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to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J. C.  
to, Atkinson the late Mr. E. F. T. C. S.  
to Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S. E. J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H. P.  
to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.  
to Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.  
to Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
to Graham, Mr. W.  
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.  
from Guha, Babu Saroda Kant.  
to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
from Hunne, Mr. Allan O.  
from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
to Jenkins, Mr. Edward.  
to Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.  
to Knight, Mr. Paul.  
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.  
to Law, Kumar Kristodas.  
to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
to Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
to Mallik, Mr. H. C.  
to Maistun, Miss Ann.  
from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
to Mitha, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.  
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakshinaraman.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.

from Nayarathna, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.  
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.  
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.  
to Rao, the late Sir T. Madhava.  
to Rutigan, Sir William H.  
from Rosebery, Earl of.  
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.  
from Russell, Sir W. H.  
to Row, Mr. G. Svamala.  
to Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.  
to Sinha, Babu Brahmananda.  
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.  
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.  
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
to Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
to Vencataramanah, Mr. G.  
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

## LETTERS (&amp; TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from

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Ameer Hossein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.  
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
Banerjee, Babu Mamathanath.  
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Shib Chunder.  
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## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahmin of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that was nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiosyncratically is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth having and reading.

—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unwarmed by ostentation and earnestness unspotted by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man. Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

"The Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous commonwealths, but presents the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Manny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 725.

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### PASSING UNDER THE ROD.

BY MRS. M. S. B. DANA.

"It was the custom of the Jews to select the tenth of their sheep after this manner. The lambs were separated from the dams, and enclosed in a sheep-cote, with only one narrow way out; the dams were at the entrance. On opening the gate, the lambs hastened to join the dams, and a man placed at the entrance, with a rod dipped in ochre, touched every tenth lamb, and so marked it with his rod, saying 'Let this be Holy.' Hence says God by his prophet, 'I will cause you to pass under the rod.'"

I saw the young bride in her beauty and pride  
Bedecked in her snowy array,  
And the bright flush of joy mantled high on her cheek,  
And the future looked blooming and gay,  
And with woman's devotion she laid her fond heart  
At the shrine of idolatrous love,  
And she anchored her hopes to this perishing earth,  
By the chain which her tenderness wove.  
But I saw when those heart-strings were bleeding and torn,  
And the chain had been severed in two,  
She had changed her white robes for the sables of grief,  
And her bloom to the paleness of woe;  
Yet the Healer was there, pouring balm on her heart,  
And wiping the tears from her eyes,  
And he strengthened the chain he had broken in twain,  
And fastened it firm to the skies.  
There had whispered a voice—'t was the voice of her God,  
"I love thee, I love thee I—pass under the rod!"

I saw the young mother in tenderness bend  
O'er the couch of her slumbering boy,  
And she kissed the soft lips as he murmured her name,  
While the dreamer lay smiling in joy.  
Oh, sweet as the rose bud encircled with dew,  
When its fragrance is flung on the air,  
So fresh and so bright to the mother he seemed,  
As he lay in his innocence there!  
But I saw; when she gazed on the same lovely form,  
Pale as marble, and silent, and cold,  
But paler and colder her beautiful boy,  
And the tale of her sorrow was told.  
Yet the Healer was there, who had smitten her heart,  
And taken her treasure away;  
To allure her to heaven he has placed it on high,  
And the mourner will sweetly obey!  
There had whispered a voice—'t was the voice of her God,  
"I love thee, I love thee I—pass under the rod!"

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

I saw when a father and mother had leaned  
On the arms of a dear cherished son,  
And the star in the future grew bright in their gaze,  
As they saw the proud place he had won:  
And the fast coming evening of life promised fair,  
And its pathway grew smoothed to their feet,  
And the star-light of love glimmered bright at the end,  
And the whispers of fancy were sweet;  
But I saw when they stood bending low o'er the grave,  
Where their hearts' dearest hope had been laid,  
And the star had gone down in the darkness of night,  
And joy from their bosoms had fled.  
Yet the Healer was there, and his arms were around,  
And he led them with tenderest care,  
And he showed them a star in the bright upper world—  
'T was *their* star shining brilliantly there!  
They had each heard a voice—'t was the voice of their God,  
"I love thee, I love thee I—pass under the rod!"

## WEEKLYANA.

THE Empress' Birthday falling on Sunday after next, it will be observed next Wednesday, the 20th May. In Calcutta, there will be the usual parade on the Maidan. We do not hear of the Municipal Chairman's Garden Party in honour of the day. The season, however, is too hot for any entertainment. It is to be hoped the Birthday Gazette, whether short or long, will be published simultaneously at Simla, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

FROM next week, the mail will leave Calcutta on Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays.

THE Sipi Fair will, after all, be held, the dates fixed being the 22nd and 23rd May.

A NEW medal, to be designated "The India Medal, 1895" with a distinctive ribbon, has been approved of to commemorate military operations in, or on the frontier of, India. The medal with two clasps, inscribed, respectively, "Defence of Chitral, 1895," and "Relief of Chitral, 1895," will be granted to all the troops and followers who were employed in the late operations connected with the defence and relief of Chitral. As the founder of the medal, the Chitral war is to go down as one of the great wars of India. We must also be prepared for such wars and annexations from time to time if only to keep alive the glory of the medal.

THE *Glasgow Weekly Herald* of April 18 has the following:

"Cyclomania is epidemic. It has ravaged the streets of Paris. There were 30,000 cyclists in the Bois one Sunday recently, and carriage traffic had to be suspended. Aberdeen has a Ladies' Cycling Club, which holds a weekly 'At Home'—the last place one would look for a lady cyclist. The Ameer of Afghanistan has ordered bicycles for the ladies of his family. So Nasrullah did pick up something in this country after all. To come back to Glasgow, we understand that the maidens of Kelvinside go on their knees to the cycle agent, and with streaming eyes implore him to let them have the bicycles ordered a month ago at least in time for the Autumn Holiday. But the Sultan has the happiest notion of bicycling. He has introduced it into his harem for the punishment of refractory wives."

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

AFTER a trial of full one week, Mrs. Emily Ghose, charged with murder of her husband, was acquitted on Monday. The jury without retiring returned a unanimous verdict of not guilty. The released prisoner expressed gratefulness to her counsel by falling at his feet. The Judge's address to the jury has not been reported in full in any of the morning papers. The *Statesman's* report is as follows :—

"His lordship then summed up. He said that it was frequently impossible for the prosecution, in cases of this kind, to show an adequate motive for the crime, and the inability of the prosecution to do so in the cases had been remarked upon by counsel for the prisoner. The reason suggested by the prosecution was the intrigue with Solomon, and that such an intrigue existed there could be no reasonable doubt. Before he proceeded to deal with the evidence, his lordship said he wished to refer to the remarks relative to the intemperate habits of the deceased. The only actual evidence with regard to the drunkenness consisted in this : that Mr. Wheeler had seen deceased drunk some six years ago, and that some years ago the deceased was sent away to another district on account of drunkenness. As the jury were aware, the law did not allow an accused person to go into the witness-box. The law also did not treat the statements made by accused persons, through their counsel or at the time they were questioned, as actual evidence in their favour, but this might be allowed. If accused persons made a statement either to their counsel at the time of trial, or in the earlier part of the case either in defending themselves to the police, or, as in this case, in examination by police, and if that statement was consistent with all the facts which had been proved in the case, it was reasonable to consider that statement and see whether it should be acted upon. On the other hand, it may be consistent with the facts of the case that the deceased was in the habit of taking more than was good for him in the shape of liquor. His lordship went on to say that the prosecution had said they could not prove that the prisoner bought this poison, but that arsenic was easily procurable in every drug shop in this country. That, however, cut both ways, for it held good equally with the theory that Mr. Ghose might have bought the poison and committed suicide. Referring to the evidence of Soshi, his lordship said it would be extremely dangerous to come to a conclusion on any fact based on the recollection of one person, unless that person was a man of education whose recollection was likely to be correct. As regards the offering of bribes to the police to prevent detection, his lordship remarked that that was a circumstance which was certainly adverse to the prisoner. He would not, however, advise the jury to pay much attention to that circumstance. Persons often acted foolishly by offering bribes to the police to try and prevent detection. In cases in England the fact of such bribes having been offered to the police was held to be damning evidence against a prisoner ; but in this country it could not be taken to be so in every case. After reading portions of the evidence, and commenting on them, his lordship read the medical evidence, and said it was never safe to convict people in a case of this kind upon only expert evidence, unless that expert evidence was of a safe and sure kind. Instances had been referred to from standard medical works to show how widely different was the action of arsenic in different cases, and Dr. Gibbons had told them that arsenic was an erratic poison, and that its action varied according to the health and vitality of an individual. His lordship was of opinion that it would not be safe or right for the jury to convict the prisoner on the statements as to what took place on the night of the occurrence.—The *Statesman*, May 12.

The *Englishman's* account is more elaborate :—

His lordship in summoning up to the Jury read from Baron Aldersen, who had laid it down clearly that when a case was made up of circumstantial evidence the Jury must be satisfied that the facts were such as to be inconsistent with any other rational conclusion than that the prisoner was guilty. The only question in the case was, did she poison her husband with arsenic ? His lordship said that whatever was the conduct of the prisoner with regard to the medicine story, whether it was a case of poisoning or suicide, at any rate the part that she wanted to conceal was not the going for the medicine but the going to Solomon's house. There was nothing in her going to Solomon's house which was indicative of her guilt. At that time he did not suppose she and Solomon had thrown aside all shame and did not care if all the world knew of their intrigue. Coming to the occurrences after the return of Mrs. Ghose and Soshi to the house, his lordship said that it was scarcely possible to say with any certainty that she put any of that white powder Soshi had spoken of into the medicine. It was fair to observe that in what she was doing the prisoner made no attempt to conceal anything from Soshi. With regard to the suggestion that she got rid of the vomited matter to destroy traces of crime, it was also natural that she should do so to prevent the house from being unpleasant for her own sake and the children's sake. The deceased was heard to say that his headache was relieved. This was about 4-30 A.M., when it was pretty clear that he was not dead. There was nothing to show when he died. After dealing with the minor points, his lordship said that the real evidence against the accused were the statements made by her after her husband's death. What the effect of this evidence was it was for the Jury to determine. The comments made by counsel for the prisoner with regard to the boy George Ghose not being called to prove that his father had threatened to kill Solomon and the accused and then destroy himself, his lordship thought it was not necessary to call this witness.

Referring to Mr. Allen's remark about amateur detectives his lordship said that action such as that of these gentlemen who came to examine Mrs. Ghose was open to a great deal of observation. Mr. Allen had called them amateur detectives, and it was perfectly true that they so acted in this matter. It was not desirable that any one should take upon himself the duties of a police officer for the purpose of ascertaining that crime had been committed, especially in Calcutta, where

there was no lack of police officers. It might be that in the district, where there were not sufficient police officers, that respectable people might sometimes do work of that kind. But that did not take away from the Jury the necessity to try to ascertain what the evidence of these people was, whether they were actuated by right motives or not. The Jury were bound to consider whether they were persons likely to have twisted the truth for their own ends. If they thought that there was the least suspicion that the Rev. Mr. Mukerji, either for the motive suggested in cross-examination in regard to the promissory note or for any other purpose, had either wilfully or otherwise mis-stated the truth, they should not rely upon his evidence. It was a great thing to suppose that a man in his position, a clergyman of the Church of England, should for any such purpose give false evidence in a case of this kind.

Assuming that all these statements were truthful, that they were accurately recorded word for word, still the Jury would have to examine the facts and draw the absolute inference that each particular statement was meant to be made by her exactly as these witnesses said it was made. Here was a woman who, from any point of view, must have been in very great distress, a wife who had just lost her husband, or had just poisoned her husband, after witnessing all the agony her husband had gone through during the whole night, after all her terrible trouble, confronted by several men of intelligence and questioned by them. It was very likely she would be confused. The Jury would have to consider the several statements. The circumstance of offering a bribe was adverse to the prisoner, but the wretched woman in all that trouble might well have thought that, whether she was guilty or not, the body of her husband would be cut open and it would be a disgrace. His lordship did not invite the Jury to place very much weight upon this circumstance. It was for the Jury to see if her statement that he died of cholera was for the purpose of concealing her crime, or whether it was only for the purpose of concealing that he died of arsenical poisoning, and in doing that they would have to consider whether it was not her interest, if possible, to conceal her husband's suicide. It was obvious that if it was a case of suicide she must have known that it would have been a slur cast upon her and her family. If she was concealing something, it did not necessarily follow that she was concealing her own wrongful act. They would also have to consider whether the statement about the four pills lead necessarily and certainly to the conclusion that she was guilty. If it did not lead to that inference they must cast it aside. The action of arsenic was admittedly erratic.—The *Englishman*, May 12.

We wish the Judge's charge to the jury were more fully reported. We do not ordinarily hear such an address. We admire it not for its learning, not for the flow of sentences, but for its accurate knowledge of the country and for its strong sense of justice. No prisoner could wish for a better judge than Mr. Justice Trevelyan. We are sure if he, in his present mood, were President of the Commission that tried the Gaekwar Mulhar Rao of Baroda, that Prince would not have been declared guilty of attempting to poison the British Resident at his court with a dust that does not kill. To many Emily's faithlessness to her husband and offer of bribes to the Police would have been confirmation strong as proofs of holy writ. To an English Judge without true Indian experience, or a Native Judge without the boldness to acknowledge a native weakness and to rate the Police at their worth, the attempt to hush the enquiry by illegitimate means would not have been a trifle light as air. She may be condemned for not being faithful to her lord. She is not therefore to be punished for his death. Aware of the difficulties of a prosecution in a case of poisoning and knowing that the Coroner's Jury had found nothing against her, we were not doubtful of the result of the trial. If it has been a harassment to the prisoner and an exposure of herself, her husband and her love, it has clearly proved the high value of British justice as administered by the High Court.

To shew the uselessness of such a trial for a convicting, and for a purpose which will appear later on, we quote the address of Mr. Justice Norris in the previous case, *Empress vs. Wagner*, another female Native Christian :

"Now what substantial case have you against the woman ? Stripped of all embellishment, the plain facts are these :—The man Wagner was taken ill on the 28th of January. He was at work on the 28th. He came back from work suffering from some complaint. A doctor was called in, he gave a prescription containing arsenic, and it is alleged that the person died of arsenical poisoning. The case for the prosecution is that in addition to the arsenic administered in the prescription ordered by the doctor, other arsenic must have been administered. There is absolutely no proof of the purchase of the arsenic by the first prisoner, or by any person on her behalf or at her request. There is no proof of the possession, by the persons in the house at any time, either before or after the death of Wagner, of any arsenic or any deleterious thing which could have produced the symptoms of which the deceased died. The *post mortem* examination revealed the fact that one-fifteenth of a grain of arsenic was found in the body, and no more, but that of itself, according to the medical authorities, was not sufficient to cause death. I am quite aware that the case for the prosecution is supported by skilled medical evidence that a large quantity of the arsenic must have been administered, and that a large portion of what was administered was got rid of in the vomiting and purging which took place between the time he was taken ill and the time he died. It would be monstrous to suggest that because a small quan-



city was found, therefore, more was not administered, but there is no proof of purchase or administration or possession of any arsenic by the woman at any time whatever. A circumstance that went against her was that she did not carry out the medical man's direction in preserving what came out from the body for the purpose of enabling him to judge as to what was really the matter, and that in the further circumstance that she did not send for him again, as probably she ought to have done. Then there is a circumstance to be taken for what it is worth, that her brother made certain random statements that she poisoned her husband, and she remained quiet. It is quite plain that what animated these persons, however much their sense of righteousness and regard for right might have been offended by the moral relation which existed between the man who has just been discharged and the female prisoner, was a feeling of annoyance and disgust to see a stranger walk away with all the worldly possessions of the deceased man. I cannot help thinking that if the whole of that which has been detailed to you so very fully and with such remarkable accuracy, was proved to the hilt, there is no case to go to the jury. You have heard the learned counsel's opening. You are men of experience and if after hearing the sole facts detailed by the learned counsel you think that this is a matter which ought to be further enquired into, in deference to your judgment the whole of the evidence will be gone into, but my view of the case is that, though it might be a case of the very gravest suspicion, I will but say very gravely—against the female prisoner upon the facts as opened, there is no case worthy of being taken into consideration. The prisoner was acquitted.

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ON the authority of a Vellore correspondent, the *Indian Mirror*, the mirror of all religions excepting those of Christ and Mahomed, and the receptacle of all wonders and miracles, says that a mendicant, discreet enough to call himself Mouna or the Silent Swami, has been distributing daily, to hundreds of people, free of charge, medicines for almost all complaints to which flesh is heir to, and radically curing, if not all, many of them. The Swami is more than a Dhwanantwari. "The other day he performed the Panja Agni Yogam in the middle of the Palar, getting himself buried breast-deep." Nor is that all. "To add to this prodigy, he got cow-dung cakes piled in heaps around him, and burnt in rising flames. He remained in this state for 9 hours, from 6 in the morning to 3 in the evening." It is not said what was the effect of the "rising flames" on the body of the performer, or what was his distance from the circle of fires or their burning capacity. He evidently lives or we would not have heard of the miracle. An account of how he escaped or was brought back to life would indeed be welcome. That is a secret which, perhaps, the silent trumpeter of himself, the Mouna Swami cannot be expected to publish. In our younger days we remember to have seen performers holding burning oil in iron vessels on their bald heads. We do not see them now. They have disappeared from Bengal and we are not aware that they exist in any other Province.

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THE Chairman and the Engineer to the Calcutta Municipal Corporation have been visiting the wards of the town. After finishing one, the Chairman proposed to go round another, and, finding one of the Commissioners of that ward present, asked him to lead the way from the vantage ground of the dickey of his (the Chairman's) Victoria. Nothing minding, but taking it as a compliment, the Babu looked up to his place of honour. It was occupied by the groom who was beaconned to vacate the high seat. While about to raise himself to the proud height, the too obliging Commissioner was interrupted by a brother Commissioner who, to save him from what he himself considered a doubtful distinction, if not a downright degradation, offered him a lift in his own carriage. The offer was refused with the meek reply there was no harm. It was an honour indeed to lead the great from the foremost place, as in the days of the Mogul Emperors, in an elephant drive, it was a distinctive mark of imperial favour to be allowed to fan the sovereign from the next seat behind his Majesty in the howda. Possibly the Babu remembered that Native Princes in their own territories have been known to drive Viceroy's, and wished he had been allowed the privilege of driving the Chairman through his own ward. In this predicament, the Engineer with high notions of Rajputana dignity, came to the rescue, by asking the "leading" Commissioner to the dog seat in the carriage. Dog or cat, that seat was more exalted. The leading Commissioner felt himself highly flattered; the reproving Commissioner was glad that he had saved a brother from degradation; and the Engineer had the pleasant sensation of making one of his masters happy for an hour, and the drama of the day ended to the satisfaction of all concerned.

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SCIENCE can work wonders. The Indian juggler growing a tree bear-

ing flowers and fruit, from the seed in an hour, has been vindicated. His art is no deception. A M. Ragonneau has, after examination, found a natural explanation of the phenomenon. The earth used by the performing Indian is "taken from an ant's nest" which, containing as it does formic acid, has the power of producing rapid growth. Whatever the truth of the explanation, the Indian belief is that the earth is supplied by the red ants' hill and the seed is emerged in acetic acid.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

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IN the House of Commons, on May 8, the Transvaal debate came off. Mr. Chamberlain concurred in condemning the policy indicated in the cipher telegrams which have caused so much sensation, but said that men like Mr. Rhodes made the Empire, and his proper place was Africa, where he could best atone for the past. The end, he seemed to mutter, justified the means. It was impossible, he said, to think of a war with the Transvaal for the purpose of remedying the grievances of the Uitlanders, and it was only conceivable in the event of the deliberate breaking of the Convention. The first object of British policy was to preserve British supremacy, which had certainly been threatened, and secondly to establish union between the British and the Dutch. It is untrue, Mr. Chamberlain said, that he thought of recalling Sir Hercules Robinson. He proposed, when the pending trials were concluded, to appoint a committee of both Houses to examine the whole situation. President Kruger, in an interview with the Reuter's agent, said that he was astonished at the official defence of Mr. Cecil Rhodes and the Chartered Company in the House of Commons. He denied the existence of any intrigues between the Transvaal and Germany, and said that the Transvaal wanted to be friends with all. Referring to the late plot against the Transvaal he said that those who engineered it must be punished, otherwise there would be no rest for South Africa. In a despatch from Dr. Leyds, Secretary to the State for the Transvaal, to Sir Hercules Robinson, he says that he cannot believe the newspaper statements that the British Government still shows partiality for Mr. Cecil Rhodes and the Directors of the Chartered Company, but declares that the Chartered Company as now controlled is a source of danger to South Africa. Mr. Chamberlain has telegraphed to Sir Hercules Robinson in reply to President Kruger's complaint of the attitude of Her Majesty's Government. He repudiates the President's inferences regarding the supposed championship of Mr. Cecil Rhodes by Government, also of that of the Chartered Company's directors who will hereafter be proved to have been connected with Dr. Jameson's raid. A letter appears in the *Times* signed by Dr. Jameson and Mr. White denying the receipt of despatch from Mr. Cecil Rhodes ordering the movement on Johannesburg. Sir Jacobus Dewet, British agent in the Transvaal, has resigned. What does this mean?

There is a serious rising of the Hottentots in South-West Africa, and reinforcement of the German troops is necessary for its suppression.

EARL Grey believing the Matabele revolt crushed, the Imperial troops on their way to Bulawayo were stopped at Mafeking. A scouting party routed the Matabele with a heavy loss near Mavene. Mr. Cecil Rhodes was well to the front of the fighting.

AT the Italian Chamber M. Sermonata made a speech in which he rejected all idea of the evacuation of Massowah and said the question of Kassala would be solved in conformity with Italian interests solely, without forgetting friendly ties with Great Britain. The Chamber passed a vote of confidence in the African policy of the Government by a majority of 145. Italy has decided to evacuate Adigrat, and to limit her territory in Erythrea to the line between Marab and Pelssa.

A TELEGRAM from Yokohama states that Japan and Russia are

negotiating for joint action in Corea, the chief points being the King's return to the palace, upon which Japan insists; the disposal of the troops; and the transfer of the Japanese telegraph from Seoul to Fusan.

THE Shah of Persia has telegraphed to the Queen his thanks for her kind message of condolence on his father's death, stating that he will follow in the footsteps of his father and preserve the friendship of Great Britain.

THE court-martial held at Havana has condemned to death the crew of the American Filibustering Schooner *Compeditor*. This has caused considerable excitement in the United States. President Cleveland has informed Spain that the execution of the crew without a civil trial will be regarded as an unfriendly act by the United States Government. A battalion of the United States troops in Florida has been ordered to be held in readiness for service. It is stated at Washington that Spain has consented to defer the executions to enable America to present a case under treaties. In the speech from the Throne at the opening of the Spanish Cortes, administrative and financial reform is promised in Cuba, and correct and friendly conduct of the Washington Government is recognised.

THE India, Burma and Ceylon Exhibition was opened at the Eisle Court on May 9. The Indian exhibits exceed those of last year three times. Over two hundred Natives are employed, and all are freshly imported. The new feature is the Indian printing press. The great feature in the Ceylon section is sixty Chinglese craftsmen, besides devil stick dancers, actors, jugglers, and nautch dancers. Several important architectural additions have also been made, the whole forming a grand historical spectacle of India.

CHOLERA is seriously increasing at Alexandria. On May 13, there were 63 attacks and 22 deaths. One death has occurred at Cairo.

IN the House of Commons Lord George Hamilton, replying to a question, said that the Egyptian garrison at Suakin, with the exception of one battalion, would be moved across the desert to the Nile. The question of apportioning the expense of the Indian contingent was, he said, being considered. Mr. Balfour, replying to a question, promised to appoint a day for the discussion of the question of the employment of Indian troops at Suakin. Mr. Curzon, in replying to a question, said it was not intended that the Indian troops should partake in the operations on the Nile, but should only be used in defence of Suakin and its neighbourhood, according to the judgment of Sir Herbert Kitchener. Sir Hicks Beach, replying to a question, assumed that it would be decided in conformity with the precedents that the ordinary expenditure on Indian troops at Suakin would be charged to the Indian Government. The question whether the Egyptian Government would defray any further expense was a matter for consideration. Meanwhile, Colonel Egerton has arrived at Simla to receive instruction concerning the Suakin force. He sails with his staff in the *Warren Hastings* on the 19th inst. Reuter's telegram to the effect that the Indian troops will only garrison at Suakin has been received at Simla with much disappointment. It is considered by high military authorities that it will be a grave error if our best troops are only used for garrison duties, while the Egyptian force is relieved to take the field. The Government of India have asked for eight steamers, and the services of five have already been secured. They are the *Warren Hastings*, the *B. I. S. N. Company's Bhundara*, *Hezida* and *Vudala*, and the *Asiatic Company's Nurani*. The steamers *Knight Companion* and the *P. and O. Peshawar* have been surveyed, and will probably be chartered. The *Vadala* arrived on the 12th with 60,000 bags of sugar. The shed at the jetty, whence the troops embark, is full of cargo, but is being rapidly emptied. Earthwork platforms are being constructed along the railway sidings for detaining horses. The Field Hospital equipment is being got ready at the arsenal. It is understood that all the transports will leave Bombay by Wednesday. The *B. I. S. N. Chambissa* which has just been chartered, the *Vadala* and *Nurani* will take the Lancers, the *Warren Hastings* will convey the 28th Punjab Infantry, the *Bhundara* the 35th Sikhs, and the *Hezida* the hospital detachments.

AFTER 5 years' observations, the tidal observatory at Trincomalge has been closed.

LAST week's mail brought the satisfactory news that the Council of the Secretary of State for India has made a special grant of 250*l.* to the widow of Dr. Reinhold Rost. There was a disposition in one quarter to double the amount, but opposition came from another more responsible authority. There seems to be a belief that Dr. Rost was liberally treated by the India Office and that he ought not to have died poor. He was granted an extension that he might retire on half pension and further the pay was raised from 600*l.* to 800*l.* that in retirement he might draw 400*l.* or 100*l.* more than the ordinary allowance. There were other sources of income. He drew 100*l.* from St. Augustine's College, and could he not make another 100*l.* by his writings? So Dr. Rost passed rich with 1,000*l.* a year before he was retired. He should have left a provision for his wife and daughter. We will not anticipate the memorial to the First Lord of the Treasury, of which our London correspondent speaks. We prefer to wait till we have seen it. Meanwhile, we will only remark that Dr. Rost made the India Office Library what it is—the resort of scholars from all parts of the world, and that the forced retirement, however or by whomsoever caused, preyed on his mind and hastened his death. Sir Robert Peel, for services rendered by McCulloch to political economy, had recommended him to the Queen for a pension of 200*l.* The inquest on the sad death of Benjamin Robert Haydon disclosed the fact that when, in his continued embarrassments, the painter had applied to the statesman, Sir Robert, from a limited fund at his disposal, had sent Haydon 50*l.* After Haydon's suicide, the right honourable baronet, addressing one of the executors, enclosed a cheque for 200*l.* from the royal bounty fund, in order, as the letter stated, that the family might not be molested before a provision could be made.

FOR cruelty to a goat, for striking it with a stick and breaking one of its forelegs, the Chief Magistrate fined a Mahomedan woman Rs. 25 with the alternative of four days' rigorous imprisonment. For causing to be used and using the phookah process on cows, Mr. Pearson further ordered on a woman, the owner of a number of cows, and her servant, respectively, a fine of Rs. 100 or 15 days' imprisonment, and a month's hard labour. These are deterrent sentences, but being few and far between, are deprived of a greater part of their effect. Cowsheds are a great nuisance. Besides being dangerous to the health of their inmates and of the neighbourhood, they are a positive cruelty to the animals which are huddled together without a moving or breathing space. The owners are occasionally prosecuted, yet the evil flourishes. The fines being small and prosecutions at long intervals, it is easier to suffer in the shape of fines than to go to the heavy expense of making the improvements required by a municipal permit. The law empowers the Commissioners to close an objectionable shed. They do not exercise the power for many practical reasons. The owners would formerly be proceeded against in the court for the trial of municipal cases. Now the stipendiary magistrates, who are expected to fine more heavily than the honorary magistrates, try them. The Northern Division Magistrate has just punished offending milkmen with fines of Rs. 25, 20 and 10. But all to no purpose. The real question is Can not the places be fitted for their purpose at small cost? The Commissioners should see to that. Other attempts are wide of the mark.

A FRIEND writes to us from Chitagon, under date the 1st of May:—

'No chance here of a water famine; rather the other way. It is pouring a veritable deluge; and I am consoled for the inconvenience of inhabiting a storm-swept plateau by the thought that the drenching will wash away a portion, at least, of the abomination with which this unspeakably filthy and neglected town is gorged.

Last night, while the storm was at its height, my room on the leeward side was invaded by—

- (1) A wild pigeon,
- (2) 4 mamas,
- (3) A huge and gorgeous butterfly,
- (4) Three strange leaf-insects (which simulate leaves),
- (5) About a lakh of grass-hoppers, (perhaps more).

All were quite tame and friendly; and they remained unmolested all night, the birds perched on the backs of chairs while the wind roared and the rain plumed outside."

During convulsions of Nature, when danger threatens life every moment, even tigers and lions have been seen to herd with deer and lambs and kine and human beings, forgetting their ferocity and appetite. It is a common sight in India, during extensive floods, of snakes and mice living in peace on the same branch of

a tree floating on the water. We may be sure that the mainas referred to in the letter, discovered no disposition to attack and swallow the grass-hoppers. Fear is a powerful sentiment. It conquers habit, nay, the nature itself of a living creature. During the cyclone that swept over Bengal in 1863, a man was saved by a large boa constrictor. While floating on the Hooghly somewhere near Budgebudge, catching hold of a large tree that had been uprooted by the wind and that was rising and falling with every wave, and while his grasp was weakening every moment with cold and the spray beating against his face, he suddenly saw a large boa darting towards him. Coming up to where he was, the snake twined round the man and the tree together and, placing his head upon that of its human neighbour, remained perfectly quiet for hours. The sensation of the man during this enforced companionship with the terrible monster, may be conceived. Towards evening the tree floated towards the shore whereon was a large jungle. The snake, suddenly uncoiling, swam towards the land, leaving both tree and man. The latter also gained the shore. Yielding to the idea uppermost in his mind, he knelt down and with upraised arms poured forth his thanks to the Supreme Being who, he firmly believed, had assumed the form of a snake for saving him from a watery death.

THE following letter, received from Professor E. B. Cowell by Pundit Saubhu Chandra Vidyaratna, the brother and biographer of Pundit Iwar Chandra Vidyasagar, will speak for itself:—

My dear friend, "Cambridge, April 16, 1896.  
I was very much pleased to receive your kind letter, and I thank you for the Bengali memoirs you have sent me. I shall read the memoir of Pundit Iwar Chandra Vidyasagar, as I knew him well and I admired him very much. I keep a photograph of his in my drawer as a remembrance of my Indian life. I knew Pundit Tarkavachaspati well also. I constantly use his 'Siddhanta Kumudi' and his great Sanskrit dictionary, the 'Vachaspathi'; it is a grand work.

We were deeply grieved to lose Dr. Rost so suddenly from among us. He was to have examined in Sanskrit with me in the coming examination next June. He was a most lovable man, full of 'the milk of human kindness.' I am quite affected when I think of the kind words about me which you quote.

I often think of the old Calcutta days; Mrs. Cowell and I often talk about them and recall old friends.

Pundit Vidyasagar's life will interest me very much. I have no time for Bengali now, but I have not quite forgotten it. Sanskrit, Pali and Zend take up all my time. I remain, yours most sincerely,

E. B. COWELL."

It is a pleasure to recall the amiable countenance of Professor Cowell such as we saw him in the Presidency College, Calcutta. Few men threw themselves, like him, heart and soul, into the work of teaching. It has given us great satisfaction to find that Professor Cowell's solidity of Oriental scholarship is admitted and appreciated by, at least, those who come in contact with him.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, May 16, 1896.

### ARSENIC POISONING AND UNSUCCESSFUL TRIALS.

EMPRESS *versus* Emily Ghose, of 1896, runs on parallel lines with Empress *vs.* Ellen Wagner of 1894. Both the prisoners were native Christians. While Emily had her Solomon, Ellen her Cray. The Rev. B. C. Ghose and Mr. Wagner both died from arsenic poisoning. Ghose's body gave forty-two grains of the poison and Wagner's only one-fifteenth of a grain. But it must be remembered that Wagner had been buried four days before there was chemical analysis of the contents of his stomach. Mrs. Ghose was married several years and had six children, two boys and four girls, Mrs. Wagner had been married thirteen years and had three children. Neither Mr. Ghose nor Mr. Wagner was suffering from any serious illness before his death and both died suddenly. Ghose had no treatment, Wagner was taken to hospital when too late for he died within three hours after admission. Symptoms in the two cases simulated cholera.

We will now give the points of difference. It is not known whether Mr. Ghose gave any cause of his suffering or death. Mr. Wagner however had vague suspicions of being poisoned. Two witnesses

deposed to the administration of the drug to Ghose but they were disbelieved, while another who was present was not called. In the other case, there was no eye-witness. There was no charge of drunkenness against Wagner. Ghose, however, was not free from the weakness. The behaviour of Mrs. Ghose was inconsistent unlike that of Mrs. Wagner. The motive for murder attributed in both cases was criminal intimacy and intrigue. While Mr. Justice Trevelyan expressed the opinion that it was not adequate, Mr. Justice Norris kept himself silent on the point. But both the Judges thought that on account of the unrestricted sale of poisons, it was difficult to trace their purchase. In all European countries there is a strict regulation about the sale. It can only be made on a medical certificate or to recognized persons. In India, we have no such law, and, any restriction seems impossible as it may interfere with the sale of opium—a monopoly of Government. If it is unwise to make a general law so as to include opium, it may be asked, cannot a law be passed to regulate other poisons? But then anti-opiumists would have another string to their bow. Left complete master of the market, opium will occupy the combined place of all other poisons for murder. After the Wagner trial, Mr. Justice Norris sent up a recommendation to the Government of India, to restrict the sale of poisons. Nothing, however, seems to have been done in that direction. Though attention is now directed towards the homicidal use of arsenic, yet the number of deaths from it is infinitesimal compared to suicide by opium.

In his address to the jury Mr. Justice Trevelyan pointed out that a prisoner was above law, in that he or she could not be examined. Could Emily be a witness, many matters would have been explained, which would have made the trial more satisfactory.

Poisoning of cattle by arsenic is more common than poisoning of human beings. In Calcutta, of the latter kind, the crime, suicidal or homicidal, is growing into fashion. The first undetected case of recent years which we can remember was the suicide of a druggist. He was, however, reported to have died of cholera on the authority of a Presidency Surgeon who certified the death as natural. The next similar case was that of a man who wanted to get rid of his brother. The patient or sufferer was treated by a quondam principal of the Medical College for cholera and so he too must be taken to have died of that disease. To come to regular trials. The first in order is the Sikh poisoning case of Burra Bazaar. Arsenic was found in the possession of the prisoner. The dying declaration of his relative and victim attributed the purging and vomiting to sweets given him by the prisoner. There was no conviction. The next trial was Wagner's to which we have already alluded. The prosecution could not make out a case sufficient to go to the jury. The last to come was Emily Ghose. She too had the benefit of doubt.

For its tastelessness arsenic can be used with safety for criminal purposes, though as a precaution it is administered with sweets and *sherbut*. For suicide it is used by itself or with lime to increase its corroding action. The symptoms of arsenic are divided into three groups. The first simulates cholera. Here

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the action commences very rapidly and one has not to wait long for the final issue. Generally a day or a day and night completes the work. But the quantity must be large. It must be more than ten grains. In empty stomach, or after imbibing of liquors, or on persons subject to inflammatory affections, or in a system shattered by some chronic complaint, or worn out by anger, grief, jealousy or fear, the poison acts quick. When it produces symptoms like cholera, it is understood that it finds a suitable medium for rapid production of dangerous effect. In the second variety, life may struggle on for several days and the dose must be more than four or five grains. The symptoms are not choleraic nor is the urine suppressed; but you have violent colic and bloody discharges and hiccough. The action is quicker on stomachs with mucus, or after meal or eating of ice and drinking of water. The face is swollen and the eyes protrude, and as days pass on ulcers appear in the mouth. In the third, the prominent symptoms are fever, colicky pains, spasms and chronic diarrhœa. Gradually the limbs are atrophied and become paralysed. Small and distant doses do equal mischief with larger ones. Notwithstanding all these distinguishing symptoms and its action being steady, we are told that arsenic is an erratic poison. Steady or erratic, none of the trials for arsenic-poisoning has resulted in conviction, and several deaths pass off as natural.

#### HIS HIGH MIGHTINESS THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

THE Police is a spending department. Properly speaking, it has no income of its own. There was indeed a police rate for the town of Calcutta. But the Police Commissioner had little or nothing to do with it. He made his own budget of expenditure and drew the amount sanctioned by Government. That rate has now been abolished. In the Police Budget, various sources of income are enumerated. The control of them generally rests not with the head of the Police, though the tail and the intermediate limbs may help to add to the income. With vast and unknown powers, as director general of the Police of the town, a Justice of the Peace, possessing the powers of a Magistrate and special powers conferred by law and the Local Government, with a force under command, exercising the authority to deport, the Commissioner of the Calcutta Police is a law unto himself. His word is law. He is free to make a good turn, or cause unnecessary trouble. To please a governor, he once unceremoniously sent away one who had travelled to Calcutta over sea and land to press a claim. Power begets power, and the wielder of a power that knows no limit, cannot be a Power indeed unless he can command an income. The law authorizes the Commissioner of Police to fine any member of his Force "for any lesser breach of discipline, or other misconduct not requiring the suspension or dismissal of the offender," and directs that "all sums accruing from stoppages from members of the Police Force during absence from sickness or other cause and fines imposed on members thereof for misconduct, and from fines imposed by Magistrates upon drunken persons or for assaults upon Police officers, and all moneys arising from the sale of worn or cast-off clothing or other articles supplied for the use of the Police, shall be credited to any fund applicable to Police purposes." Two other sources of income are recognized by law. Thus ;

"The Commissioner of Police may also, if he shall think fit, on the application of any person showing the necessity of it, appoint any additional number of constables to keep the peace at any place within his jurisdiction, at the charge of the person applying, but subject to the orders of the said Commissioner, and for such times as he shall think fit; and every such constable shall receive a certificate, by virtue of which he shall be vested with all the powers, privileges, and duties of the constables belonging to the police-force.

Provided that the person upon whose application such appointment shall have been made may, upon giving one month's notice in writing to the Commissioner of Police, require that the constables so appointed at his expense shall be discontinued, and thereupon the said Commissioner shall discontinue such additional constables; and all moneys received by the Commissioner for the payment of any such additional constables shall be accounted for by him."

The Police Commissioner is also competent to retain, for the fund applicable for police purposes, the sale proceeds of impounded cattle, when the owner fails to appear within a given period.

No excise license can be issued in Calcutta unless the Commissioner of Police certifies. He is besides given the authority to grant licenses on his own terms to keepers of houses or places of public resort and entertainment. And

"For every certificate or license granted by the Commissioner of Police under this Act there shall be levied a fee of two rupees."

This is the only authority under the Calcutta Police Act by which the Police Commissioner can levy any fee for any permission granted. Let us see how he exercises that authority.

In a country where marriage is the rule and every girl must be married, marriage may be a valuable source of revenue. There have been suggestions to tax marriages. Government have not yet decided to make them directly fruitful to themselves. It seems reserved to the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, to introduce the thin end. The superior authorities quietly look on, and, when the time comes, will, after the policy of British statecraft, condemn the man and accept his action.

The Act empowers the Police Commissioner to regulate processions in streets. Thus :

"Sec. 62. The Commissioner of Police, from time to time, as occasion may require, may, subject to the orders of the said Lieutenant-Governor, make rules for the conduct of all assemblies and processions in the public roads, streets, or thoroughfares, prescribing the routes by which, the times at which, such processions may pass ;

and for keeping order in the public roads, streets, thoroughfares, ghauts, and landing-places, and all other places of public resort, and preventing obstructions thereof on the occasion of such assemblies and processions, and in the neighbourhood of places of worship during the time of public worship ;

and in any case when the roads, streets, or thoroughfares, ghauts, or landing-places, may be thronged, or may be liable to be obstructed ; and may give licenses for the use of music in the streets on the occasion of native festivals and ceremonies.

Every person opposing or not obeying the orders so issued by the Commissioner of Police, or violating the conditions of such license, shall be liable, on summary conviction before a Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees."

It is a necessary power and can be exercised only according to the law. The Police Commissioner cannot prohibit processions or assemblies. He can only regulate them according to rules laid down by authority. These rules apply equally to musical processions which the Commissioner is authorized to allow or not by granting or withholding a license for the same. But there are no rules sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor. A set of rules approved of by the Local Government was, indeed, published by Sir Stuart Hogg in 1870. Those regulations, still in force, refer to a different matter and were framed under a different section (sec. 9) and take no cognizance of Sec. 62. Section 9 runs in these words:

"Section 9. The Police Force shall be under the exclusive direc-



tion and control of the Commissioner of Police, who may, from time to time, subject to the approbation of the said Lieutenant-Governor, frame such orders and regulations as he shall deem expedient, relative to the general government of the Force, the places of residence, the classification, rank, distribution, and particular service of the several members thereof; their inspection; the description of arms, accoutrements, and other necessities to be furnished to them; and all such other orders and regulations relative to the said Police Force as the said Commissioner shall, from time to time, deem expedient for preventing neglect or abuse, and for rendering such Force efficient in the discharge of all its duties."

Even if the rules took any notice of musical processions on the occasion of native festivals and ceremonies, they could not be recognized as framed under section 62 and accepted as supplementary law. When music is permitted, the procession only can be regulated. Nor is it competent to the Police Commissioner to regulate it as he pleases. He can do so only under rules and those rules must also be approved of by the Lieutenant-Governor. In the absence of any regulations, the power reserved in section 62 is nugatory. Government may not have sanctioned any regulations. But what of that! Is not the Police Commissioner all powerful? He has a set of rules of his own. We reproduce a license recently issued for a marriage procession under the Commissioner's own law:—

"No. 34. Fee Ten Rupees.  
Office of Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.  
Town of Calcutta.

License is hereby granted under the provisions of Sec. 62, Act IV of 1866.

16th of April 1896.

To.....  
For a Procession with music to pass from Champatolla 2nd Lane to Dhurmotolla Street within the town of Calcutta proceeding via College and Wellington Streets only between the hours of 7 P.M. and 11 P.M. of the 17 of April 1896, upon the conditions stated on the reverse.

Signed Dy. Commissioner of Police.

Police section J.

Fee received.

#### Conditions.

1. The holder of the license shall, before making use of it, register it at the Police Section named upon the reverse.
2. He may at any time have more than twenty musicians with his procession.
3. That no musical instrument shall be sounded on Circular Road, between Chowringhee Road and Park Street.
4. He shall pass only by the Streets herein specified.
5. He shall make use of his license only on the day and during the precise hours for which it is granted.
6. He shall always pass by the left side of the road.
7. The members of the procession shall not carry sticks, clubs or other offensive weapons.
8. No fire shall be carried or fire-works discharged during the course of the procession.

Every person opposing or not obeying the orders issued by the Commissioner of Police, or violating the conditions of this license, is liable to a fine of one hundred rupees."

All these rules are not under the law. They may be all salutary and necessary, but they must proceed from the authorized quarter. We may as well here state the procedure, which is equally arbitrary, for issue of license. When an application is made it is sent to the Superintendent of the Division for report. On his recommendation and on the terms suggested by him, the license is issued. The invariable demand, of recent growth and which is increasing every year, on the applicant is that he must have a sufficient number of police in the procession, that is, pay for them. The number of graded police is fixed by the Superintendent. He is guided by no law or rule but his own choice. There is payable for each European constable Rs. 8, for a native officer Rs. 7 and for a constable Re. 1. There are three classes of license for which three different fees are charged. A license for 5 musicians has attached to it a fee of Rs. 2, for 10 musicians

Rs. 5 and for 20 and more, Rs. 10. Unless you pay for the police, you are not granted a license. For the license we have quoted the demand at first made was Rs. 60. It was afterwards reduced, how we need not say, to Rs. 23, that is, Rs. 10 for the license and Rs. 13 for police, made a part of the license. The payment for the police is a public demand and is accounted for. A receipt was granted for the sum charged. It is as follows:

"Office of Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.  
No. 64.

To.....  
Request payment of the undermentioned charges for Police supplied at his procession on the 17th April 1896.

|                                               |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Native Officer from 7 to 10 P.M., @ 3 Rs. 3 |  |
| 10 Constables " @ 1 Rs. 10                    |  |

Total Rs. 13  
Signed Dy. Commissioner of Police.

Calcutta.

The 16th April 1896.

It is necessary in proof of payment of this bill, that it should bear a receipt (by endorsement on the reverse) of the officer by whom it is presented for payment.

(Endorsement on the reverse under date the 16th April, 1896.)"

The receipt itself is an evidence of illegality perpetrated. It is dated the 16th of April and requests payment for Police supplied not on that day or any previous day but the day after. The Police Commissioner with all his varied powers, visible and invisible, or his deputy is up to any feat—even to extinguish Time. The mighty General of Rama, in the Ceylon war, managed to delay the appearance of the sun for his mission would not succeed if the day dawned in time. The Deputy of Sir John Lambert, with the borrowed powers of his Chief, accomplishes an equally mighty feat by merging the future in the present. That stretch of power is necessary to force down the bitter pill on an unwilling gullet. During the last unusually active marriage season which has just closed, the license fee with the Police demand, like the marriage dower, went up very high—as high as Rs. 80. We have pointed out that the Act authorizes a fee of only Rs. 2. We have yet to learn who fixed the license fees at Rs. 5 and Rs. 10, and under what authority the charges for Police are made.

So much for Buckingham and the present.

#### OUR LONDON LETTER.

April 24.

*Social Questions.* In my last letter I hazarded the remark that London morally was as bad as Paris, New York or Chicago. That remark has been more than justified by an incident that took place on the morning of Sunday April 10th. A well-known West End Club, No. 11, Regent Street, situated between St. Philip's Church on the one hand and Howell and James' large warehouse on the other was raided by the police on that morning at 1 o'clock. It was an ordinary West End Club where no impropriety in the way of gambling was ever permitted. It was a club simply for the "jeunesse d'ore" of London to pass the earlier hours of the morning. But Howell and James and others had complained to the police of the place as a nuisance and as a matter of fact nothing took place except dancing and suppers. The case has been postponed for a week and therefore I cannot yet say what the decision of the magistrate will be. But what I wish to point out to you native gentlemen of India is, how little we, who presume arrogantly to teach you Christian morality, have to boast of. In every capital of Europe except St. Petersburg and Constantinople I have studied the subject and I think it is one of the greatest tributes to Prince Bismarck that any girl may pass the streets of Berlin at any hour of the night without being insulted. In Berlin those ladies of the pavement are not allowed to show themselves but provision is made for them by allowing certain cafes to be open all night for their entertainment. In Paris there are well-known "cafes" such as the "cafe American" open all night and the advantage of Berlin and Paris is this that you have none of the disgraceful scenes which occur every night in Piccadilly Circus. It is a terrible thing to think that we in London have to witness

there melancholy scenes while we have more clergy preaching to us on Sunday than in any other city of the world.

*Politics.* There has not been much of public interest in the Imperial Parliament since I last wrote. I would just draw your attention however to the introducing by Mr. Chaplin on Monday, the 20th, of the so-called Government Rating Bill. He was answered by Sir Henry Fowler on the part of the Gladstonians and judging from the speeches made by Sir Henry and Sir William Harcourt I presume the Opposition intends to fight the Bill line by line. On Monday the 27th the Education Bill it is supposed, will come on for a second reading. As I pointed out in last week's letter, the Gladstonian party is on this question totally demoralized, inasmuch as the Irish members at the dictation of their priests will support the Government policy, and it is assumed that on critical divisions the Government majority will run from 250 to 300.

*France.* You will see from the daily papers that another French Government has fallen. M. Bourgeois in his fight with the Senate has had to yield and the only question now is whether President Faure will not fall with the Prime Minister. Many people think that M. Bourgeois has been what they term "riding for a fall" and that his great ambition is to become President of the French Republic himself. Every one allows that he is a man of consummate ability, but having put himself into the hands of the extreme Socialist party in the Chamber of Deputies the Senate resisted his attitude with the result that a very grave constitutional crisis was brought about and M. Bourgeois has resigned.

*Germany.* In my last letter I dwelt at length upon the duel between Herr von Schrader and Herr von Kotze. Since his return from Italy the Emperor has been engrossed with the royal marriage at Coburg, but the duel question is still alive and has been made a subject of debate in the Reichstag.

*Italy.* There is nothing further to communicate this week with regard to the position of the Italian army in Abyssinia. I judge by the papers that although Great Britain can not take an effectual stand in the Soudan until the autumn, the mere fact of our intervening against Osman Digma has led to the relief of the Italian army at Kessala.

*Venezuela.* Last week I ventured to say that the Venezuelan question as between ourselves and the United States was likely to be agreeably settled, but I am sorry to say from a letter that appeared in the "Times" from its distinguished American correspondent Mr. Smalley, the question as between Lord Salisbury and Mr. Cleveland is full of danger, and for the present therefore I leave it untouched.

*Australia.* You will see by the papers that Sir Henry Parkes is lying dangerously ill at Sydney. He is well over eighty and has had an extraordinary career. He began life as a journeyman printer and eventually raised himself to be the most prominent politician in New South Wales. His own worst enemy was he himself. He was eaten up with self-conceit and nothing gratified him more than to be called, after Mr. Gladstone, the "Grand Old Man" of New South Wales.

*Dr. Reinhold Rost.* You will be glad to hear that the memorial on behalf of Mrs. Rost will be presented to the First Lord of the Treasury next week, and in addition to the eminent signatories, the memorial will be supported by private letters from His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir William Muir, Professor Max Muller and Mr. Bryce. As soon as the memorial has been placed in the hands of the First Lord of the Treasury I shall take care that a copy reaches you for publication in "Reis and Rayyet."

#### ADULTERATION OF INDIAN OPIUM AT THE TREATY PORTS OF CHINKIANG AND WUHU.

Dated 11th December 1892.

From---N. R. O'Connor, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in China,

To---His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India.

I have the honour to transmit herewith to Your Excellency copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Chinkiang on the subject of complaints which have been received by him of the seizure by the Chinese Customs of opium on which duty and likin duty had been paid.

Under the system which prevails at Chinkiang and which differs from that in existence at all other Treaty Ports except Wuhu, the merchant is allowed to remove opium which has paid duty and likin to his own godown. It is only brought to be packed under the supervision of the Customs after it has been sold. During the interval a door is opened to abuses: the opium thus seized has been found to be adulterated, and it is difficult for a British merchant to prove that such opium is the same as that which has already paid the legal duties.

By Articles 4 of the Additional Article to the Chefoo Convention of 1885, opium has to be deposited in bond in warehouses or hulks approved by the Customs, and after payment of duty and likin (Tael 30 and Tael 80 per chest) is repacked on the spot, the packages being stamped by the Customs. Each such package is

then entitled to receive a transit certificate from the Customs.

I propose informing Mr. Carles that I do not consider it advisable to support the complaint of the merchants if they take upon themselves to make other conditions than those laid down in the Additional Article to the Chefoo Convention, more especially that there appears reason to think that the opium has been adulterated in the godowns.

No. 6, dated 30th November 1892.

From---W. R. Carles, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Chinkiang,

To---Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in China.

I have the honour to report to you that recently complaints have been made to this Consulate of the seizure by the Customs of opium on which likin and duty are alleged to have been paid.

The manner in which opium is treated at Chinkiang is different, I believe, to that at all other Treaty Ports except Wuhu, and demands some explanation on my part.

So far as I can learn, when the new Opium Regulations were introduced in 1887, it was represented to the Customs here and at Wuhu by the merchants (whether native or foreign I am unable to ascertain) that the opium trade would be ruined unless facilities were afforded to merchants of allowing their customers to test the quality of the opium offered to them for sale, previous to its being packed in wrappers sealed by the Customs.

This Customs accordingly consented to allow merchants, on the payment of likin and Tariff duty at the time of importation, to remove the opium to their own godowns, and it is only after its sale to native merchant that the opium is brought to be packed, under the supervision of the Customs in packages for which Transit Pass certificates are issued. These certificates differ from the form prescribed in the 4th Additional Article signed at London on the 18th July 1885, in the addition of a clause, in Chinese only, which requires all likin and other stations to allow the opium to pass without hindrance as the Tariff duty and *likin* on it have been paid in full, and which further gives the name of the Chinese merchant who has applied for the certificate.

The practice has, I understand, worked very well until recently, but of late the Customs has made several seizures of opium, which they are satisfied has been adulterated.

The fact that the opium has been for some time in godowns where its adulteration may have been effected leads the Customs to presume that the adulteration has taken place subsequent to importation, and the lenient practice of the port makes it practically impossible for the British merchant to satisfy the Customs that the opium brought to them for examination is the same as that on which duty and likin have been paid.

Messrs. Duff and Co., who have complained to me and my predecessors of the action of the Customs, assert that the opium is of foreign origin but of a low quality. Experts at Shanghai, to whom samples of the opium seized have been submitted, while differing as to the exact nature of the opium have, with one exception, agreed that it was adulterated, while the dealer who took a more favorable view said that it was Malwa opium, but of such a low grade that it could not be smoked without an admixture of pure opium. The majority agree that there is a large proportion of sesamum seed in the opium, and the Chinese authorities assert that sesamum seed is imported from Hankow for the purpose of being mixed with foreign opium.

Under the circumstances I have not thought it my duty to protest against the action taken by the Customs. The British merchant has the remedy in his own hands of submitting the opium at the time of importation to the Customs for examination; and if he foregoes this opportunity in order to obtain the exceptional advantages granted at this port, he cannot, I hold, complain if he suffers afterwards on account of his opium being so far adulterated or of such low grade as not to be recognized as Indian.

The question is one which may be of interest to the Indian Government, for the importation into the interior of adulterated opium purporting to be Indian will, if it continue, necessarily in time prejudice the native consumers against what they find to be an inferior drug to that to which they have been accustomed as Indian, while the certificate issued by the Customs will confirm them in the belief that the drug is genuine.

On the ground there would appear to be objections to any modifications such as exist here in the provisions of the Additional Articles to the Chefoo Agreement. Owing to the destruction of the Consular archives prior to 1889, I am unable to ascertain whether or how far these modifications have been approved by the Legation, and I shall be glad to receive your instructions regarding them.

I learn privately from the Commissioner of Customs that the Taotai is prepared to revert to the stricter practice laid down in the Additional Articles, if the Wuhu authorities follow the same course, and my own opinion is that it would be desirable to conform entirely to the rules laid down in those Articles, if any abuse of the present Regulations continues to occur.

No. 17, dated 18th July 1894.

From--W. R. Carles, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Chinkiang,  
To--Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in China.

In my despatches No. 6 of the 30th November 1892 and No. 2 of the 20th January 1893, I had the honour to report to you on the local adulteration of Indian opium, which was afterwards sent inland for consumption as Indian opium, under transit certificates from the Customs.

At the same time I referred to the prejudicial effect which this abuse, if tolerated, might have on the market for Indian opium.

During the last twelve months the importation of Indian opium to Chinkiang has increased, and its adulteration has to some extent been checked by the action which I reported had been taken by the Customs.

But large quantities of this adulterated opium are still sent into the interior under Customs certificates for Indian opium.

The chief market is in the large tract of country known as Hsia Ho, which lies between the Grand Canal and the sea in the Northern half of this Province.

In that part of the country I learn from the Taotai that it is likely to displace pure Indian opium entirely.

The Commissioner of Customs has been strenuously endeavouring to stop the abuse by confiscation of such parcels of adulterated opium as are detected by the Customs officers. The action, however, creates a considerable outcry, as the native merchants maintain that the adulteration has occurred previous to importation into Chinkiang.

Without a strict observance of the practice prescribed by the Additional Articles to the Chefoo Agreement it is impossible to tell how far their story may be true. But with the opportunities for adulterating opium which the merchants enjoy through the Customs not enforcing the deposit of opium in its own warehouses, and granting transit certificates to opium which has been stored in private godowns, it seems more probable that the adulteration takes place here.

I have informed the Commissioner of Customs that I am quite ready to support him in any way that I can in preventing adulterated opium from being passed off as Indian, and I have spoken to the Taotai of the strong objections which exist to its improperly receiving an official guarantee of genuineness owing to the rule approved by our respective Governments not being enforced.

Dated 22nd November 1894.

From--Messrs. Sassoon J. David & Co., Bombay,  
To--The Collector of Land Revenue, Customs and Opium, Bombay.

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your No. 13471-C. of 1894, dated the 19th instant, which was addressed to us as J. David & Co., perhaps by an oversight, instead of Sassoon J. David & Co., and in reply to your enquiry whether the adulteration of opium, before it is sent into the interior of China in the manner explained in your letter, interferes with the opium trade, and whether steps should be taken to stop it, we beg to express our opinion as follows:

There is no doubt that the adulteration complained of is most detrimental to the interests of exporters of Indian opium like ourselves, and for this reason. The practice which prevails in Chinkiang and Wuhu of allowing the merchant to remove the opium which has paid duty and likin to his own godown, and of only bringing it to be packed under the supervision of the Customs after it has been sold, offers ample opportunity and inducement to mix Chinese opium of inferior quality and value with the Indian opium. The Chinese opium by itself, as is well known, is liable to certain duties and imposts from which the Indian drug is free after once paying the Customs and likin dues. By adulterating Indian with this Chinese opium on which full likin duties have not been paid, so much of the latter is in fact smuggled, and there is in consequence so much evasion of leviable duty.

But from the point of view of the exporter of Indian opium, the quality of his drug seriously suffers by the facility thus unwittingly offered of making a mixture which, though it is passed off as Indian opium, is not really so. The mark of superiority which it has up to this time borne would be seriously damaged by the practice recently exposed, and the demand for the real Indian drug would gradually grow less and less on account of its name being thus spoiled.

Now, if strong measures are taken to put a stop to the system in vogue at Chinkiang and Wuhu, the inducement to adulteration would immediately cease. The merchant would not consider it worth while; in fact he will not have the opportunity to mix the Chinese drug which is subject to so many duties and which in consequence would be so much dearer to mix with the Indian drug.

We do not see why Chinkiang and Wuhu should not be placed under the same restrictions to keep the opium in bonded warehouses, or under the immediate control of the Customs until the drug is re-packed and the package bears the Customs stamp, as at the other Treaty Ports. Up to this time we have not heard that any mer-

chants at these ports have had cause to complain against such restrictions.

Under these circumstances we are strongly of opinion that to keep up the reputation of Indian opium as regards its superior quality and prevent its demand from falling off as above explained so as to guard the interests of exporters, it is urgently necessary to take prompt action in the matter.

No. 15, dated 22nd May 1895.

From--W. R. Carles, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Chinkiang.

To--Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of China.

With reference to your Despatch No. 5 of the 5th ultimo, instructing me to take advantage of any opportunity that may present itself for impressing upon the Taotai and the Customs authorities the stricter enforcement of the provisions of the additional articles to the Chefoo Agreement relative to opium, I have the honour to report that the stricter measures adopted of late by the Customs to guard against the issue of adulterated opium of certificates as Indian opium have not been without a beneficial effect.

The import last year, 4,179 chests, was 810 chests in excess of that of 1893, and exceeded that of any year since 1887. The import for the first four months of the current year is little below that of the same period in 1894.

It is, however, impossible to secure that certificates be not granted to adulterated opium, unless the regulations are strictly enforced which provide that the repacking of foreign opium be under the supervision of the Customs and take place before the opium is removed from the hulks or warehouses approved of by the Customs. The Commissioner of Customs informs me that he cannot enforce these regulations without instructions from the Inspector General of Customs.

It is the practice here, and I believe at some other ports, to allow opium to be taken away after examination of the chests. As the opium is sold, it is brought to the Customs, before conveyance into the interior, in packages of 2 or 4 balls, or in much smaller quantities. Occasionally a package is opened to see whether it is genuine drug, but, as a rule, the package is accepted without question, and the Customs labels are affixed to it, in certification of its foreign origin.

The confiscation of some packages of adulterated opium last year has done much to check the adulteration of opium with sesamum seed. The presence of native opium is more difficult to detect and prove.

So general was the practice of adulteration with sesamum seed that a Chinese official stated it to be his belief that pure Indian opium would find no market in this neighbourhood. The increased demand for Indian opium is a proof that he was mistaken as to the appreciation of pure foreign opium.

It is believed that little adulteration now takes place, except that sometimes the opium is steeped in sesamum seed oil in order to increase its weight.

Last year, of 4,140½ chests of Malwa imported 3,520 chests were sent inland under transit pass, and labels were issued by the Customs for a quantity representing 503 chests, to be sold retail in Chinkiang and the neighbourhood. There was thus a balance of 117½ chests left for consumption in Chinkiang itself, which, though it appears an inadequate supply for the needs of this large town, is very much larger than in previous years.

I am of opinion that the present practice of the Customs encourages to a small extent the sale of foreign opium, but the effectiveness of the check on adulteration depends almost entirely upon the experience and carefulness of the Customs employé, in charge of the Opium Department.

#### *Additional Article to the Agreement between Great Britain and China, signed at Chefoo on the 13th September 1876.*

The Governments of Great Britain and of China, considering that the arrangements proposed in Clauses 1 and 2 of Section III of the Agreement between Great Britain and China, signed at Chefoo on the 13th September 1876 (hereinafter referred to as the "Chefoo Agreement"), in relation to the area within which *likin* ought not to be collected on foreign goods at the open ports, and to the definition of the foreign Settlement area, require further consideration; also that the terms of Clause 3 of the same section are not sufficiently explicit to serve as an efficient regulation for the traffic in opium, and recognising the desirability of placing restrictions on the consumption of opium, have agreed to the present Additional Article.

1. As regards the arrangements above referred to and proposed in Clauses 1 and 2 of Section III of the Chefoo Agreement, it is agreed that they shall be reserved for further consideration between the two Governments.

2. In lieu of the arrangement respecting opium proposed in Clause 3 of Section III of the Chefoo Agreement, it is agreed that foreign opium, when imported into China, shall be taken cogni-

zance of by the Imperial Maritime Customs, and shall be deposited in bond, either in warehouses or receiving hulks which have been approved of by the Customs, and that it shall not be removed thence until there shall have been paid to the Customs the tariff duty of 30 taels per chest of 100 catties, and also a sum not exceeding 80 taels per like chest as *likin*.

3. It is agreed that the aforesaid import and *likin* duties having been paid, the owner shall be allowed to have the opium repacked in bond under the supervision of the Customs, and put into packages of such assorted sizes as he may select from such sizes as shall have been agreed upon by the Customs authorities and British Consul at the port of entry.

The Customs shall then, if required, issue gratuitously to the owner a transit certificate for each such package, or one for any number of packages, at the option of the owner.

Such certificate shall free the opium to which it applies from the imposition of any further tax or duty whilst in transport in the interior, provided that the package has not been opened, and that the Customs seals, marks, and numbers on the packages have not been effaced or tampered with.

Such certificates shall have validity only in the hands of Chinese subjects, and shall not entitle foreigners to convey or accompany any opium in which they may be interested into the interior.

4. It is agreed that the Regulations under which the said certificates are to be issued shall be the same for all the ports, and that the form shall be as follows:

*"Opium Transit Certificate."*

"This is to certify that tariff and *likin* duties at the rate of taels per chest of 100 catties have been paid on the opium marked and numbered as under; and that, in conformity with the Additional Article signed at London the of 1885, and appended to the Agreement between Great Britain and China signed at Chefoo the 13th September 1876, and approved by the Imperial Decree printed on the back hereof, the production of this certificate will exempt the opium to which it refers, wherever it may be found, from the imposition of any further tax or duty whatever, provided that the packages are unbroken, and the Customs seals, marks, and numbers have not been effaced or tampered with.

"Mark.

No.

10 packages.

"Date "Signature of Commissioner of Customs."

5. The Chinese Government undertakes that when the package shall have been opened at the place of consumption, the opium shall not be subjected to any tax or contribution, direct or indirect other than or in excess of such tax or contribution as is or may hereafter be levied on native opium.

In the event of such tax or contribution being calculated *ad valorem* the same rate, value for value, shall be assessed on foreign and native opium, and in ascertaining for this purpose the value of foreign opium the amount paid on it for *likin* at the port of entry shall be deducted from its market value.

6. It is agreed that the present Additional Article shall be considered as forming part of the Chefoo Agreement, and that it shall have the same force and validity as if it were inserted therein word for word.

It shall come into operation six months after its signature, provided the ratifications have then been exchanged, or if they have not, then on the date at which such exchange takes place.

7. The arrangement respecting opium contained in the present Additional Article shall remain binding for four years, after the expiration of which period either Government may at any time give 12 months' notice of its desire to terminate it, and such notice being given it shall terminate accordingly.

It is, however, agreed that the Government of Great Britain shall have the right to terminate the same at any time, should the transit certificate be found not to confer on the opium complete exemption from all taxation whatsoever whilst being carried from the port of entry to the place of consumption in the interior.

In the event of the termination of the present Additional Article the arrangement with regard to opium now in force under the Regulations attached to the Treaty of Tientsin shall revive.

8. The High Contracting Parties may, by common consent, adopt any modifications of the provisions of the present Additional Article which experience may show to be desirable.

9. It is understood that the Commission provided for in Clause 7 of Section III of the Chefoo Agreement to inquire into the question of the prevention of smuggling into China from Hong-Kong shall be appointed as soon as possible.

10. The Chefoo Agreement, together with, and as modified by, the present Additional Article, shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London as soon as possible.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Additional Article, and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done at London in quadruplicate (two in Chinese and two in English), this day of 1885, being the day of the moon, in the year of the reign of Kwang-Su.

Dated 10th October 1895.

From-Sir N. R. O'Connor, K.C.B., C.M.G., Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, Peking,

To---His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India.

With reference to Your Excellency's Despatch, dated 5th of August last, regarding the adulteration of Indian opium at the treaty port of Chinkiang, I have the honour to enclose herewith copy of a further despatch upon this subject, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at the said port.

No. 37, dated 27th September 1895.

From---W. R. Carles, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Chinkiang,

To---Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, Peking.

With reference to your despatch No. 17 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report that I learn that the Commissioner of Customs, Mr. W. Say, some time since reported to Peking in favour of a strict adherence to the provisions of the Additional Article to the Chefoo Agreement, in the interest of the Chinese revenue.

It appears that even after opium has been boiled and is therefore almost incapable of identification, it is brought to the Custom House to be certified to the Indian opium and is labelled as such by that office.

The system obtaining at Chinkiang was sanctioned, I understand, by the Inspector General of Customs on the local native dealers representing that their trade would be ruined by a strict enforcement of the additional article, but I know of no reason to apprehend that such action would produce more than perhaps a diversion of some of the trade to another port.

**A CLEAN CUT INDIVIDUAL OPINION,  
BOLDLY EXPRESSED.**

It is for this reason that an assertion like the following sticks up above the dead level of our stupid talk, and becomes noticeable; "*When I saw how pale I had grown I said to myself, it was because something had gone out of my blood.*"

There! That is a statement with the seeds of an idea in it. Suppose we follow it up by quoting the rest of the letter which contains it.

In December, 1890, says the writer, "I fell into a poor state of health. I was tired, languid, and weary without any apparent cause. My appetite left me, and all food, even the lightest and simplest kinds, caused me great pain in the chest and stomach. When I saw how pale I had grown I said to myself it was because something had gone out of my blood."

"Then my sleep was broken, and night after night I scarcely closed my eyes. It wasn't long before I became so weak and dejected that I took no interest in things around me. I was so nervous that common sounds annoyed and worried me; even the noises made by my own children in their talk and at their play."

"There was a disgusting taste in my mouth; it made me sick, and often gave me a shivering sensation all over. When I saw others eating and enjoying their meals I felt as though it were a strange thing; in a way I would red how they could do it. For myself I could eat hardly anything. Food went against me, and I turned away from it, as our dogs from smells or sights that are offensive. And yet I know, what everyone knows, that without sufficient food the body languishes and weakens. And such was the case with me as month after month went by."

"During all this time, so full of pain and discouragement, I was attended by a doctor who did what he could to relieve me, but without success. I do not say he did not understand my complaint; for may he not have understood it without having the means of curing it?"

The answer to the lady's question is: Yes, easily enough. All intelligent, studious doctors "understand" consumption, cholera, cancer, &c., without (is yet) having the means of curing them. There is usually a wide gap between the discovery of a want and the way to supply it.

"I will now," continues the letter, "tell you how I came to be cured. In April, 1891, I read in a small book or pamphlet about Mother Seigel's Syrup. The book said the Syrup was a certain remedy for all diseases of the stomach, indigestion in every form, and dyspepsia; and it also said that most of the complaints we suffer from are caused by that. On looking over the symptoms described in the book, and comparing them with my own, I saw plainly that my ailment was dyspepsia."

"We sent immediately for a bottle of this medicine, and after taking it a few days I began to feel better. In a very short time, by keeping on with the Syrup according to the directions, I could eat without pain or distress, and digest my food. I also slept soundly and naturally. Then my strength came back and with it the colour to my face. In short, after a few weeks' use of Mother Seigel's Syrup, I was hearty and strong as ever. And I should be indeed ungrateful if I were not willing that others should have the benefit of my experience. You are therefore free to print my letter if you think it will be useful. (Signed) (Miss) M. Truman, Marton, Lincoln, April 24, 1895."

I simply desire to say to Miss Truman that her idea about the blood is a perfectly correct one. All our food (the digestible part of it) is turned into blood, and in that shape it feeds the entire body. When the blood gets thin and poor (lacking in nourishment), we lose flesh and grow feeble and pale. And the cause of the blood getting thin and poor is indigestion, or dyspepsia. How easy this is to understand when once you get hold of the right end of it. Mother Seigel's Syrup has the peculiar power to correct what is wrong about the digestion, and thus enables the digestive machinery to make good rich blood, which is life and health and beauty.





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from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddant, Chief of.  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chelu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.  
to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.  
to Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.  
to Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
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from Gulia, Babu Saoda Kant.  
to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.  
from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
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from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.  
to Law, Kumar Kristodas.  
to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
to Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
to Mallik, Mr. H. C.  
to Marston, Miss Ann.  
from Mehta, Mr. R. D.  
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.  
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakshinarajan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Baha-  
door of.  
from Nayaratna, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.  
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.  
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.  
to Rao, the late Sir T. Madhava.  
to Rattigan, Sir Wilham H.  
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from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.  
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
to Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
to Vencataramanub, Mr. G.  
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

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### OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of  
a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith,  
Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October  
1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer,  
and there is a breezy freshness and originality  
about his correspondence which make it  
very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft,  
K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,  
26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing  
official duties an English Civilian can find  
either time or opportunity to pay so graceful  
a tribute to the memory of a native personality  
as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of  
the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the  
well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta:  
Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many  
who are more worthy of being thus honoured  
than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr.  
Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with  
all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with  
lessons for those who desire to know the real  
India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not  
even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days  
under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of in-  
fluence in any way approaching that which was  
soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualiti-  
es, his death from pneumonia in the early  
spring in the last year was a distinct and  
heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was  
an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put  
his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times*  
of India, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian jour-  
nalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more  
rarely still that such a life comes to be written  
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the life of at least one man among Indian  
journalists has been considered worthy of  
being written by an Englishman.—*The*  
*Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30,  
1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a  
profound student and an accomplished writer,  
who has left his mark on Indian journalism.  
In that he has found a Civilian like Mr.  
Skrine to record the story of his life he is  
more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal  
himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2,  
1895.

For much of the biographical matter that  
issues so freely from the press an apology is  
needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee,  
the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an  
explanation would have been looked for. A man  
of his remarkable personality, who was easily  
first among native Indian journalists, and in  
many respects occupied a higher plane than  
they did, and looked at public affairs from a  
different point of view from theirs, could not  
be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Dictor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.

—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspiced by harshness. —*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed. —*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but presents the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality. —*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 226.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE Birthday Honours not having been published, as it ought to have been, simultaneously at Simla and Calcutta, we are unable to open this number with them. The List is given elsewhere. It is neither unusually long nor short, and contains, as usual, names of various grades and descriptions of persons.

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*Apropos* of the duel in Germany which has caused the greatest sensation in the civilized world, we reproduce from the *Journal des Debats* a letter from Munster, Westphalia, containing an account of the first lawful duel in Prussia in the year 1846:

"The day before yesterday we were witnesses of an afflicting spectacle, and which to a certain degree transported us to the middle ages. This spectacle was that of a duel under the sanction of justice. The following is an account of this strange affair.

Two young officers, the Baron de Deukhaus, a lieutenant in the 11th Regiment of Hussars, and M. de Bonnhart, also a lieutenant in the 13th Infantry, had, whilst playing at billiards in a coffee house at Munster, a violent dispute, in which M. de Deukhaus made use of several offensive expressions towards his adversary.

These words having been uttered in a public place, and before a great number of witnesses, M. de Bonnhart felt himself under the necessity of demanding public satisfaction, and to this effect cited M. de Deukhaus to appear before the tribunal of honour sitting at Munster. It is known that for the last two years tribunals of the description are instituted in all the divisions of the Prussian army.

This tribunal, conformably to the law, used all its efforts to induce the offending party to retract the offensive expressions, and not being able to succeed, came to a decision that, considering the words in question attacked the honour of M. de Bonnhart, the latter could no longer continue in the army without having obtained public satisfaction; and considering that M. de Deukhaus obstinately refused to grant him such satisfaction, the tribunal authorized a duel between the two parties, according to the military rules.

The duel took place on Monday, June 29, at three o'clock in the afternoon, in a plain situate to the north of the city of Munster. A platform was erected in the middle of the plain, on which was seated the tribunal, the judges of the combat.

"Before the tribune, a large space, surrounded by ropes supported by staves, was reserved for the combatants. Some detachments of infantry and cavalry were placed round the enclosed ground and tribune of the judges. At an early hour an immense crowd filled the vast plain, in order to witness the strange contest which was about to take place.

At three o'clock precisely the judges wearing their uniforms, took their places in the tribune. They again attempted to effect a reconciliation, and this attempt also failing, authorized the combat to take place.

It was agreed upon by the two adversaries, with the sanction of the tribunal, that the combat should take place with cavalry swords, and be continued until one of the adversaries became *hors de combat*, and that both should fight with their heads uncovered and in their shirt sleeves.

A certain number of sabres were then brought forward, and the two adversaries, after having bound their eyes, took by chance their weapons. Then taking off the handkerchiefs from their eyes, as well as their coats and hats, they put themselves in an attitude of defence, and at a signal given by the president of the tribunal, the combat began.

M. de Deukhaus and de Bonnhart fought with the greatest obstinacy. The latter successively received two slight wounds in the arm, but soon afterwards wounded his adversary so severely in the thigh, as to render it impossible for the latter to continue the combat.

When the surgeons had dressed the wounds of the officers, the president of the tribunal again attempted to reconcile them; this time he was immediately obeyed, and the two adversaries embraced each

other. The public, which had throughout the combat observed the profoundest silence, hailed the reconciliation with loud and continued applause. Two coaches took away the late opponents, and M. de Bonnhart assisted in carrying M. de Deukhaus to his. The tribunal then separated, and the crowd quietly dispersed.

It is the first time that a tribunal of honour in Prussia has ever authorized a duel. All the disputes which had been hitherto brought before the tribunal, had invariably terminated by a reconciliation."

..

WE read of a Committee having been formed, with the Duke of Abercon as president and honorary treasurer, for the purpose of raising a fund for a memorial to the late George Augustus Sala and for aiding his widow. Sala was a prince of, and among, journalists, and died poor.

..

*The Bee* speaking of the assassination of Shah Nasiruddin of Persia and his fondness for cats, says:—

"The foregoing sentence may recall to some of our readers one or two articles that appeared in these columns not very long ago on the subject of Cats, and great men who have loved them. While most monarchs and rulers number dogs and horses among their pets, only one—the Shah of Persia—seemed to display any fondness for cats. And in this respect the Shah fully made up for the indifference of his fellow sovereigns, since his palace generally contained some fifty feline pets, to which he used to assign special officers and attendants. These fortunate pussies—they were beauties, as Persian cats generally are—had also a room of their own for their meals, and they all accompanied their royal master on his summer excursions. This brings to mind that Mathew Arnold was also very partial to cats, and felt terribly cut up himself when a kitten once got cut up by a passing train. We may, therefore, add these two names to our list which already includes those of Cardinals Richelieu and Mazarin, Rousseau, Dr. Johnson, Southey, Parnell, Huxley, Ida Lewis (the 'Light-house Heroine'), Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, and other Cat lovers of modern days."

We miss one name, that of the late Mr. Anstey, the most learned and fearless advocate in India, in recent times, whose love was his cats.

..

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Moorshedabad under date the 19th May:

"Death has been busy among the young and the promising of this city. On Friday, the 8th of May, there died an amiable young Sahibzada, Syed Hedayet Ali otherwise known as Shahzada Alum, aged 25 years, a scion of the historic House of Nawab Miran, whose lineal descendants are occupying the site at Jafferagunge where Serajud-dowla was killed in cold blood by his foster brother Mahamdi Beg. Just a fortnight before, the deceased had lost his only elder step brother, Syed Abbas Ali, aged about 26 years.

A still more lamentable death occurred in the family of Nawab Wala Qudr Syed Hosain Ali Mirza Bahadoor of the Nizamut. The sad and untimely death of his son, Prince Boorham Qudr Syed Mobaruk Ali Mirza, by his wedded wife, Nawab Mahtab Arra Begum Sahiba, has aroused general sorrow and heart-felt sympathy throughout the city. The Prince breathed his last on the afternoon of the 16th of May. He was born at Benares, on the 24th of April 1876, in the family residence of his maternal grandfather, Nawab Abid Ali Mirza Bahadoor, and on his mother's side he was connected with the late Nawab-Vizier Saadat Ali Khan, and the late Nawab Sir Akbal-ud-dowla of Bighdad. The former was the wisest of all the

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kings of Oudh and left the public treasury rich with 22 crores of Rupees. The remains of the lamented Prince will be removed to Karbala after a year and will be buried there by the side of his mother, the said Nawab Mahtab Arra Begum Saheba.

The late Prince was developing many good qualities. He was an excellent rider."

\*\*\*

THE same correspondent says :—

"Public health of the city is very unsatisfactory, cholera is virulently raging in the town and country. On the 14th instant, 23 deaths and 27 attacks were reported."

..

BABOO Monmothnath Bose, a scion of one of the great houses in the Hooghly district and a practical man of business, who has just returned to Calcutta, after a stay of four months at Ancoora, Sub-division Bhudruck, district Balasore, informs us that, notwithstanding free and copious distribution by Government of cholera pills, during the past month and the present, April and May, some 600 persons, belonging to the villages of Mizapur, Kumargaon, Goagoria, Mandari, Basudebpur, Karanjoria, Domalong and Bhairrampur, died of cholera. The pills recommended by the high authority of the Lieutenant-Governor were perfectly useless. Rubini's camphor and chlorodyne, which the Babu distributed gratis, proved much better, the percentage of cures being 39.

..

A HIGHLY valued friend writes from the Burdwan district under date the 18th May :

"We in the mofussil have suffered a good deal owing to scarcity of water. In our part of the district the mango crop has been a total failure. In fact, my gardens have no mangoes, the heat and subsequently the storm having totally ruined them. We have had rains during the last 10 days, but they are quite insufficient for agricultural purposes, though the weather has become somewhat cooler."

..

A CONTEMPORARY, the champion of the people, whose popularity lies in opposing Government measures and men, seems to think that the Road cess has absolved the landlords of Bengal from the duty of finding drinking water for their thirsty tenants, and is disposed to characterize the call of Government upon the landlords to re-excavate their tanks most barefaced if not tyrannical. In a season of distress all considerations of rights are of minor importance, the object being how to relieve it. A re-excavation will bring the relief quicker than an excavation of a tank. And what is the harm in reminding an owner that his tank requires renewing, which otherwise he is bound to keep clean and pure?

\*\*\*

OWING to the heat of the weather, people avoid stirring out of home as much as possible. Those who do, run, indeed, the risk of sunstroke, but any accident to them is equally calculated to make them famous. In the dearth of news, the morning papers are given to chronicling small beer. On Monday, it was announced simultaneously in all the dailies, that an inspector of the Calcutta Police (we omit the name of the worthy for an obvious reason) had a fall from a tram car. "In attempting to alight," he "sustained a slight fracture of his leg on Friday." The day of the injury is given but not the hour. "He is being treated in hospital, and is making satisfactory progress towards recovery." We miss some important information. How was the distinguished man taken to hospital and to which hospital and by whom, and what doctor is attending him? Have the Reuter Agency and the *Times'* correspondent in Calcutta telegraphed the news to England? The head of the Police is already upon the 'Tramway Company. A famous wit hoped for no railway reform in England till a Bishop was killed. Will the present accident lead to any improvement in the working of the tram lines in Calcutta? If it do, the morning papers are justified.

..

ON the recommendation of the non-official members of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. Provinces, the Governor-General has nominated the Hon'ble Pandit Bishambar Nath, Vakil, N.-W. P. High Court, as an additional member of his Council for making Laws, we do not say and Regulations, for additional members have nothing to do with Regulations, the drafts of which are never placed before them.

DRAFT regulations under the Pilgrim Ships Act, XIV of 1895, are published in the *Gazette of India* of May 16. They will be taken into consideration by the Governor-General in Council on or after the 15th of July 1896. Outside objections or suggestions after that date will be out of date. These regulations will not only have the effect of law but also be the substantive law, for the law itself under which they are framed has made over all power to the Viceroy. They, therefore, require careful examination at the hands of the Mahomedan community.

..

THE Mahomedan Judge of the Calcutta High Court, in consultation with the Brahman Judge, has, in the original suit between Behari Lal Laha and Koulash Chunder Laha for partition, held, that a son after inhering his share of his father's property cannot be divested of it because of his subsequent adoption. Though no longer belonging to his natural father's family, he loses not by the estrangement what he had acquired in the usual course of inheritance. The decision is in accordance with the principle first enunciated by the Advocate-General Cowie, then accepted by the High Court and afterwards confirmed by the Privy Council, to save the unchaste Hindu widow from disinheritance, that an interest once vested cannot be divested, on account of any subsequent incapacity, an incapacity which, happening beforehand, would have operated as a bar.

..

WE read in the *Indian Mirror* of May 20, the day observed in India as the birthday of her Majesty :—

"The kerosine oil, the use of which is now almost universal in India, has been declared by scientists, qualified to give an opinion on the subject, as leading to the generation of certain maladies in those use (*sic.*) to light their rooms with kerosine lamps. And this is not merely a theory, which has no facts to support itself. Then, again, kerosine oil is responsible for many disastrous conflagrations and numerous deaths from burning. For these disadvantages, attending the use of this imported oil, we have always regretted the readiness with which our countrymen have betaken themselves to its use. It may be cheaper than the vegetable oils, produced in this country, but if the havoc which it makes among its users by causing fires and generating diseases, is taken into account, the advantage of its cheapness pales into insignificance. We are, therefore, much pleased to learn that in the Gangetic Districts of Behar, a movement has been set on foot among the masses to discontinue the use of kerosine oil. The method adopted is the spreading of a report throughout the Province of Behar that this imported oil is unclean. The report has passed from house to house, and Hindus, both rich and poor, in many of the Districts, are said to have already abjured the oil. The Mozufferpore correspondent of the Allahabad official journal reports that the women-folk of each household have been sending little *chirags*, lighted with this oil, sailing down the rivers probably in way of celebrating the abjuration of the article by them. We must say, we shall be very glad to see the use of the kerosine oil, substituted by that of the indigenous innocent vegetable oils. As warm and earnest supporters of the Swadeshi movement, we are also bound to give our unqualified support to this movement started in Behar, the object of which, we hope, will command immediate support and sympathy throughout the Empire."

It is too late, we fear, to condemn the kerosine, either on sanitary or national grounds. Its cheapness is too powerful and overcomes all opposition. It will spread, as it is extending, all over the Indian empire. There is no question, however, that the oil is insanitary, if not always dangerous.

..

THE people of the Eastern Districts are the most enterprising of Bengalis. They are the Scotchmen of Bengal. Their number of distant travellers in pursuit of knowledge and distinction is increasing every day. They are to be found in the highest posts of power and emoluments from the High Court downwards. Keen-witted, industrious, determined to overcome all opposition and to gain the end anyhow, they outdistance their brethren of the other districts. They have gained success in every walk of life. The latest instance is in the religious, in the Revd. Father Bollinger. The following is going the round of the press :

"The Bengali Raman Catholic convert has just returned to Benares after a visit to—Sweden. A native of the village of Atarkhada in the District of Jessore and a Vaidya by caste, Ishan Chunder Gupta was converted to Christianity while he was a young man, a few years before the Indian Mutiny. He has travelled almost all over Europe and America and is the master of nine European languages, but he has nearly forgotten Bengali. He is now known as the Revd. Father Bollinger."

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NOTES & LEADERETTES,  
OUR OWN NEWS  
&  
THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH  
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Czar and the Czarina have arrived at Moscow, where immense preparations have been made for their coronation. They made their state entry on the 21st. The pageant was a most gorgeous one. Immense crowds lined the route to the Kremlin from the Petrofski Palace, which is three miles outside the city. The most striking group was formed by the Asiatic vassals and tributaries of the Czar.

The special mission sent by the French Government to attend the coronation has also arrived and been received with unusual distinction, including a guard of honour which is only accorded to royal personages.

IN the House of Commons Lord G. Hamilton, in reply to a question, said that India was not to be charged with the cost of sending Indian troops to Mombassa, and therefore the resolution to authorize their employment outside India was unnecessary. Replying to a further question, he said it was proposed to charge India with the ordinary pay and allowances of the Suakin contingent, and he would, therefore, move a resolution according to precedent. The *Times* strongly protests against charging the Indian Exchequer with the regular pay of Indian regiments employed in Africa, and says that the question is not a party one, but one of justice to India, and must be decided by the nation. If Parliament decides to end a practice which has grown into a wrong to India, doubtless the Government will yield, and the decision now to be given may do more to confirm or shake the loyalty of India than any action of Parliament since the Mutiny of 1857. On May 20, Lord George Hamilton brought forward his resolution. It provides that if it should become necessary to replace the Indian troops and vessels engaged at Suakin by other troops and vessels, Great Britain shall bear the cost thereof. Mr. John Morley gave notice of an amendment that it was not expedient to charge India with any portion of the expenses. Mr. Maclean gave notice of a similar amendment.

REPLYING to a question as to whether the Government intended to appoint a Committee to inquire into the method of selling Council drafts, the Secretary of State for India said there was no intention at present to appoint such a Committee, but he would give the matter his serious attention.

THE Transvaal Executive has confirmed the sentence of banishment on the Rand prisoners. Mr. Grey, one of the prisoners, became insane and committed suicide. The sentences of death passed on certain members of the Johannesburg Reform Committee have been temporarily commuted to fifteen years' imprisonment, pending further revision next week. The remainder of the sentences are variously three months to one year. Nine prisoners have been acquitted. The fines have been upheld, but the sentences of banishment have been remitted, if the prisoners give their word of honour not to interfere in the politics of the Transvaal in future. The English newspapers generally urge reduction in the sentences on the four leaders and consider the revision of the other sentences as unsatisfactory, and hope it is not final. Mr. Chamberlain, presiding at an African dinner on May 21, made a speech in which he said he could not regard the sentences on the Rand Reformers as entirely satisfactory, and that he had always regarded President Kruger as the last person to be animated by a vindictive feeling towards men who, though they had erred grievously had created the prosperity of the Transvaal. The policy of Government was unchanged. They would strictly fulfil their legal obligations and maintain their legal rights. Mr. Chamberlain then said that he did not abandon the hope of a reunion of the races, but the prosperity of Africa now depended mainly on the wisdom and moderation of its political rulers.

IN a despatch from Dr. Leyds to Sir Hercules Robinson, dated the 20th instant, he asks the meaning of the large massing of British troops with cannon, on the Transvaal frontier. Sir Hercules Robinson

in reply said that he regretted the credit attached to such falsehoods, and demanded the prosecution of the propagator of them.

ADVICES from Matabeleland state that the Buluwayo column has formed a junction with Mr. Rhodes' column at Gwelo.

REUTER'S special correspondent at Akasheli telegraphs that the inaction of the Dervishes causes surprise, and it is believed that one crushing defeat will shatter the Khalifa's power. It is expected that a fight will take place at Mokrakeh.

THE British Government has formally appealed against the acquittal of Major Lothaire.

THE *Times'* correspondent at Vienna telegraphs that France and Russia intend to make a vigorous effort to enforce their views on the Egyptian question on the first occasion after the Czar's coronation.

IT is understood that Spain will wait till the autumn to send more troops to Cuba. Fifty thousand men will then be despatched, the rebellion having spread throughout the Island.

NEGOTIATIONS are proceeding between France and Japan for a commercial treaty.

IN the House of Commons, on May 18, Sir William Wedderburn moved that the House adjourn for the purpose of calling attention to the Cotton Duties, which affected the poor, and caused bad feeling by boycotting Lancashire goods. Lord George Hamilton said he regretted that Sir William Wedderburn had revived an absolutely extinct agitation, and reiterated his defence of the new arrangement in regard to the Duties. The motion was ultimately withdrawn upon the understanding that the Indian Budget should be presented at an early date.

A LETTER from the Duke of Orleans has appeared, in which he disagrees with the views of the loyalist committee, repudiates distrust in the universal suffrage, and denies that monarchic and elective rights are incompatible. He further approves of Prince Henry of Orleans accepting the Legion of Honour from the Republic.

THE Governor of Damaraland will have 1,000 troops at his disposal on the arrival of German reinforcements. An organ of the colonial party at Berlin says that Germany will thus acquire a position in South Africa, the influence of which is already felt at Capetown, and that the Boers will indirectly receive support, the effects of which time will plainly show.

MR. Hanbury, replying to Sir Seymour King in the House of Commons, said that he was unable to accede to the appointment of a select Committee to consider the grievances of the officers on the general list.

ON the 20th May, to celebrate the birthday of the Empress, the Viceroy held, at Simla, a Levée which is reported to have been largely attended. There was also the usual state dinner, at which some seventy officials were present. In the forenoon, Lord Elgin attended the parade and sports and encouraged the volunteers with the following words:

"Believe me, every citizen who gives help to the Volunteer cause, whether by personal service, in which Colonel Bisset shows so conspicuous an example, and in which all of you here present support him, or by other assistance through which their fellows can have leisure to attend parades, deserves recognition by his country, and will, I hope, carry with him the satisfaction of knowing how highly the services of the Volunteers are appreciated by the Government of India. On this day, when throughout the Empire all her subjects are anxious to show special loyalty and devotion to the Queen-Empress it will, I hope, be a matter for pride and satisfaction to every one of you to have this opportunity of evincing as you do, your readiness to render your personal service to the Empire in the hour of need. I am sure Colonel Bisset should be proud of commanding so strong and so serviceable a body of volunteers."

IN Calcutta the celebration was a quiet affair. There were of course the firing of salutes and rounds of *feu-de-joie* and the parade on the

maidan of troops in the garrison and volunteers, numbering in all 54 officers and 1,728 N. C. officers and men. But the reports of the guns were not loud enough for all Calcutta and there was no public entertainment. The day was, however, observed as a general holiday, and what was most agreeable the weather was not bright sunshiny and we had a copious shower of rain. That is Queen's weather indeed in an Indian summer. The publication in this capital that day of the Honours of the occasion would have further enlivened the scene. Up in the clouds, the Government of India are not sufficiently mindful of those galled in the plains. The slight expense, if any, of simultaneous publication of the *Gazette of India* Extraordinary at Simla and Calcutta ought not to be grudged. We cannot think of any other cause for the omission.

THE rate of mortality in Calcutta has gone down to 395. That is the number of deaths in the last week against 361 and 402 of the two weeks previous. There were 86 deaths from cholera against 119 and 185 in the two preceding weeks, or 61 more than the average of the past quinquennium. Deaths from smallpox numbered 3 against 2 of the week before. The general death-rate was 34.1 per mille per annum against 26.0, the mean of the last five years. Yesterday, there was one death from heat apoplexy. It was due more to drink than the weather, which, however, continues oppressive.

If we had a quiet observance of the Enpress' Birthday, Chittagong the unblest had been very busy with festivities—with theatres, races, gaities of all kinds, not omitting the feeding of the poor. It seems reserved for Mr. Skrine to remove the odium of old Bignold's epigram on the town,

The church abandoned it stands,  
It has neither parson nor steeple :  
And the lands are low-lying lands  
And the people are low, lying people.

The neglect of fifty years of not elevating the Chittagonians and leaving them to "stew in their own juice," is a stain on the British administration. They will now have a glimpse of better things than their sordid life.

SINCE our leader last week on the subject of licenses for musical processions in streets, the Commissioner of Police has ordered that Superintendents of Divisions, while recommending the number of Police to be paid for by the applicants, should give their reasons. This may lessen the hardship, but is not sufficient to put an end to illegal exactions. Unless we see any further attempt in the right direction, we shall return to the subject next week. We have not spoken of half the rottenness in the state of Denmark.

THE Calcutta Small Cause Court was closed on Thursday, out of respect to the memory of Baboo Jadunath Roy, the late Judge of that Court, recently retired and just dead. One of our weekly contemporaries was furious that the Baboo was not allowed to continue on the Bench. His death immediately after retirement, like that of Rai Bahadur Annada Persad Ghose, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, justifies the action of the Bengal Government. The fact is, our people do not know when to cease working for gain and are extremely careless of their health. They would all die in harness, if not forced to retire on pension.

HERE is a letter from one of the retired Viceroys of India who still rules her, as far as may be, from a distance. It is addressed to Kumar Upendra Chandra Chowdry of Mymensingh, who presented him that a copy of Mr. Skrine's life of Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee.

"Sturton, Micheldever Station,  
April 9, 1896.

Sir,—I am much obliged to you for sending me a copy of the memoir of the late Dr. Sambhu Mookerjee which I have read with much interest, for I have always felt a sincere appreciation of the work done by able and conscientious editors of Indian newspapers, who, while freely criticising public affairs, have done so in a friendly spirit and with loyalty to the British Government.

Rai Bahadur Kristodas Pal, when he edited the *Hindoo Patriot*, was a notable instance of this, and from the contents of the memoirs I gather that Dr. Mookerjee took much the same line in *Reis and Rayyet*, a paper which, I believe, was started after I left India.

I can truly say that I have never felt any annoyance at Dr. Mookerjee's comments upon the case of the late ex-Gaekwar of Baroda. I do not

remember the particular view Dr. Mookerjee took, but the case was one which was fairly open to public criticism.

I am, yours faithfully,  
NORTHBROOK."

Lord Northbrook is a statesman accustomed to see himself and his friends roughly handled by politicians with principles different from his. The Baroda number of *Mookerjee's Magazine* contained the most vigorous impeachment of Lord Northbrook's treatment of poor Mulhar Rao. That the late Viceroy never felt any annoyance at it is much to his credit. The view which Dr. Mookerjee took was that it is highly impolitic to bring sovereign princes, like ordinary felons, to public trials for accusations of the kind that Colonel Phayre chose to prefer. The refusal of the Viceroy to accept the verdict of the Native Commissioners of his own selection was extraordinary. The endeavour to justify Mulhar Rao's deposition on the old charge of misgovernment was the strangest part of the business. Finally, the whole Baroda business was a blunder from beginning to end.

DEWAN BAHADUR Justice Subramaniam of the Madras High Court writes of "An Indian Journalist" to the author thus :

"You have placed the Bengalis under great obligation by your self-imposed task so very excellently executed. It is impossible to rise from a perusal of this interesting book without feeling a regret that there were not many men like Dr. Mookerjee among us."

IN course of his interesting reminiscences, in the last number of the *Calcutta Review*, Mr. H. G. Keene details the following :—

"A Village Money-lender's Gule.—There was, in an Indian village, an honest soldier, at home on leave, who had to answer to a claim, brought by the local money-lender, on a bond purporting to bear the sepoy's signature, and attested by witnesses whose names appeared as having seen it executed. The bond was a forgery, and the witnesses were men of straw, suborned by the banker for a few pence ; but the defendant did not see his way to proving a negative ; so he elected to acknowledge that the instrument was genuine and valid, to the astonishment and delight of the banker. But, added the innocent-looking warrior, the bond had been duly redeemed ; the banker had, indeed, excused himself for not returning it, but *here was his written receipt*. By all the rules of evidence judgment ought to have gone for the plaintiff, the defence being almost palpably false. But the bond happened to have been written on English paper ; and the judge, holding it to the light, found the watermark of a year subsequent to that on which the debt was alleged to have been contracted. The banker at once offered an easy and plausible explanation ; but the officer, well aware of the habits of him and his class, unhesitatingly threw out the claim with costs not on the ground that the debt had been discharged, but that, despite the defendant's admission, it had never been contracted. The decision was probably just, it was scarcely either lawful, or logical."

Yes, the decision was probably just. It is satisfactory to find Mr. Keene speaking in this strain instead of indulging in that dogmatism which is the principal characteristic of District administrators in India. The sepoy who admitted execution of the forged bond and set up the false plea of satisfaction, did as so many do in this country. It was a common observation of the late Justice Dwarka Nath Mitter, that to meet the claim on a forged bond the defendant usually put in a forged release, thereby admitting the genuineness of the first document and exposing himself to prosecution for perjury and uttering a forged document. And why so ? The question has not been satisfactorily answered. We are afraid, one reason is the well-known weakness of District courts in accepting every kind of formal evidence as true. Written has precedence over oral evidence. It is easier to manufacture a document than to prove it is forged. It is less costly to meet fraud by fraud than to shew up a false claim or charge. Such is the law and its administration. Wrong decisions of courts convert simple people into perjurers. Some years back, in one of the Districts of the North-West Provinces, a charge of murder was preferred against a Zamindar by a neighbouring one strongly supported by a faction in the village. The evidence was complete against the accused who admitted the offence, urging, however, the plea of sudden provocation. This was established to some extent. The Judge sentenced him to six months' imprisonment. Two years after the man had come out of jail, the victim of the alleged murder was ferreted out with the assistance of the Police from a distant town. He was accused of conspiracy along with those that had taken an active part against the convicted Zamindar. The latter, when asked by the Judge as to why he had admitted an unperpetrated murder, answered that he had no other alternative for saving himself from the gallows. If he had pleaded complete innocence, he would certainly have been sentenced to death. The conspirators all admitted

their guilt and were sentenced to varying periods of imprisonment. Mr. Keene's inference from the water mark on the paper, we fear, was not correct. Many years before a similar case was tried in the original of the Calcutta High Court. The year mark in water was subsequent to the date of the document whose genuineness was at issue. Mr. T. D. Ingram was one of the Counsel in the case. The party who produced the document ran the risk of being committed for forgery. Fortunately, Mr. Ingram had some experience of the paper trade. Large manufacturers often post-date their outturns, taking care not to issue such paper out of their manufactories till the year noted. Errors, however, sometimes occur. In the case in question, the document was a genuine one. It happened, however, to be engrossed on paper that bore the mark of a year subsequent to the date of execution. The genuineness of the document was admitted and the suit based on it was decreed. How sometimes Judges are misled by the false water-marks! A respectable purdanasheen lady in the North-West Provinces suffered in person and dignity by the water-mark argument of the opposing Counsel.

THE following gem of an extract, "from a Dacca paper," appears in the *Indian Mirror* :—

"Many among our well-meaning European friends commit mistakes in their attempt to introduce their own institutions among us. Mr. Skrine, we are sorry to say, would seem to be one of these gentlemen. While at Bhagalpore, we remember his encouraging and patronizing theatricals and *nautes*. It pains us now to learn that within the short time he has been in Chittagong, he has thrown himself, head and heart, into organizing a scheme for theatricals and *nautes*. For aught we know to the contrary these things may be innocent pastimes for enlightened Europeans, but for us, Indians, of the present generation, who are just passing through a social crisis, they have a demoralizing effect which, Mr. Skrine's penetrating powers should long ago have made it clear to him. We hope Mr. Skrine will think over this matter and, if he is desirous to provide harmless enjoyment to the poor drudging clerks and officials, he should proceed on the lines chalked out by his master, Sir Charles Elliott, in reference to the student community of Calcutta."

Appearing as it does without note or comment of any kind, it may, we think, be presumed that the august organ of Theosophy in Bengal approves of the sentiments expressed. The name of the Dacca paper is not given. This is not due to an accident or the desire of screening the inferiority of the journal. The fact is, it is a Brahma concern, managed by one of those people who have won the appellation of "the unco-good." The mention of the name would have enabled the reader to appraise the utterance at its true worth. Without concerning ourselves for the present with the Dacca paper which, "for aught it knows to the contrary," thinks that theatricals and *nautes*, though they "may be innocent pastimes for enlightened Europeans" have, however, "a demoralising effect upon Indians of the present generation," for the very satisfactory reason that they are "passing through a social crisis," it may be fairly said that the *Mirror's* approval of the sentiments is not quite in keeping with its own conduct. Formerly, spiritual drinks were its abomination. For sometime it has taken kindly to them. Then, again, twice in every week it publishes the advertisements of all the four native (or, if that word be distasteful, Indian) theatrical companies of Calcutta. The Indian theatres are demoralising, but not their mention in the advertisement columns. By the bye, has the existence of those theatres anything to do with the present scarcity of water? Do they require suppression before copious showers can be expected? Though a professed Revivalist talking glibly of the Hindu scriptures, no paper is more ignorant of those scriptures than our contemporary of Mott's Lane. He spoke the other day of the competence of the ancient Hindus to bring down rain whenever they desired. Has the *Mirror* ever read the accounts in the *Mahabharata* of those dreadful famines, occasioned by continued drought for years together, which made the Rishis forget their Vedas, converted some of them into thieves of dogs' flesh from the huts of Chandalas, and compelled others, including some of the highest, to think of saving life by utilising human corpses? The great Agastya himself, who had drunk up the Ocean for enabling Indra to take vengeance on his enemies—the Danavas—that used to shelter themselves within its depths after a general rout, and who had also saved Sachi's honour from the lust of Nahusha when the latter reigned in Amaravati, could not, by either his prayers or the puissance of his penances, induce Sachi's Lord to open the flood-gates of heaven on a parched world. The *Mirror*, however, by its grand *Yajna* (sacrifice), may, in this sinful age, achieve what the great Rishis could not in either the Krita, the Treta, or the Dwapara age.

We read that the District Judge of Mussooree has held that, for purposes of rates, the municipality "can assess on the net value of a house only, and that from the gross rental, one-fifth must be deducted for furniture, and one-sixth for annual repairs. The ruling represents a loss of ten thousand rupees per annum to the Mussooree Municipality." And how much to Government? The question may seem odd. How can the income of Government be affected by reduction in the municipal valuation of houses? The relevancy will appear when you remember that houses are not free from the Income-Tax, which is levied on a valuation the standard of which, in municipalities, is supplied by the Municipal assessment. At any rate, such is the case in Calcutta. Here Government is a gainer by adopting the municipal valuation. The principle of rating is not the same in the two Acts, Municipal and Income Tax. We have more than once pointed out that while the Income-Tax Act lays down the probable letting value, the Municipal Act fixes the value of a residential house on a different method which considerably enhances the valuation. In thus assessing on a new principle, the municipality not only makes a more than ordinary income but also helps to add to the burden of house-owners for the income-tax.

So Khan Bahadur Abdul Jabbar has not been taken a state prisoner to Constantinople. He has been appointed a Municipal Commissioner in place of the late Prince Sir Jehan Kadir Muzi. We welcome the appointment not only as that of an experienced man but also that it will bring him oftener to Calcutta which greatly needs his presence, if only to check the mischievous tendencies of those who would wish him out of it. They tried their best to send him away, offering him appointments in the distant mofussil, and would not hesitate to do anything to get him out of their way, that their career may be smooth and uninterrupted.

*Errata.*—In our last number, p. 231, col. 2, l. 7 for *emerged read immersed* (.) In the leader on Arsenic-Poisoning, p. 234, col. 1, l. 17 for *quicker read tardy* (.) In the article on the Calcutta Police, p. 235, col. 1, l. 4 from the bottom for *Rs. 7 read Rs. 3* (.)

## Letter to the Editor.

RAGHUNATH SIROMANI.

Dear Sir,—Here are a few more facts on the life of Raghunath Siromani, which, I hope, will be welcome to you. Raghunath was a class-mate of Chaitanya when they used to read in the *Chatuspathi* of Vāsudeva Sārvabhauma. The favourite study of Chaitanya was *Sreemad Bhagabata*—the book which coloured his future destiny so deeply. He also used to take some interest in the Nyaya philosophy, the *forte* of his native town. In the *Chatuspathi*, Raghunath and Chaitanya used to converse on the Nyaya, but Chaitanya always carried the palm in the discussion. When they were both in the *tal*, Raghunath and Chaitanya began to compose *Chintamani Didhiti* and a commentary on *Gautama Sutras* respectively. One day Raghunath came to know that Chaitanya was engaged in writing the above work. He asked his friend :—"My dear fellow, is it true that you are writing a work on Nyaya?" Chaitanya said :—"How do you know, my dear Raghunath? Yes, I am now engaged in writing the book, here it is." The next day, while crossing the Ganges in a ferry boat, Chaitanya happened to have his dear Raghunath for his fellow passenger, with his commentary in his bag. Raghunath's hope of advancement in the world was a similar commentary that had cost him the unceasing toil of years. Apprehensive that Chaitanya's work might eclipse and supersede his own, he earnestly besought his patronage. Chaitanya, who understood the meaning of Raghunath, took his commentary out of his bag and cast the only copy into the river. Thus the celebrated commentary on *Gautama Sutras* by Chaitanya was lost to the world. Soon after this, Raghunath published his *Chintamani Didhiti*. Chaitanya then turned his attention to theology, towards which his inspired mind had a natural bent.

At the last stage of his life, Raghunath became a follower of Chaitanya. It is written in the *Chaitanya Charitamrita* that Raghunath never tasted anything sweet and never wore anything but rags.

S. C. SANTAL, M.A.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday May 23, 1896.

### THIBET.

RUMOURS have been afloat for some time regarding a probable invasion of Llama-land by the Gurkhas, and the *Times* and several Anglo-Indian papers have been trying to set them by the ears against their Buddhist neighbours, egging them on by the somewhat risky assurance that now that China has been fairly crushed by Japan, there need be no fear of any help reaching Lhasa from the Celestial Empire. It remains to be seen if Sir Bir Shumshere will take the kind and disinterested hint and hazard an invasion of Thibet across a mountainous country presenting difficulties and disadvantages of no ordinary degree. He would perhaps do well to remember that some of his own kith and kin or their adherents—those his *coup de main* ousted from power in 1885, are reported to have cast their lot in the country around Manaswaravar. Runbir Jung is dead. He had, indeed, in 1888, offered his services to the British Government "for a practical and peaceful settlement of the difficulty with Thibet and Sikkim." But he was not the man to compromise his country for any gain to himself in pursuit of his hate towards his cousin who made him and his exiles in British territory. There is, however, no abatement in the cousinly hate, and those exiles who survive Runbir may not possess the spirit of suffering patriotism of the deceased General. A friend turned foe is very often hard to break lance with. The story of Bibhisana's treatment of Ravana—the ten-headed monster of ancient Ceylon—is instructive. It is doubtful if without his aid, his intimate acquaintance with the ins and outs of the king's affairs, Rama, with all his supernatural powers, could vanquish him. Probably, the Dalai Llama is already aware what guns and other slaughtering machinery he will have to cope with, and negotiations with China may be on foot to import more effective weapons. It is ridiculous to argue that because Japan, with her marvellous advancement during the last fifty years, has beaten China, the latter would feel diffident of her powers over her vassal. Why, the unarmed numbers of a District of the Celestial Empire would smash the Gurkha Kingdom, specially as it is not "broad-based on the people's will" and the king is a puppet. There are some amongst us who think that the Gurkhas do require a lesson, and that in the event of a war with Thibet, if England would only keep aloof, they are sure to get it. They have been called independent for too long a time to enable them to keep their heads cool. If latterly they have not been actually insolent towards the British Government, they have certainly evinced a strong desire to be treated almost as its equal, demanding for every little concession that they made in favour of the furtherance of modern ideas of progress and common happiness, a *quid pro quo* that would

feather their nest and not be universally or generally useful. The Gurkha is happy in his mountain fastness in the belief that Sisagarhi and Chandragiri, dynamite and maxim gun would not harm him, forgetting that when Gillespie and Ochterlony marched to Nepal these and various other modern appliances that break the bulwarks of Nature had not been invented. To every Hindu it is no doubt a flattering thought that mother Earth still bears on her bosom at least one Hindu Kingdom thoroughly independent. We trust the Gurkhas will strive their best to let their coreligionists continue in this belief. We will not be surprised, if, in pursuance of a policy of personal ambition, Bir Shumshere consented to an act which will bring his country no glory but will pass on a kingdom to the British who have succeeded, through his weakness, to reduce his own to a less inaccessible and a buffer State.

### JAMALUDDIN.

THE *Times of India* has the following about the learned man whose name is associated with the assassination of the Shah Nasiruddin of Persia. The report that the assassin, a follower of Jamaluddin, was a Babi has been contradicted. And properly, for the sact of the Babis, akin to Wahabis, is much older in Persia than the advent of Jamaluddin.

"Some additional information has reached us regarding Djemal-ed-Din, by one of whose followers the Shah was assassinated. Much of it is in confirmation of the account which we gave of the Sheikh a few days since; some of it goes to show that Mr. Haweis, in introducing him to English readers, was led into inaccuracies which Djemal-ed-Din had reasons of his own for circulating. As an instance of the latter may be cited his account of himself as an Afghan, who had taken part in the wars between Shere Ali and the father of Abdur Rahman Khan. We are assured that he is not an Afghan. He was born at Saidabad, near Hamedan, on the road from Teheran to Baghdad. It is easy to understand why, when he went to Constantinople at the age of twenty-five and sought the favour of men in power there, he passed himself off as an Afghan. As a Persian and a Shia he would have been under manifest disadvantage; he represented himself, therefore, to Munif Pasha, then Minister of Education, as an Afghan, and consequently a Sunni. He became as we stated the other day, a member of the Board of Education, but being led in religious controversy to say disrespectful things of the Sheikh-ul-Islam, he lost his position and had to take refuge in Egypt. This was the time when the Arabist movement was beginning to take shape. A good deal more is known in Cairo than in India of the intimacy of Djemal-ed-Din and Arabi. It is known, however, that Djemal-ed-Din's proceedings were looked on with distrust by the police, and that in 1880, about a year after Tewfik had come to the throne, the new Khedive issued an order for his expulsion. From Egypt he came to Bombay, thence finding his way to Hyderabad, where the first Sir Salar Jung's hospitality to the Persian scholar took the practical form of an allowance of two hundred rupees a month. Here his activities at first took a theological turn. He entered the lists on the side of orthodoxy, and in a pamphlet entitled *Radi-i-Naturi* he attacked the school of Mussulman reformers which was at that day represented in Hyderabad even more largely than it is now. But unfortunately for him he did not stop there. If his religion was orthodox his politics were revolutionary, and when he was found instilling dangerous doctrine into the minds of the young men of the city, Hyderabad, with its usual generosity towards the undeserving, slipped five thousand rupees into his pocket and sent him about his business. He then put in a short time at Bhopal, levied a contribution of a couple of thousand rupees upon the Begum's purse, and pursued his way to Calcutta, where he delivered lectures in the Madressa. But his fame had preceded him, and he was closely watched by the police. Being a man of resource he responded to the shadowing of the Calcutta police by coolly asking for employment in the force, but there was no room for him there, and at the end of 1883 he left India, calling on his way to Europe upon Arabi, the beaten and broken conspirator, who was now a captive at Colombo. He went to Russia and thence passed to Persia, playing the part of reformer there, and paying the penalty thereof under circumstances which we have already narrated. Expelled from Persia he passed through Russia on his way to England, where Mr. Wilfred Blunt, *connoisseur* in all things oriental, particularly in patriots and Arab horses, made much of him, and under his friendly patronage

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Djemal-ed-Din delivered lectures in Arabic, and in French, acquired long years before at Constantinople. We next hear of him at Paris, where he edited a strongly anti-British paper, the *Abu Nadar Kubira*, or 'Egypt for the Egyptians,' and another, the *Urwatul-Wusqa*, or "Strong Rope," the object of which was to bind the Egyptians together in the national union against English, Turks, Syrians, and foreigners generally. Djemal-ed-Din's career as a journalist was neither long nor prosperous, and when his two newspapers one after another had come to their natural end he went for the third time to Russia, where things must have gone well with him for a time, for though he had no visible means of subsistence he continued to live at a hotel of the first class, a fact which was not altogether unconnected with his intimacy with Russian officials. His article in the *Contemporary Review* calling for reforms in Persia was not his only contribution to political literature, for last year a book was brought out in London under his name telling the story of the deposition of Murad, the present Sultan's brother, repudiating the official fiction of his madness, and urging that he should be brought from confinement and put upon a throne which he is said by people who pretend to know him to be as fit to fill as Abdul Hamid is. So that Djemal-ed-Din is a man of large ideas as well as many wanderings, with the displacement of obnoxious sovereigns as a speciality."

Moulvi Jamaluddin Afghani or Djemal-ed-Din is known throughout the civilized Mahomedan world, both as a political fire-brand and a man of letters. He is a linguist also, knowing 5 or 6 languages, with great command over Arabic and Persian. His accomplishments in Persian belie his Afghan origin, for there is hardly an Afghan with his mastery in that language.

According to his own version, his father, an Afghan, went over and settled in Egypt, where the son was born and brought up. By his natural gifts he attained the highest rank among the scholars there and was considered a highly cultured man of vast researches and original ideas. He has a large number of pupils in Egypt and other places who follow not only his teachings in religious matters but also his political creed which is revolutionary. Impatient, restless and reckless, despotic Governments are his hate, and English interference in Egypt or in the affairs of any Mahomedan States, such as Turkey and Persia, his eye-sore. There are still a large number of his followers in Egypt among the young generation who read and admire his writings and those of his best pupils, such as Abdu and others, which find their way into Egypt through different channels. An Arabic paper was edited by one of his pupils in Paris for the benefit of the Fallaheen. The Arabic paper *Orwatul Uska* was edited by Abdu.

While at Hyderabad he wrote a pamphlet in refutation of the tenets of the *Necharis* of whom Sir Syed Ahmed Khan is alleged to be the head. He thus enlisted in his favour the sympathies of the orthodox and religious Mahomedans at Hyderabad, but they soon suspected him and looked upon him as an unsafe political character. His pamphlet against the *Necharis* is very ably written and has been translated into Urdu from Persian. It was published in Calcutta.

For a time he lived at Calcutta, in Colootolah. The leading Mahomedans who were aware of his antecedents and the fact that his footsteps were dogged by the Police, never allowed him to approach them, and kept themselves aloof from him. But some men of the rising generation associated with him for purposes of knowledge and studied with him. These students certainly did not know the dangerous antecedents of their Moulvi. It appears he lived very cautiously in Calcutta, seldom indulging in politics or giving vent to his revolutionary ideas about government. He was not known to deliver any lecture at the Medressah.

He was, indeed, called upon by his young friends to speak at the Medressah on the progress of Mahomedans, their condition, or some such subject. They had even moved the authorities for permission for use of the hall for the purpose, but it was not granted. The paper that was ready was read all the same, we believe, in the Bengali quarter in College Square. It was a learned and very interesting discourse. Among the audience were very few Bengali Mahomedan students who could understand his high flown and scholarly Persian. That lecture was published and had a large circulation in India. There was nothing objectionable in his writings in India, and from a literary point of view they were first class productions. Jemal-uddin, while in India, never betrayed any bloody sentiments about rulers nor preached that reform was to be won at any hazard. It is hard to believe that a great scholar of his catholicity would harbour such fiendish feelings or that he could have directly abetted the assassination of the Shah. Had he not been too much revolutionary in politics and had he not been impatient, he would have, with his extraordinary abilities, been a great man among the Mahomedans, a great reformer, and a great leader of his own sect. For one defect, his whole life has been a series of adventures and misfortunes. Now he is drifted from one corner of the world to the other, sometime arrested, sometime under watch, and sometime deported from one country to find a home in another.

Having made himself objectionable to the heads of settled Governments and obtained a notoriety as a political intriguer, he could not fulfil the principal mission of his life, which was reform in every form, in society, in government and in religion. If he had devoted himself to literature, to science, or other peaceful occupations, he would have much benefited his co-religionists and mankind generally and made a true great name for himself. It is difficult now for him to change his line of action which can only lead to error and disaster.

Unless there is positive proof of his participation in the assassination, it will not be just to say that he had a hand in it. Some of his followers or pupils might have done it, from motives not yet known.

## IRRIGATION AND WATER FAMINE:

*With a Suggestion.*

BY A RETIRED ENGINEER.

It is to be feared that the public in England are not sufficiently alive to the importance of the subject in its bearing to the future welfare and prosperity of India. With a view, therefore, of producing a more general interest, I will give some facts and considerations.

Agriculture from a very early period has convinced man of the value of water in increasing the fruitfulness of soil. He could not but observe the fertilizing power of rain and the rich vegetation due to periodical inundation; nor, on the other hand, could he possibly have remained ignorant of the sterility consequent on long continued drought. Thus was learnt the art of irrigating land. In some countries, the soil was thus rendered so exceedingly fruitful as to exceed credibility. Herodotus when speaking of Babylonia which was chiefly watered by artificial irrigation, says that it was the most fruitful of all the countries he had visited and that corn produced was never less than two hundredfold, sometimes three hundredfold. Five hundred years afterwards, the younger Pliny, speaking of the same country, says: "There is not a territory in all the East comparable to it in fertility." He attributes the fruitfulness to the ground being well watered.

The sacred books of almost all the ancient nations placed irrigation, the digging of wells and tanks amongst the acts most accept-

able to the gods. The Zendavesta of the Persians, the Shasters of the Hindus, the Koran of the Mahomedans distinctly inculcate the duty of conveying water to dry and barren tracts. Water is considered by almost all religions as an emblem of purification and sanctity.

The development of the irrigation system of India is one of the most important duties of the Government of India, the performance of which is its own reward; and while it promotes the prosperity of the agricultural classes, it secures and increases the financial resources of the State.

Perhaps nothing can better illustrate how highly water is prized by the agriculturist, than the endless disputes and arbitrations which are continually arising in connection with private irrigation. Yet there are men who are of a different frame of mind. Serious objections have been brought against the introduction of canal irrigation in India. They are:

(1) That in some parts of India irrigation is not a successful commercial speculation.

(2) That the lands irrigated by canal water become after few years sterile, being affected by reh, a kind of saline efflorescence.

(3) That irrigation makes the country generally unhealthy. These charges, however alarming, have been found by careful analysis to be exaggerated. Let me take them up one by one.

Charge No. 1. On this point it will be sufficient to quote the opinion of that courageous public officer, the late lamented General Chesney, the author of *Indian Polity*, a perusal of whose work I cordially recommend to my readers, both for its style and its sterling value. He says: "Irrigation works although highly profitable to the Government do not afford a reasonable prospect to the share-holders (if undertaken as a private speculation). Consequently irrigation works are not remunerative investments for private capital. Certainly the Government has never put on the water the highest price it can bear. On the first introduction of irrigation into Upper India, the principle was enunciated that the Government did not look to a direct profit for the outlay, but the indirect one arising out of the general improvement of the country, and the security afforded for the punctual realization of the land revenue, and in that view the water rate was fixed at the lowest figure sufficient to prevent a waste in consumption. Within the last few years the price has been raised but even now the average charge on the Ganges canal amounts to only 4 shillings an acre for a season's irrigation and forms but a small item in the cost of cultivation. The indirect profit arising from the increased revenue is not available in the parts of India subject to permanent settlement. The probability of commercial success in connection with the undertaking of irrigation works in India appears but small, but when the matter is viewed in connection with the State, it bears a very different aspect. Besides that the Government should be able to reap a direct return from the works even greater than any private company could do. Since it commands from its position the means of conducting such affairs more economically and under complete supervision. There are enormous indirect benefits to be derived in the improved condition of the country which necessarily follows from improved agriculture, but these are the smallest of the objects to be derived. That poor crops should be replaced by rich ones, rather than a succession of good crops should be secured independently of variation of the season, is no doubt a highly important result; but the surprising value of irrigation in India is to be found in the increase it effects against hours of famine. Thrice within the last 20 years have rains failed in the plains of Bengal causing the calamity of successive deficient harvest which has produced an enormous rise in prices of staple food, and this would in a less frugal race, have caused extreme distress. The famine of 1869 although experienced in greatest intensity in Orissa, extended with more or less severity from the Ganges to the extreme south of the Peninsula, and the suffering created must have been undergone by from 50 to 60 millions of persons."

In 1874 large portions of Bengal and Behar were again afflicted with extreme drought producing in extensive regions the fearful miseries of famine, and involving a large public outlay for keeping the starving population alive. It is to prevent or at any rate to alleviate the effects of these awful calamities that irrigation is needed in India.

Answer to charge No. 2. Reh is simply a generic name for all saline efflorescences consisting sometimes of an impure sulphate or carbonate of soda (khar), sometimes a bona fide chloride of sodium (common salt), sometimes carbonate or nitrate of potash (sajee) but generally a mixture of these, forming sometimes an excellent manure. The report of Captain Fulton, officiating Superintending Engineer, Panjab Irrigation, in 1865, has the following:

"1st. Canal water cannot be the cause of reh as it has invariably been found purer than the generality of well water.

2nd. Because reh is found quite as bad if not worse in places not in any way influenced by a canal.

3rd. Because it is found to exist in fields irrigated by well water, as well as in lands irrigated from the canal.

It appears to me that the development of reh in sufficient

quantities to be destructive to crops is caused in two ways:

1st. By certain substances being brought in excessive quantities to the surface of the soil.

2nd. By withdrawal from soil of certain other substances which would, to a certain extent, neutralize the bad qualities of the reh.

"Sometimes only one of these actions takes place but generally both the causes work at one and the same time; or to be more explicit, that which brings the one to the surface withdraws the other from the soil. In the first place I believe the reh, which from the reports of Mr. Medlicott and Dr. Brown, appears to consist principally of sulphates, is brought to the surface by capillary attraction when the soil is saturated with water, it matters not whether the water comes from rain, wells or canals; as the water dries up, the reh is left on the surface of the soil. This can only take place where water lodges; if the water can run freely off, salt is washed away with it; otherwise it accumulates on the surface, as in a large evaporating salt pan. To prove that this is the case, I will mention a circumstance lately related to me by a native gentleman. Some years ago, there was a great deal of swamp land in the villages of Dillana, Begumpore, Baoli, Haljaten, &c., the reh in these villages was also excessive. The Baoli drainage cut was made to carry off the water lying in the swamps; and it was found that not only were the swamps relieved, but the land which was covered a foot deep with reh and on which not a blade of grass would grow, became freed from the reh by rain washing it away and produced sugarcane and other crops."

The chemical analysis of reh by Professor Anderson of London is appended:

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Organic matter       | 6.60   |
| Silica               | 54.46  |
| Alumina              | 4.47   |
| Lime                 | 2.93   |
| Magnesia             | 1.49   |
| Oxide of iron        | 3.30   |
| Potash               | 1.84   |
| Soda and common salt | 11.85  |
| Sulphate of Soda     | 0.00   |
| Sulphuric acid       | 6.06   |
| Phosphoric acid      | trace  |
| Water or loss        | 7.00   |
|                      | 100.00 |

I now proceed to the last charge, though not the least alarming. The surface of water of most of the Indian canals is above the soil (instead of being within the soil as it is called) where it has to be retained by embankments. Frequently it is not the surface only but the whole body of water that is above. The embankments must of course be very massive and may be required to be puddled to render them water-tight. In the great Solani embankment (on the Ganges canal near Roorkee in Shaharanpur District), water is retained within a solid masonry revetment backed up on each side by an earthen bank averaging 16 feet high and 40 feet thick. Although the water thus raised above the soil increases the facility of irrigation by its command of level, it is evident that the construction of such an embankment not only involves great expense but from sanitary consideration it is highly objectionable, as the continual soaking of a large quantity of water through porous sub-soil together with incessant weeping of the bank renders the soil highly saturated, thus forming a permanent swamp without any or sufficient drainage, which in all probability is the fruitful source of pestilential malarial fever with its concomitant evils. Nor is that all. If any breach occurs, the damage to the country is likely to be great. The danger is minimized when the canal water is partly within and partly above the soil and the earth excavated for the channel is just sufficient to build up the banks. The fear that canal irrigation makes the country generally unhealthy is exaggerated. The country adjacent to the Ganges and other canals flowing through the N.-W. P., Bengal, Behar and Orissa have not as yet shown any premonitory symptoms of unhealthiness. It would occupy too much space to dwell on the several inherent defects and suggest improvements in detail in the practice now generally followed in designing canals for this country.

The cry of want of water for both men and cattle, not unfrequently driven to drink foul water no better than sewage, is a sufficient ground for opening out irrigation channels. Colonel Strachey, in his able minute dated the 10th of February 1865, on the measures to be adopted for the extension of irrigation works in India says: "It will not admit of dispute that the Government must either heartily enter the field on its own account or give every facility to private capitalists to carry out this class of work." Again: "If there is any one thing which the British Government may be fairly regarded as bound to do for the people of India by all the laws of good government, of civilization and humanity, it is to take all practicable measures to secure them from the greatest physical calamity to which mankind is liable, the curse of famine and starvation."

The starting of a new irrigation work, where direct pecuniary advantage is the only aim, without any considerations of civilization and humanity, is like the launching of a commercial enterprise; you must consider the saleable value of the commodity to be bought or supplied, its cheap rate, and start with a sufficient working capital which is to be laid out with the utmost economy consistent with utility and to be expended as the transaction becomes more and more profitable, guarding against waste and extravagance. With the development of the Railway system in India, canals for the purpose of navigation are becoming obsolete. Hence it would be an economy if future canals be designed with the sole object of irrigation instead of the dual purpose of irrigation and navigation which frequently requires a large outlay without an adequate revenue return. The costs of irrigation canals cannot be heavy on account of the reduced height of the weir across the river whence the canal is to start and the absence of locks with their manifold costly apparatus, parallel channels, &c. The existing water channels may be utilized as far as possible in canalizing them for irrigation.

I will illustrate what I mean by a rough scheme of a simple irrigation canal. A canal commencing from the right bank of the River Adjai, near Goubazar, in Parganah Sherghur, in the District of Burdwan, and passing through the villages of Goubazar, Raja Nuratumghurh, Hijalgorah Ookra, Bistupur, Pattur-dhi, Tilakchandpur, Kanksa or Panaghur, Raghunathpur and Dhanarrah, and tailing on the River Damoodar near the village of Sillahkaspur in Parganah Champanagar in the same district, will irrigate a tract of land 50 miles in length unwatered by any permanently flowing river. Of the 50 miles, 10 miles will be taken up by canalizing the Kookore Naddi, a small rivulet issuing from Raghunathpur Dhanarrah in Parganah Selampur. The average section of the channel need not be more than 40 feet, bottom width and depth 8 feet, side slopes  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 1. I give also a rough estimate of cost and probable return:

|                                                                            |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 40 miles of canal @ 600 Rs. per mile,                                      | Rs. 2,40,000 |
| 10 „ canalizing the Kookore nadi @ 2,000 per mile,,                        | 20,000       |
| 1 low weir across the Adjai River with }<br>regulator and other headworks, | 50,000       |
| Bridges, &c.,                                                              | 5,000        |
| Land to be acquired, say 1500 }<br>biggas, @ 30 per bigga,                 | 45,000       |
| Establishment and contingencies,                                           | 20,000       |
|                                                                            | Rs. 3,80,000 |

Assuming that about  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a mile in breadth on each side of the canal as the area to be benefited by the canal water, which is a modest supposition, we have  $50 \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 640$  or 48,000 acres, and assessing Re  $\frac{1}{8}$  per acre on each crop, we get Rs. 72,000. With double rate for Dofasli land and superior kinds of crops, such as sugarcane, indigo, garden produce, &c., together with the amount likely to be derived by the sale of water for filling up tanks, &c., I put the total gross revenue at Re 1,00,000, or

100,000 × 100

3,80,000 — or nearly 26 per cent. on the initial cost.

This high percentage of profit excludes the cost of the distribution channels which I have not taken into account, as I believe it will not materially affect the revenue return seriously. Allowing a deduction on that account, it is safe to take 15 per cent. (including collection charges) per annum as the net profit, not an unsatisfactory result even as a commercial speculation.

In India the promotion of irrigation works should be a matter of public policy as well as humanity; the wide-spread distress occasioned by want of water may lead to serious consequences of kinds. It is to be remembered also that about half the revenue of India is derived from land. Government in this country may be regarded as a great landed proprietor, receiving something more than twenty millions of pounds sterling a year in land revenue, and there is every reason why public property should be improved by means of irrigation just as private property of an English landlord is improved by drainage and other works. A sufficient supply of water to the parched fields would more than double the value of that land. It would therefore be wise for the Government to carry out works of the description with vigour, the needful capital could be borrowed easily @ 4 per cent. interest on the credit of the District Boards or other public bodies.

It is to be noticed that a canal with a continuous stream of water must either be an open or a closed one, it is not like a railway that it may be opened for a part only of its length and usefully worked on such part.

The great supply of wholesome water we receive in the rainy months which not unfrequently deluge the country, we permit to run to waste and pay the penalty in summer. No community can live by theocracy; natural laws are only guides in human affairs and the bounty of the clouds should be seized and treasured as a set off against seasons when the "heavens are as brass." It is passing strange that the English in India should

be so far behind Italy, Egypt, Spain and other lands as regards irrigation.

Happily, the value of water as a sanitary agent is being recognized as evidenced by the increasing number of towns and villages that are year after year asking for sanction under the local self-government law to provide an adequate supply of wholesome water. The desire for good potable water is welcome. It would be more so if there were the further desire to economize that essential element of life and comfort.

## THE BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

*Member of the Privy Council.*

Professor Max Müller.

*Knights Bachelors.*

Mr. Justice Parker, of Madras, Chief Justice Cox, of the Straits, and Mr. Peter Renouf, Egyptologist.

*Grand Cross of the Bath.*

Generals Sir Hugh Gough, Sir Gerald Graham and Sir George Greaves.

*Knights Commanders of the Bath.*

Generals John William Cox, George Schomberg, David Dodgson, Arthur Howlett, Sir Robert Biddulph, Charles Mansfield Clarke, and Robert Grant; Admirals Alexander Buller, Henry Fairfax, Richard Wells, and Lord Walter Kerr.

*Companions of the Bath.*

Surgeon General Madden, Generals W. Walters, Biscoe, Revell, Eardly-Wilmot, Robert Melville Jennings and Hugh Hope, and Colonels Way, John Collins, Prettyman, Haly, Lane, Sartorius, Hart, Kidston, Nort (query North), George Hogg, Begbie, Henry Turner, Earl of Dundonald, Jeffreys, Patch, Maitland, Murray, Creagh, Dunne, Rainsford, Edward, Ward and Woodgate.

*Raised to the Peerage.*

The Right Hon. Edward Heneage; the Marquis of Granby; Colonel J. Malcolm.

*Baronet.*

Mr. McIver, M.P.

*Companions of St. Michael and St. George.*

Colonel Rundle; Rogers Pasha.

*STAR OF INDIA.*

*Knights Commanders.*

William Erskine Ward, Esq., C. S. I., Indian Civil Service, Chief Commissioner of Assam.

The Hon'ble Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Swaine Lethbridge, M. D., C. S. I., Indian Medical Service (Bengal), Resident of the 2nd Class and General-Superintendent of Operations for the Suppression of Thagi and Dacoity, and an Additional Member of the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations.

*Companions.*

James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., Indian Civil Service, Secretary to the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce Department.

*INDIAN EMPIRE.*

*Companions.*

Henry O'Connell Cardozo, Esq., Superintendent of Revenue Survey, Madras.

Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Benjamin Franklin, Indian Medical Service (Bengal), Surgeon to His Excellency the Viceroy.

Thomas Higham, Esq., M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer of the 2nd Class, and Secretary to the Government of the Punjab in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

Major John Shakespear, D. S. O., Leinster Regiment, Assistant Commissioner of the 1st Grade in Assam, and late Superintendent of the South Lushai Hills.

Sardar Ratan Singh, President of the Council of Regency of the Jhind State.

Raja Bhup Indra Bikram Singh, of Piazipur in the Bahraich District of Oudh.

Major (Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel) James John Macleod, V.D., Behar Light Horse, and an Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Captain Norman Franks, Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja Holkar of Indore.

Arthur Henry Plunkett, Esq., Deputy Collector and Magistrate, 1st Grade, Bombay, and City Magistrate and Collector of Income Tax, Poona.

Rao Bahadur Chunilal Venilal, Special Magistrate in the Broach District and Vice-President of the Broach Municipality.

*MILITARY DEPARTMENT.*

*Personal Staff.*

*Aide-de-Camp.*

Risaldar Wali Mahummad, *Sardar Bahadur*, Governor-General's Body-Guard, *vice* Subadar-Major Tara Singh, *Sardar Bahadur* who completes his tenure of the appointment on the 1st June 1896.

*Honorary Aide-de-Camp.*

Subadar-Major Tara Singh, *Sardar Bahadur*, 45th (Rattray's Sikh) Regiment of Bengal Infantry, with effect from the 1st June 1896.

## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

*Maharaja Bahadur.*

Maharaja Raghoonath Saran Singh Deo, Chief of Sirgujah, Chota Nagpur, in the Bengal Presidency.

*Raja.*

Rai Shib Chandra Banerjee, Bahadur, Chairman, Bhagalpur Municipality.

*Dewan Bahadur.*

Rao Bahadoor Vembakum Raghav Charlu, First Assistant, Local and Municipal Department of the Madras Secretariat.

Rai Bahadoor Pulicat Ramaswami Chettiar, Revenue Officer, City of Madras Municipal Commission.

*Shams ul-Ulama.*

Pir Ali Gauhar Shah Hussain, Pir of Rohri in Sind.

*Mahamahopadhyaya.*

Pundit Kailash Chandra Siromani, First Professor, Government Sanskrit College, Benares.

Pundit Shiva Kumar Shastri, of the North-Western Provinces.

*Khan Bahadurs.*

Wardero Shah Passand Khan walad Ursulla Khan Baber, of Kot Sultan, in Sind.

Serai Ghulam Rasul Khan Jatoi, Honorary Magistrate in the District of Hyderabad in Sind.

Kaikasru Barjoji Cooper, Assistant Surgeon in the Bombay Presidency.

Rab Nawaz Khan, Musazai, of the Dera Ismail Khan District in the Punjab.

Munshi Fazl Din, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests in the Punjab.

Sheikh Kabiruddin, Senior Hospital Assistant, Indian Subordinate Medical Department, Bengal.

Moulvi Badruddin Haidar, Registrar, Presidency Magistrate's Court, and Municipal Commissioner, Calcutta.

Moulvi Muhammad Hussain, Dewan to the Raja of Khairagarh in the Central Provinces.

Mir Khair Bakhsh Khan, Marri, of Beluchistan.

Arbab Hussain Khan, Chief of the Mohmands.

Muhabbat Khan, of Toru, in the Peshawar District in the Punjab.

Khwaja Muhammad Khan, of Hoti, in the Peshawar District in the Punjab.

*Rao Bahadurs.*

Rao Kuran, Singh of Bedla, in Mewar, Rajputana.

Chatar Sal, Thakur, of Mangalgarh, in the Bairsasia District of the Bhopal State, in Central India.

Peruma Pillai Sundarum Pillai, Professor in the Maharaja's College, in Trivandrum.

Conjevaram Somasundra Sastri, Deputy Collector in the Madras Presidency.

Kotikalapud Subharayudu, Deputy Collector in the Madras Presidency.

Gopal Balwant Nene, late Curator of the Government Book Depot in the Bombay Presidency.

Balkrishna Ramchandra Tipnis, late Junior Assistant to the Administrator of the Native State of Rajpipla in the Bombay Presidency.

Gunpatrao Amric Mankar, late a Subordinate Judge in the Bombay Presidency.

Rao Sahib Bihari Lal, Khazanchi, of Jubbulpore in the Central Provinces.

Lalaria Bhaui, Zamindar of Kampta, in the Bhandara District in the Central Provinces.

*Rai Bahadurs.*

Thakur Dip Singh, Commandant of the Bikanir Imperial Service Camel Corps.

Baboo Sasi Bhusan Mukarji, Professor in the Government College in Lahore.

Rai Sahib Hari Chand, Vice-President of the Municipal Committee of Multan in the Punjab.

Pundit Bishashur Nath, Assistant Traffic Superintendent, State Railways.

Babu Saroda Prosad Roy, First Assistant Comptroller, Post Office of India.

Thakur Gobind Pershad Singh, of Banka, in the Palamau District in the Bengal Presidency.

Babu Hari Ballabh Bose, Government Pleader, Cuttack, in the Bengal Presidency.

Baboo Anand Chunder Sen, Retired Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bengal.

Baboo Kamalashari Persad Singh, Banker and Zamindar of Monghyr in the Bengal Presidency.

Babu Sreenath Pal, Senior Superintendent, Calcutta Police.

Deo Datt Pandey, Senior Hospital Assistant, attached to the Escort of the Resident in Nepal.

Mahtab Singh, Subadar-Major, Upper Burma Military Police.

*Khan Sabebs.*

Sandhi Khan, Inspector of Police in the Punjab.

Ghulam Haider Khan, Achakzai, of Gulistan, and Jemadar of Levies in Beluchistan.

Babu Meera Baksh, late Head Clerk in the office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Mushkaf-Bolan State Railway.

Pir Bakhsh, Hospital Assistant, 2nd Grade, Indian Subordinate Medical Establishment, Bengal.

*Rao Sabebs.*

Maharaj Thammon Singh Hazari, Assistant Surgeon in the Madras Presidency.

Salvador Felix Brito, Municipal Councillor and District Board Member, South Canara District in the Madras Presidency.

Raghvendra Krishna, Vice-President of the Municipality of Bijapur in the Bombay Presidency.

*Rai Sabib.*

Lala Bhagwan Das, Assistant Surgeon in the Punjab.

Babu Dina Nath Sen, Inspector of Schools, Eastern Circle, Bengal.

Babu Gunpat Singh, Zamindar of Harwat, in the Bhagalpur District in the Bengal Presidency.

Nirpat Singh Dangi, of Rehli, in the Saugor District in the Central Provinces.

Seth Mohan Lal, of Renda, in the Saugor District in the Central Provinces.

Sher Singh, 1st Class Agent of the Commissariat Transport Department.

*Kyet thaye gaung shwe Salwe ya Min.*

Maung Kyé, Myöök.

*Thuye gaung ngwe Da ya Min.*

Maung Lu Naing.

*Abmudan gaung Taseik ya Min.*

Maung Po Lu, Myöök.

A CLEAN CUT INDIVIDUAL OPINION,  
BOLDLY EXPRESSED.

It is for this reason that an assertion like the following sticks up above the dead level of our stupid talk, and becomes noticeable; "When I saw how pale I had grown I said to myself, it was because something had gone out of my blood."

There! That is a statement with the seeds of an idea in it. Suppose we follow it up by quoting the rest of the letter which contains it.

In December, 1890, says the writer, "I fell into a poor state of health. I was tired, languid, and weary without any apparent cause. My appetite left me, and all food, even the lightest and simplest kinds, caused me great pain in the chest and stomach. When I saw how pale I had grown I said to myself it was because something had gone out of my blood."

"Then my sleep was broken, and night after night I scarcely closed my eyes. It wasn't long before I became so weak and dejected that I took no interest in things around me. I was so nervous that common sounds annoyed and worried me; even the noises made by my own children in their talk and at their play."

"There was a disgusting taste in my mouth; it made me sick, and often gave me a shivering sensation all over. When I saw others eating and enjoying their meals I felt as though it were a strange thing; in a way I would red how they could do it. For myself I could eat hardly anything. Food went against me, and I turned away from it, as one turns from smells or sights that are offensive. And yet I know, what everyone knows, that without sufficient food the body languishes and weakens. And such was the case with me as month after month went by."

"During all this time, so full of pain and discouragement, I was attended by a doctor who did what he could to relieve me, but without success. I do not say he did not understand my complaint; for may he not have understood it without having the means of curing it?"

The answer to the lady's question is: Yes, easily enough. All intelligent, studious doctors "understand" consumption, cholera, cancer, &c., without (as yet) having the means of curing them. There is usually a wide gap between the discovery of a want and the way to supply it.

"I will now," continues the letter, "tell you how I came to be cured. In April, 1891, I read in a small book or pamphlet about Mother Seigel's Syrup. The book said the Syrup was a certain remedy for all diseases of the stomach, indigestion in every form, and dyspepsia; and it also said that most of the complaints we suffer from are caused by that. On looking over the symptoms described in the book, and comparing them with my own, I saw plainly that my ailment was dyspepsia."

"We sent immediately for a bottle of this medicine, and after taking it a few days I began to feel better. In a very short time, by keeping on with the Syrup according to the directions, I could eat without pain or distress, and digest my food. I also slept soundly and naturally. Then my strength came back and with it the colour to my face. In short, after a few weeks' use of Mother Seigel's Syrup, I was hearty and strong as ever. And I should be indeed ungrateful if I were not willing that others should have the benefit of my experience. You are therefore free to print my letter if you think it will be useful. (Signed) (Mrs.) M. Truran, Marton, Lincoln, April 24, 1895."

I simply desire to say to Mrs. Truran that her idea about the blood is a perfectly correct one. All our food (the digestible part of it) is turned into blood, and in that shape it feeds the entire body. When the blood gets thin and poor (lacking in nourishment), we lose flesh and grow feeble and pale. And the cause of the blood getting thin and poor is indigestion, or dyspepsia. How easy this is to understand when once you get hold of the right end of it. Mother Seigel's Syrup has the peculiar power to correct what is wrong about the digestion, and thus enables the digestive machinery to make good rich blood, which is life and health and beauty.



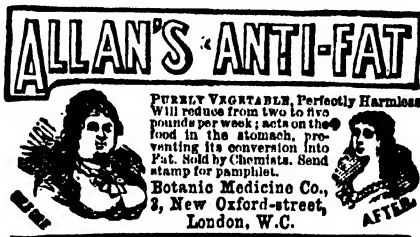
## NOTICE.

List of Unclaimed Packages lying in the  
Custom House Wharf.

| Vessels.         | Marks & Nos.                                | Description of Packages. |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| S. S.            |                                             |                          |
| A. Apcar         | M. Khan                                     | 29 pkgs Tea in a bundle  |
| Ckelydia         | W. Bux                                      | 1 bundle Toys            |
| "                | S. Mosideen                                 | 1 " Toys and Dolls       |
| "                | L. Chand                                    | 1 bdle Toys and Dolls    |
| "                | A Serang                                    | 1 bdle Toys and Dolls    |
| "                | Manager, "Indian Engineer"                  | 1 case samples           |
| A. Apcar         | Nil                                         | 1 box Gin bots           |
| Palamcottla      | H.C. Ganguli                                | 1 parcel                 |
| Sumatra          | D. J. Cotton                                | 1 bottle Spirits         |
| Chusan           | Nil                                         | 1 package (unknown)      |
| "                | "                                           | 4 Bowls                  |
| "                | "                                           | 1 Chair                  |
| Golconda         | Mrs. Cockey                                 | 1 "                      |
| "                | Nil                                         | 1 "                      |
| "                | "                                           | 1 package (unknown)      |
| Faizrabhan       | "                                           | 2 pkgs Salt Fish         |
| "                | "                                           | 1 " Dry Fish             |
| Clitus           | H & Co.                                     | 1 " Chillies             |
| "                | "                                           | 1 empty quarter Cask     |
| Mount Serion     | B P & Co. C. or Messrs. Bathgate, Pim & Co. | 1 Case                   |
| Umzinto          | Nil                                         | 6 Bags Rice              |
| Pandus           | J. Ross                                     | 1 Case                   |
| Eridan           | S S N                                       | 1 Empty Cask             |
| Lindula          | E D M                                       | 2 Casks Rum              |
| City of Calcutta | Nil                                         | 1 Hat box                |
| Umzinto          | M. Fazle                                    | 1 Pkg Tobacco            |
| Pekin            | J. Leith                                    | 1 Chair                  |
| "                | Murray                                      | 1 Chair                  |
| "                | Nil                                         | 8 Chairs                 |
| Lightning        | Nil                                         | 1 Pkg Seives             |
| Dunera           | H. Gough                                    | 1 Chair                  |
| Malta            | Bell                                        | 1 Pkg (unknown)          |
| "                | Nil                                         | 1 Chair                  |
| Chelydra         | Nil                                         | 1 Bdle Rattans           |
| Kus Sang         | W Leslie & Co                               | 1 Case Samples           |
| Chelydra         | B S                                         | 3 Bags Betelnuts         |
| Kutsang          | G G                                         | 1 Bag Betelnuts          |
| Nawab            | M in diamond                                | 1 Bag Cocanutt shells    |
| Bohimia          | A. K urrim                                  | 1 Triple mirror          |
| Simla            | S. R                                        | 1 Chair                  |
| "                | Nil                                         | 1 Pair Shoes             |
| "                | "                                           | 10 Chairs                |
| "                | "                                           | 1 Cushion                |
| Clan Mackintosh  | M Hender-son                                | 1 Chair                  |
| Borneo           | D. Mahomed                                  | 1 Rifle                  |
| John Dawes       | Nil                                         | 1 Revolver in a case     |
| Barrister        | 500 in Diamond W L 982                      | 1 Case Guns              |
| Gaskwar          | 10 in Diamond 5838                          | " "                      |
| Arabia           | 502 in Diamond M 7                          | " "                      |
| "                | 502 in Diamond M 2                          | " "                      |
| City of Vienna   | 717 in triangle M & Co 54                   | " "                      |
| Simla            | M in triangle B N M 16                      | " Revolvers              |
| Rudeshmir        | 24 in double triangle N C D Co 1            | 1 Case Revolvers         |
| Persia           | G 51 A in square 1                          | 1 Case Revolvers         |
| "                | G 39 in sq. 1                               | 1 Case Guns              |

The above will be sold if not cleared on or before the 22nd June, 1896.

E. N. BAKER,  
Offg. Collector of Customs.  
Calcutta Custom House,  
The 18th May, 1896.



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OF

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### OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of  
a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith,  
Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October  
1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter

on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 227.

## MAIDES AND WIDOWES, AN OLD BALLAD.

IF ever I marry, I'll marry a maide ;  
To marry a widowe I am sore a frayde ;  
For maydes they are simple, and never will grutch,  
But widowes full oft, as they saie, know to [ ] much.

A maide is so sweete and so gentle of kinde,  
That a maide is the wyfe I will choose to my minde ;  
A widowe is froward, and never will yeeld ;  
Or if such there be, you will meet them but seeld.

A maide nere complaineth, do whatso you will ;  
But what you meane well a widowe takes ill ;  
A widowe will make you a dudge and a slave,  
And cost nere so much, she will ever go brave.

A maide is so modest, she seemeth a rose,  
When it first beginneth the bud to unclose ;  
But a widowe full blownen full often deceives,  
And the next winde that bloweth shakes downe all her leaves.

That widowes be lovelie, I never gainsaye,  
But to [ ] well all their bewtie they know to display ;  
But a maide hath so great hidden bewty in store,  
She can spare to a widowe, yet never be pore.

Then, if I marry, give me a freshe maide,  
If to marry with anie I need be not a frayde ;  
But to marry with anie it asketh much care,  
And some batchelors hold they are best as they are.

## WEEKLYANA.

It is stated that possibly Röntgen's X rays may put an end to vivisection, as it will enable the physician to a great extent to see into the bodies of animals and of human beings. Did not, fifty years back, at a meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, a Greek physiologist, M. Eselija, announce that, by the aid of electric light, he had been enabled to see through the human body and to detect the existence of deep-seated visceral diseases? He had further followed the operations of digestion and of circulation and had seen the nerves in motion. What became of the discovery named by the Greek "Anthroposcope"?

"THE longest artificial water course in the world," the *Scientific American* is informed, "is the Bengal Canal, in India, which is 900 miles long. The next longest is Eris Canal, which is 333 miles long ; each cost nearly ten millions dollars." What is the Bengal Canal in India? The writer probably means the Ganges and Jumna Canal, the work of Sir Probyn Cutley.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

THE highest speed has been gained by a torpedo boat destroyer in the British navy. It is appropriately named Desperate, and was built by Thornycroft and Co., of London. It averaged a speed of 31.535 knots an hour on four consecutive runs, equal to nearly 36 miles an hour.

PROFESSOR Ramsay has written a book on the method of extracting from air the new gas, argon, and its property.

ACCORDING to the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, in the last China-Japan War, the Japanese surgeons used freely the ash of rice straw as a dressing for wounds, after they had been cleansed, and sublimate gauze or linen was then superposed and held in position. It is said that the ash proved a perfect antiseptic, on account of the presence in it of potassium carbonate. This is the cheapest of all surgical dressings on record.

IN 1846, there were in the United Kingdom 551 journals, 14 of them being daily, namely, 12 in England and 2 in Ireland. In 50 years the total number has swelled to 2,355. Of these, the daily papers are 156 in England, 19 in Scotland and 18 in Ireland.

SIR B. Baker, in his presidential address to the Institute of Civil Engineers, points out that enlightened men have not always been for progress, as for instance, "Smenton did not consider Watt's steam engine of any importance. Telford thought the Liverpool and Manchester railway would be of small use. Sir Robert Peel, by action in Parliament, prevented the building of a central station in London, where all railway lines would have had a common terminus. Lord Brougham tried to limit the speed of railways to thirty miles an hour, and some people say that, if Brougham failed, several modern railway managers have succeeded. Lord Palmerston opposed the cutting of the Suez Canal."

A BOSTON journal writes :—

"The announcement that Queen Victoria is to leave by will Osborne House to one daughter, the lease of Abergeldie House to another, and Balmoral, the royal residence in the Highlands, to the Duke of Connaught, recalls the fact that the man who would devour this particular widow's houses must make an uncommonly full meal. It was discovered a few years since that the Queen owned six hundred houses in various parts of England, not royal residences, but rent-yielding property, and that about six thousand houses had been built by crown lessees on building leaseholds held of the Queen. She then also had rents from markets and tolls from ferries, besides the proceeds of mines and other works upon her property. She had large estates in Yorkshire, Oxfordshire and Berks, valuable lands in the Isle of Man and in Alderney, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Of the New Forest there are two thousand acres of absolute and sixty-three acres of contingent crown property. Her Majesty enjoys income from the Forest of Dean, from several other forests and from rich properties in and about London. Osborne, on the Isle of Wight, and Balmoral, in the Highlands, are the private property of the Queen and are maintained out of her own income. But she has the use of a few royal palaces besides, and these are maintained by the nation at an annual expenditure ranging from 2,500 to 50,000 dollars. The Queen is in the occupancy of Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, the White Lodge at Richmond Park, and part of St. James's Palace. The remainder of the last named palace is occupied by other members of the royal family. Other royal palaces maintained as such, although not in the occupancy of the Queen, are Kensington Palace, Hampton

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Court,—which, according to a recent estimate based on the statistics of eight or ten years, costs the nation on the average over 70,000 dollars a year—Kew Palace, Pembroke Lodge, the Thatched Cottage and Sheen Cottage, Richmond Park, Bushy House in Bushy Park, and Holyrood Palace. When she visits the continent, she has one great house or another, with whatever repairs and refurnishing are necessary to fit it for a temporary royal occupant, although for all this she pays out of her own income. Bagshot House, Gloucester House and Clarence House are palatial dwellings, occupied by various members of the royal family. The Queen has four rather old fashioned yachts, in which she makes her sea journeys, although the oldest of them probably is used seldom or never. The four cost originally about 1,375,000 dollars."

THE *Calcutta Gazette* of May 27 makes the following announcement:—

"No. 213 A.D.—The 22nd May 1896.—The following Subordinate Judges are appointed to be also Assistant Sessions Judges for one year, or until further orders, and are posted to the districts noted against their names:—

Babu Joges Chandra Mitter, Subordinate Judge, Bhagalpur,  
Bhagalpur.  
Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter, Subordinate Judge, 24 Parganas,  
Saran.  
Babu Syam Chand Dhur, Subordinate Judge, 24 Parganas,  
Mymensingh."

THE Bakrid has not been a peaceful one. It proved more than usually bloody in two quarters. Here is an account from one.

"It appears that for some time past there has been bad blood between the Hindu and Mahomedan employes on both sides of the river in the vicinity of Barrackpur and Serampur. This feeling assumed a threatening aspect around Serampur (opposite Barrackpur) two days before the Bukr-Id festival and the Joint-Magistrate at Serampur addressed the officer commanding at Barrackpur and begged to have a military force prepared to cross over at a moment's notice to quell any disturbance. There are several mills in and about Serampur and the sub-divisional officer was afraid that the police at his disposal would not be sufficient to cope with any disorder which might occur among the vast population of mill hands. As it was feared that the Mahomedans employed in the mills on the Barrackpur side of the river would go over to the assistance of their co-religionists on the other bank a large native police force under three sub-inspectors was placed along the river bank near the Barrackpur shore mills to prevent any attempt to cross over, and so as to be prepared for any possible emergency that might arise in Serampur, boats were requisitioned and held in readiness at the main ghats to carry troops over if necessary.

The festival, however, passed over in Serampur without any disturbance. But the festival was on Sunday and troops were still kept in readiness on the Saturday, and fortunately so, because of the occurrences at Titagarh. On the evening of Saturday the 23rd a Musalman named Mohamad Hossein, a *raj mistri* working at the Standard Jute Mills, which are under construction, returned to Titagarh from a neighbouring village. He brought with him a cow which he had purchased for sacrifice on the following day, and which he stalled until the morrow, in the small yard attached to his hut. This hut adjoined the dwelling place of a Hindu, employed as a durwan with the contractors for the building on which Mohamad Hossein worked. The lowing of the cow attracted his attention and he ran off and told a brother durwan that a cow was haltered in the bricklayer's yard. Both the durwans called at Mohamad Hossein's place and demanded of him to tell them what he intended to do with the animal. He frankly admitted that he intended to sacrifice it on the following day. They warned him against slaughtering it near the residences of Hindus or in public. Fearing that the Mahomedan might slaughter the cow during the night, despite his assurances to the contrary, they induced him to allow them to keep the animal till the following day.

On the Sunday morning when the Mahomedan applied for delivery of his cow both the durwans refused to restore it to him. They told him, however, that they would pay him its cost. The owner refused the offer and as he could not obtain his property he reported the matter to one of the European assistants in charge of the works. This gentleman summoned the two durwans and ordered the restoration of the cow. Both swore that they had already delivered it to Mohamad Hossein. The gentleman did not believe this statement, so he told the Mahomedan to purchase another cow and that he would see that the cost be defrayed from monies due to the durwans. When the European assistant had moved away, the durwans addressing Mohamad Hossein cried out derisively 'Yes, go and buy another cow, and we shall rob (snatch away) you of that one too.' Shortly after this occurrence some of the clerks on the works called upon the European above referred to. They protested against the slaughter of any cows about the locality, because of the many Hindus residing there and most insolently concluded by saying 'even if you or any other gentleman wanted to do so we would prevent you.'

Shortly before noon Mohamad Hossein proceeded to a mosque to perform the obligatory religious services for the feast. When he had concluded these he proceeded to the nearest police outpost and laid a charge of theft against the two durwans. The sub-inspector in charge of the post, who by the way was a Brahmin, named Nirjon Banerji, took down the charge; he, however, desired the complainant to be seated and he would promptly summon the alleged offenders. A constable was despatched to call the durwans. After some time had elapsed the constable returned with a message that the durwans were then busy, but would attend at 2 o'clock. At that hour Mohamad

was again present at the police station but neither of the durwans turned up. On this the sub-inspector said that he would go and find them himself and he walked away from the station. Mohamad returned to his quarters and having aroused his co-religionists into a fury because of the trick that had been played upon him by the durwans, who had also defied the sub-inspector, the crowd armed themselves with sticks and chased the Hindus through the bazar. Here Mohamad came upon the sub-inspector with whom it would have gone hard had he not very discreetly bolted at top speed to the river side where a strong police force was patrolling the bank, for reasons already explained. The Hindus now began to arm themselves and convinced that a fight was imminent the sub-inspector above alluded to ran into Barrackpur and informed Mr. T. A. Kleyn, the Divisional Inspector and the Inspector of the Mills on both sides of the river, of how matters stood. Mr. Kleyn promptly got together forty native constables and while he hurried with these to Titagarh, scarcely two miles away, he sent the sub-inspector on to Captain Wake, the Cantonment Magistrate, to explain the situation to that official. Captain Wake immediately communicated with the officer commanding the station and urged the speedy despatch of troops to the scene of the disturbance. The half company of the Munster Fusiliers which were in readiness were at once ordered to Titagarh, and within a couple of minutes they were on the road at the 'Double.' Forty men of the Field Artillery, mounted on horses and armed with whips were also sent to the scene of the disturbance. The artillery men overtook the Munsters and reached the place where the two factions faced each other just about the time the police got there; the Munsters came up shortly afterwards, two of the number thoroughly overpowered by the fierce heat and the continuous run. These two were immediately sent back to Barrackpur in doolies. Lieutenant Blundell commanded the Royal Artillery party and Lieutenant Harvey the Munster Fusilier detachment, sent out on the occasion. The Artillery and Infantry having charged and dispersed the Mahomedan crowd and driven them from the village the troops with the police under Mr. Kleyn broke up into four parties and for some hours patrolled the four roads leading into Titagarh. The rest has already been told. Matters having apparently quieted down by eight o'clock, the main body of the troops were ordered back to Barrackpur, 20 men of the Munsters being left to guard the Mills, and assist the police. The troops had no sooner withdrawn when the Mahomedans returned and caused another disturbance. They were not, however, able to withstand the charge of the police and the Fusiliers and the large crowd of Hindus who charged them and drove them out of the bazar for the second time. Several huts were destroyed by the Mahomedans and much damage done to property. After their second dispersion the Mahomedans settled down for the night, sleeping away from their homes in the neighbouring jungles.

Early the following morning a company of the 8th Madras Infantry was sent out from Barrackpur to relieve the Munsters and the police. The Native troops remained in Titagarh until late in the evening, when they were in turn relieved by a force of armed police from Alipur.

As already reported only ten persons have been injured to any extent. All save one of these are Hindus. The exception is a Mahomedan who says that he was beaten by his co-religionists because he would not join the rioters.

Twenty people have been arrested, but only eight of these are the two durwans, who it is alleged stole Mohamad's cow and another Hindu. The remaining are Mahomedans. There is likely to be some delay in bringing the accused to trial as there is no magistrate in the sub-division in a position to try the case, and Government have been applied to for the deputation of a special officer to preside at the trial.

Mr. Westmacott, the Commissioner of the 24-Pargannas, who is out on tour, was in camp in the grounds of Government House, Barrackpur, and as soon the news of the disturbance reached him, he proceeded to Titagarh, and was a witness of what occurred."

There was another disturbance in another mill—the Lower Hughli Jute Mills, 8 miles from Calcutta down the river. Here too the military was called out. In this, as in the other case, the origin was a cow. The Mahomedans working at the mills had slaughtered an animal outside the mills premises, and some *Chamars*, to spite the Mahomedans, killed a pig within the limits of the factory. The Mahomedans shewed fight. The Magistrate of the 24-Pargannas and the Superintendent of Police hastened to the spot and with a number of police restored quiet. But the Mahomedans again grew sulky and threatened assault, when an appeal for aid was made to the Senior Military Officer at Alipur, who immediately told off 100 of his men—50 of the 8th Bengal Cavalry and 50 of the 5th Bengal Infantry. They had, however, little or no work.

THE Seals of Colootola live in their Free College. Founded by the founder of the family, Muttylal, in 1843, it survives to this day. In his time it had a good staff of teachers. The sons gave it a local habitation. It is now the turn of the grandsons to further improve it. With a fund set apart for its maintenance, the institution is a glorious monument of the Seals' charity, and may go down from generation to generation. We were glad to read that the Chief Justice, Sir Comer Petheram, had come to Halliday Street to preside at the last Prize Day of the institution. The report read gives no ambitious programme. The speakers advised the students to turn agriculturists, if not hewers of wood and drawers of water. The free



tuition given in the school, which is its chief drawback, as it scares away honourable students, students with Spanish notions of dignity, seems to have suggested that train of thought.

At the formal opening of the College on the 1st day of March, 53 years back, there was a respectable gathering of Europeans, ladies and gentlemen, and natives. The Chief Justice Sir Lawrence Peel was present and delivered an address.

THE limit of the spheres of influence of Great Britain and France in regard to Siam and the Upper Mekong having been fixed, the following Proclamation by the Governor-General of India in Council in the Foreign Department appears in the *Gazette of India* of May 23, 1896:

"Simla, the 22nd May, 1896.

No. 958-E—Whereas by a Declaration in regard to Siam and the Upper Mekong signed and made on the fifteenth day of January 1896, it was agreed between Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, and the President of the French Republic that the thalweg of the Mekong river should be the boundary between the possessions or spheres of influence of Great Britain and France, respectively:

Know all men, and it is hereby proclaimed, that the thalweg of the Mekong river from the mouth of the Nam Huok northwards as far as the Chinese frontier is the limit of the possessions or spheres of influence of Great Britain and France, respectively.

Also know all men, and it is further proclaimed, that the Governor-General in Council is hereby pleased to order that all lands and territories whatsoever situate within Her Majesty's possessions between the thalweg of the Mekong river as aforementioned and the existing frontier of the Shan State of Keng Tung shall henceforward form part of the said Shan State of Keng Tung."

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

AFTER sitting all night, the House of Commons have passed the Agricultural Rating Bill through the committee stage. Five members of the House including Messrs. Dillon, Tanner, and Lloyd George, have been suspended for a week for refusing to quit the House for a division as a protest against the Closure.

LI-HUNG-CHANG, who has been interviewed at Moscow, said that his only mission, apart from the coronation of the Czar, was to study European systems with a view to introducing reforms into China. The Chinese Government, he said, had no treaty with Russia, but was entirely in accord with her in every respect, and desired similar excellent relations with France. It was difficult, he said, to ascertain the relations with Great Britain until he had visited London.

THE Transvaal Green Book has been published, and includes a copy of a telegram from Dr. Jameson to the Chartered Company at Capetown saying that Mr. Newton, Imperial Commissioner at Mafeking, will help as much as possible. The meaning is doubtful, but the Transvaal apparently regards Mr. Newton as implicated in the raid.

The Cape House of Assembly has rejected by sixty to eleven votes the motion of Mr. Merriman demanding the revocation of the South Africa Company's Charter, but has adopted an amendment condemning Dr. Jameson's raid and demanding a searching enquiry into it, and the prevention of its repetition.

THE insurrection among the Dzungars in North-West China has been renewed, and the rebels have captured the town of Kiayukwan.

THE situation in Crete is grave, and the insurrection is extending to the eastern districts of the Island. The insurgents, who are besieging the Turkish garrison at Varnos, have defeated a Turkish force, which was attempting to relieve the Turks, who lost heavily. The Porte has authorised the convoking of the Cretan Assembly on Thursday next. It is believed that this will appease the people. Fighting between the Turks and the Christians is going on in the streets at Knia. A French cruiser has been despatched to the scene of the disturbances to render assistance to the foreigners. Advice from Candia state that the Turkish soldiery at Canea on May

25 broke loose and massacred and pillaged the Christians. The canvasses of the Greek, French, and Russian Consulates were among those killed. Fighting is also proceeding at Retimo and Sphakia. The British Mediterranean Squadron has sailed for Crete, and all Foreign Consuls have telegraphed to their respective Governments for warships. The armoured battleship Hood is the only British man-of-war so far ordered to Canea. The latest news state that things are quieter, but the authorities have forbidden all letters and telegrams except official ones. Abdullah Bey, the newly appointed Governor, has started to take up his duties. The Porte has despatched a reinforcement of troops to Crete.

THE *Gaulois* publishes an account of the interview that has taken place at St. Petersburg between the Czar and M. Flourens, in which His Majesty declared he would support France in the Egyptian question to the end.

THE coronation of the Czar was completed on the forenoon of May 26. There was a splendid pageant, and the ceremony was most impressive. Bright sunshine prevailed throughout. To distinguish the occasion, the Czar has issued a Manifesto in which he remits all arrears of taxation, and reduces the land tax by a half for ten years. He also grants amnesties to all minor offenders, and remits and reduces other sentences. With regard to political exiles he authorises the Minister of the Interior to extend further remissions where deserved.

France has paid special honours to the coronation. Paris was decorated and the Minister for War granted a day's leave to the troops, and remitted the sentences on certain offenders.

COLONEL Plumer, with a strong patrol, left Buluwayo to clear the country round the town, and has had a slight engagement with the Matabele. Mr. Cecil Rhodes with his column is expected at Buluwayo in twelve days. The joint forces of Mr. Cecil Rhodes and Mr. Napier about eight hundred strong, are лагерed near the Pongo territory of the Shangani river. Mr. Rhodes, addressing the men, announced that the force would be divided into two columns, and would sweep the Matabele into the Mitoppe Hills, where they would be repressed at leisure. It was intended, he said, to establish forts in different parts to protect the settlers, who would be fully compensated for their losses. He thanked the Dutchmen present, especially for their services. Mr. Napier afterward, when advancing towards Buluwayo, attacked and routed a large impi in the Insiza Mountains, killing two hundred. Napier lost five troopers in the engagement.

Colonel Plumer with his force has defeated the Matabele three times with heavy loss.

CHOLERA is spreading alarmingly in Cairo. A private soldier in the Connaught Rangers has died from it. Seventy deaths took place during Friday and Saturday, besides forty-five deaths in Alexandria in the same time. Visitors are taking flight.

ST. LOUIS, in Missouri, America, has been fearfully devastated by a cyclone. It is the worst that has occurred since that of Johnstown. 523 people have been killed and 724 injured. The damage to property is estimated at five millions sterling.

THE Prince of Wales, on the 28th of May, opened the annual military tournament at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. It eclipses in variety of interest any of its predecessors. Eight hundred men represent the British Army and the forces in India, Ceylon, Hongkong and other Colonies in the grand pageant, called "Sons of the Empire," which is a great success.

M. GEORGES Cochery, the Minister of Finance, proposes a tax of four and-a-half per cent. on French rents except in the case of those holders who live abroad. He proposes a similar tax on dividends in French or foreign Companies.

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

WHEN the water scarcity occupies so much public attention, any information regarding what is being done here and there to meet it, cannot fail to be of interest. Indeed, the gravity of the situation was never before realised as it has been now, so that there must be great advantage in knowing all about the different methods by which the difficulty is being encountered according to the differing conditions of different places. The public are aware of the action taken by district officers in this behalf. We have today to add information of a very interesting kind of what is being done in some of the Factory-towns in the neighbourhood of Calcutta. We learn from Baranagar, the seat of a great jute factory, that the dried up tanks are being filled with good water from the mill-engines, through the ordinary municipal drains, these being only cleaned, and some connections with the mills on the one hand, and the tanks on the other being all that is necessary. Messrs. Thoms and Macpherson of whose kind efforts for supplying their operatives with drinking water we had occasion to speak some time before, have entitled themselves to the lasting gratitude of the townspeople of Baranagar by the zeal with which they have thrown themselves into this matter of converting dry tanks into reservoirs full to the brim of good water. Another incidental advantage of the arrangement is the purification of the entire drainage system through which the water is carried.

We understand the same thing has been done at Rishra, Serampore and some other manufacturing towns.

BABOO Monmath Nath Bose, whom we introduced to our readers last week, writes to say that, since the introduction of the Road Cess Act into the Balasore District, the Zemindars of Pergana Ancoora have paid in all Rs. 72,000, but upto date, not more than Rs. 3,000 have been spent for the material improvement of this part of the District. The road leading from the zemindary kutchery at Ancoora to a point on the road to Bhudruck, which is the Sub-divisional headquarters of the Balasore District, is only half a mile. It is a kutcha road and has no culverts. What is done during the cold season is that only *changars* or sods of earth are thrown upon the road and not rammed down, tuffed or levelled. The consequence is that the road becomes almost impassable from December to May. Both the District officer and the Divisional Commissioner are natives. Will they take pity upon the inhabitants, who have to use the Basudebpur post office which is only at a distance of a few feet from the Zemindary kutchery and whose boys have to resort to the Basudebpur aided school which is close to the Post office, and cause this half a mile road to be raised and made higher and bridged with culverts?

The other works which deserve attention are old tanks. If these be deepened or reexcavated, much of the curse of water scarcity will be removed.

NEXT year, the Presidency and Rajshahye District Boards will be called upon to recommend a member for nomination for the Bengal Legislative Council. To prevent a tie, as in the two elections in the Dacca and Bhagalpur Divisions, Mr. Cotton, Chief Secretary to the Bengal Government, before going on leave, asked, by letter No. 97 dated Darjeeling, the 23rd April 1896, now published, the Commissioners of Divisions for suggestions. Under the existing rules, the voting power of municipalities is calculated by their income, the votes ranging from 1 for income of Rs. 5,000 and less than Rs. 6,000, to 8 for income of Rs. 2,50,000 and over. Each Municipality elects one delegate only, and that delegate exercises all the votes of that municipality. The objection taken to this method of voting is that "it places it in the power of the delegate of one Municipality to secure the return of his nominee against the votes of the delegates of 7 or 8 municipalities." There is no disposition in the Bengal Government to alter the procedure, for the Chief Secretary remarks, "it must be remembered that any system under which municipalities must be treated as equal would be open to great and reasonable objection and that it would be obviously unfair to give an equal vote to the representative of Darjeeling and Nator, Patna and Jangdispore, or Howrah and Tumlook. No scheme can be devised to which some objection will not be raised; but the Lieutenant-Governor believes that the existing method of election in the case of municipalities has worked well and has given satisfaction." Sir Alexander Mackenzie evidently thinks that the vote of Mr. Brown, Jones or Robinson should not have equal value with that of the Grand Old Man of England. Even in the election of mem-

bers for Indian Councils, municipalities should be distinguished by their worth or income. That principle has been recognized in the Calcutta municipal elections. The old law of one man one vote has been dispensed with, and voters now vote according to their income, that is, the rates paid by them. The Commissioners of Divisions are asked if they "are in a position to suggest any modification of the existing orders, either with a view of ensuring a better representation or minimising the chance of a tie." The letter continues:—

"In the case of District Boards a different principle is followed. The whole question was under discussion in 1893, and a sliding scale of voting power, according to the ordinary income of the District Boards, was suggested as follows:—

Boards with an ordinary income

| Rs.           | Rs.         | No. of votes. |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| From 50,000   | to 1,00,000 | 5             |
| " 1,00,000    | " 1,50,000  | 8             |
| " 1,50,000    | " 2,00,000  | 10            |
| " 2,00,000    | " 3,00,000  | 12            |
| Over 3,00,000 | .....       | 15            |

An alternative sliding scale was also proposed, in which one vote should be allowed for every fifty thousand rupees or part of fifty thousand rupees of ordinary income. These schemes were, however, not accepted and eventually it was laid down that all districts were considered by the Government to be of approximately equal importance, and that each District Board should appoint one representative having one vote.

It so happened that at the elections of 1893 this decision did not raise the question of a tie. There are three Boards in the Chittagong Division and seven in Patna, and the numbers being uneven in both cases, there could be no tie. But this condition of affairs was reversed in 1895, when it became the turn of the Dacca and Bhagalpore Divisions to be represented. In each of these Divisions there are four District Boards, and the election in both Divisions resulted in a tie. In Dacca the difficulty was got over by the voluntary withdrawal of one of the candidates, but in Bhagalpore no such solution offered itself, and the Government were obliged to resort to the nomination of a candidate.

The Lieutenant Governor observes that if either of the sliding scales proposed in 1893 had been accepted, a tie in 1895 would have been avoided.

There are five Boards in the Presidency Division, and the question of a tie could not arise there, but there are six in Rajshahye (excluding Darjeeling), and if there is no change in system the difficulty may recur in that Division. The sliding scales proposed would operate as follows in these Divisions:—

|            |                  | 1        | 2  | 3  | 4  |
|------------|------------------|----------|----|----|----|
| Presidency | 24-Pergunnahs... | 1,66,000 | 10 | 3  | 4  |
|            | Jessore...       | 1,28,000 | 8  | 8  | 4  |
|            | Nuddea...        | 1,17,000 | 8  | 8  | 3  |
|            | Khoolna...       | 1,04,000 | 5  | 2  | 3  |
|            | Moorshedabad...  | 99,000   | 5  | 2  | 2  |
| Total...   |                  | .....    | 39 | 15 | 15 |
| Rajshahye  | Rangpore...      | 1,72,000 | 10 | 3  | 4  |
|            | Dinagpore...     | 1,26,000 | 8  | 8  | 4  |
|            | Rajshahye...     | 1,08,000 | 8  | 8  | 3  |
|            | Jalpigorie...    | 89,000   | 5  | 2  | 3  |
|            | Patna...         | 84,000   | 5  | 2  | 2  |
|            | Bogra...         | 64,000   | 5  | 2  | 2  |
| Total...   |                  | .....    | 41 | 16 | 16 |

It will be noticed that according to the alternative scale, under which one vote is allowed for every half a lakh (or part of half a lakh) of ordinary income, the contingency of a tie is not excluded in the Rajshahye Division, while the higher number of votes given in the first scale does apparently shut out the risk as completely as it is possible to do so. But in any case the adoption of one or other of these schemes suggests itself as a preferable arrangement to that which is now in force. It is most important to avoid the risk of a tie in the future, and the question to consider is how this can best be done. You are, therefore, requested to favour the Lieutenant-Governor with the benefit of your advice, both in regard to the number of votes which should be given to each electoral representatives, and the principle on which they should be allotted. The standard of income has been adopted in the case of municipalities, and it appears better to adhere to that than to resort to the alternative of population. It must be remembered that although in the elections for representation in Council where the bodies and interests to be represented are so different, very much symmetry cannot be expected, and there are other elements to be taken into consideration besides income and population, yet that when the unit of the electoral colleges has been determined on—and in Bengal it has been finally decided that they shall be Municipalities and District Boards—it is desirable that as far as possible the same principles should guide the Government in calculating the basis of representation in both cases."

If it is intended not to disturb the existing procedure, the simplest course is to allow a casting or second vote to the Chairman. The rules are insufficient, if not inoperative, which do not provide against a tie. The votes must always be uneven to avoid the catastrophe of a tie. When the Chairman has too many votes they may be reduced by one, and where he has not more than one, it may be raised by another number.

LAST two years, there was no Hare Anniversary. We are glad, therefore, to announce that the Committee have arranged for the next observance on Monday next, at the Theatre of the Science Association, at 6 P. M. The subject fixed is the Medical College of Calcutta. David Hare was as much interested in this educational institution as in any other or the one bearing his name. If other schools and colleges were his love, with the Medical College he was officially connected.

THE Commissioner of Police has run up to Darjeeling, for sleep we suppose, for, here in Calcutta we have sleepless nights on account of the stifling weather. Sir John Lambert is not, however, idle up in the hills. Not that he takes long walks and rides, but keeps himself informed of what passes here. Further, he is in communication with his Deputy regarding the license fees and Police charges for marriage or musical processions in streets. We hope he will satisfactorily settle the whole question before he comes back and save us the necessity of returning to the subject.

THOUGH the Birthday Honours are not as plentiful as blackberries, from which they differ but little, Bengal has no reason to be dissatisfied with the number. For that Presidency there are one K.C.S.I. and one C.I.E., one Maharaja Bahadur, one Raja, two Khan Bahadurs, six Rai Bahadurs, one Khan Saheb, and two Rai Shehs. There is no disposition in any quarter to grudge the honour of Knighthood done to the Chief Commissioner of Assam about to retire, who, if the usual rule were observed in his case, would have been a Knight ere long, and that of the Companionship to the Behar Volunteer who, besides contributing much to the amateur defence of the country, is otherwise held in great regard. The title of Maharaja Bahadur need not cause any surprise, unless the present chief of Sirgajah, whom we do not know, is especially disagreeable to his tenantry. Such titles are matters of courtesy, and but for the British interference, matters of course, at least locally. Whether the British recognize it or not, Maharaja Rughonath Saran Das is a Maharaja or Maharaja Bahadur all the same. Nor is it any distinction to him to be catalogued with the titled Zemindars of Bengal.

The Rai Bahadur lifted to Rajaship has been exceptionally fortunate. But what will he do with it? Rai or Raja, he has been a Bahadur always, and no guinea stamp will make him more than the guineas he had made to flow from his clients' to his own pockets had made him. Let us hope he will prove a Raja.

The Indian Subordinate Medical Establishment has been given a Khan Bahadur and a Khan Sheh. The services of the Honorary Presidency Magistrates of Calcutta have been recognized in those of the Registrar of their court, or rather their guide and philosopher, unless the honour be a solace to him for his late defeat at the election of the Municipal Vice-Chairman.

The Senior Superintendent of the Calcutta Police is not likely to appreciate his honour when Inspectors have been placed above him. The distinction to the Government Pleader, Cuttack, comes late. He had long earned it, but not being ambitious and content to do his duty faithfully and conscientiously he has been outdistanced by many behind him. The little distinction served to the Inspector of Schools, Eastern Circle, although sure to be taken as an honour done to East Bengal, is small indeed, considering the estimation in which he is held, and the post held by him, though for a very short time, in the service of the Maharaja of Tipperah. That service itself, however short or however performed, is an honour in that part of the country to a dweller thereof which will distinguish the holder's family from generation to generation. Perhaps we err in thinking that Rai Sahebship is a trifle or that it is the lowest rung in the ladder. A Zemindar in the Bhagalpur District has also been honoured with it.

A distinction had hitherto been made between the two Orders and the Indian titles usually conferred. A Raja made a K.C.I.E. was verbally assured that his knighthood was as good as that of another Raja of the other Order. Since the commencement of the present year there has been an attempt to formally equalize all titles. On New Year's Day, we had the spectacle of a Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire made a Rai Bahadur. What is his place in a durbar? Will he be given a seat among the C.I.E.'s or the Rai Bahadurs? How again is he to be addressed?—C.I.E. and Rai Bahadur or for brevity C.I.E. and R. B.?

THE death of his wife, at his time of life, in his retirement from Government service though not from that of the Cooch Behar State, is a terrible blow to Babon Kalicadas Dutt, the Dewan of that State. She had been ailing for three years. In November last, the old school practitioners had given her up. Homœopathy kept her up for another six months, and to the grief of her husband, her sons and daughters, relatives, friends and neighbours and those who knew her, she suddenly passed away on Monday last. The many good qualities that she possessed as a loving wife, an affectionate mother, a good neighbour, a kind mistress and an obliging friend, heighten the grief of the surviving husband. But that survival ought to be a consolation to him, a devoted husband, in that it saves her from widowhood than which there could not be a greater calamity to a Hindu lady in a society where widow marriage is not practised. The sharing of his sorrow by so many is another support to him. The very encouraging telegram of condolence that the Dewan has received from his master, the Maharaja, proves that he had the highest regard for the deceased lady. The Maharani of Koch Behar, too, not to wound her feelings, never visited her except in *saree* and as a *bahu*.

It is not many months that our much respected neighbour, Babu Buddynath Brohmo, another retired officer of Government, lost his wife and soon after his only son, and he bears the load of grief like a hero. The wife was indeed a godsend to him. Though the mistress of the household, she remained a *bahu* to the last without the least self-consciousness and always equally attentive to all the inmates of the household. Her final departure from the world was very pathetic. She took leave of her husband and apologised and asked forgiveness for the many sins of commission and omission on her part. We are afraid we are obtruding too much upon private sorrow and treading forbidden ground. We dwell upon the virtues of these two old type zenana ladies because they were model wives and we wish that their examples may not be lost on the present generation.

A CONTEMPORARY begins a sketch of the leading events of the life and rule of the present Gaekwar of Baroda in these words:—

"His Highness the Maharaja Sayajee Rao Gaikwari, G.C.S.I., of Baroda, Sena-Khaskel-Samsher-Bahadur, Fuzund-a-Khas-a-Daulat-a-Englishtia was born in the village of Kavlana in the Mulegan taluka of the Nassik district, Bombay Presidency, on the 11th of March 1863 of comparatively poor parents. In 1875 when he was twelve years old a strong wave bore him aloft from his obscure position and deposited him at once on the summit of rank and wealth. The ex-Gaekwar Mulhar Rao was deposed on the 14th of January 1875 and the management of the State was temporarily assumed by the British Government. On the 22nd of April Mulhar Rao was deported to Madras. On the 10th of May Sir T. Madava Rao, the great Indian statesman who had distinguished himself in Travancore and in Indore, was appointed Minister and on the 27th of May 1875 Gopal Rao Gaikwar was adopted by Her Highness the Maharani Junna Bai Sheh, C.I., on which same day he was proclaimed ruler of Baroda under the style and title of Sayajee Rao III."

The Maharaja and his two brothers were literally street boys when they were brought over by the Police in search of a Gaekwar to the Residency and rejoiced at the clothing and sweets furnished them by Dewan Manibhai Jushbai. The Government of India selected the youngest brother for the throne on the ground that the minority of the Prince would be the longest. The Maharani would have the eldest for the opposite reason. After a deal of haggling, the choice closed on the second, who was proclaimed Gaekwar. The mother does not seem to have followed his sons to Baroda. At any rate, she died in her native place. The elevation was too great for Gopal or Guppa, and if it has not turned his head, it does not keep it all right.

SIR Comer Petheram has resigned his office of Chief Justice of Bengal from November next. There is no knowing yet who will succeed him.

THE Pleaders of the Bengal High Court have applied for permission to wear gown like their brethren in the other Presidencies. The Chief Justice favours their aspiration, but there is disinclination in some quarter to grant the gown unless the wearers take to European dress.

DEATHS in Calcutta during the week ending 23rd May numbered 280 against 305 and 361 in the two preceding weeks. There were 71 deaths from cholera, against 86 and 119 in the two preceding weeks, and three deaths from small-pox as in the previous week.

## REIS &amp; RAYYET.

Saturday May 30, 1896.

## BRAHMOS AND THE STAGE.

IT is the misfortune of India that she should, in most things, stand to the English race in the relation of a younger sister on whom devolves the clothing outgrown by her elder. Take municipal institutions as an example. The governing bodies of mediæval cities played an important part in the history of western civilisation. They served as ramparts to restrain the lawlessness of feudal kings and barons; and through long centuries they alone kept the lamp of liberty dimly burning. But the political advantages attending their rude attempts to regulate civic life were very dearly bought. Sanitation was then undreamt of. The smells with which the narrow streets reeked were such as no modern nasal system could support; and so the black death, the sweating sickness and half-a-dozen other terrific forms of contagious diseases periodically avenged the disregard of nature's laws. At last it dawned on the western mind that the management of a modern city with a population running into millions is an affair for specialists. The old corporations are gradually being dispossessed by bodies which, *qua* their executive functions, are in the hands of men who have made a life study of the extremely complex problem of social life. Indian towns, while they present far greater difficulties than those of the icy north, have inherited methods of government elsewhere regarded as obsolete. They are still under the hoof demagogues—men destitute of experience in science or administration, who seem to regard a municipal council chamber as a sort of superior debating club. Incapable of transacting business with despatch and precision, they are for airing their newly found eloquence to the detriment of the interests committed to their charge.

So with the views entertained by a small but noisy clique of would-be reformers with regard to the Drama. Their apostle, Babu Keshub Chunder Sen, was far too cultured and enlightened not to have perceived its uses; and he was one of the friends of the Bengali stage, and an amateur actor of great merit. When, however, a quarter of a century back, he paid a visit to England, he fell into the hands of the Low Church and Non-conformist sections which still exercised a powerful influence over public opinion. An abhorrence of the stage in every form was one of their tenets—a legacy from the Puritans of old. Everybody knows how bitter the self-accusations were of Bunyan for his habit of bell-ringing in early years. Trifling weaknesses of conduct were exaggerated into grave sins. Music was condemned as something belonging to the enemy of man. A ball or a masquerade was the reproduction on earth of the sports of Pandemonium. The very charms of poetry and polite literature were regarded as seductive pleasures against which all virtuous hearts should be steeled. We are far from undervaluing Puritanism as a social and political force. It did great things in its day and saved Europe from sharing the fate of Spain. But that day had nearly passed away at the time of the Brahmo apostle's advent. Broader and more enlightened views were beginning to assert themselves. Men began to see the folly of allowing the theatre to develop on lines beyond the sphere of influences making for social progress. They recognized the fact that the stage, if

properly conducted, is a great popular educator, spreading as no other agency can spread the doctrines of light and sweetness. Reading the lessons of history, they admitted that the incomparable greatness of ancient Greece was due to her heart-whole devotion to the drama: and that the burning patriotism which enabled their grand-fathers to defy Europe in arms was fostered by the same influence. The triumph of common sense has brought with it results that can be appreciated by only those who knew the London playhouses a generation back and who have watched the gradual change that has come over English-speaking peoples since the drama began to take rank as a national institution. Keshub Chunder Sen, however, returned to this country full of the spirit which animated his English friends. He forswore the theatre as a thing accursed, and his followers still blindly maintain the same attitude towards it.

Their principal objection seems to be that actresses being "fallen women" (to use the sickening cant of the unco guid), they cannot be seen or listened to without catching moral contamination. The theory is too absurd to need refutation. In the first place, the individual and the artist are two very different things; and the latter must be judged by the public on only the merits of her performances on the public stage. If they are modest as well as full of grace and charm, the result to the pure-minded spectator is distinctly elevating. He leaves the theatre with some glimmerings of a higher ideal than had yet penetrated his purblind nature. The man who, without being moved by the lamentations of Sita personated by an actress of histrionic powers, chooses to think the while of the life she leads in private, cannot fail to incur the charge of downright stupidity with every sensible person. By doing what he does, he simply shuts himself out from an intellectual and æsthetic enjoyment of a very superior kind. Yudhishtira, with all the dignity of a king, trying to dissuade Bhima from insulting a fallen foe by striking his crowned head with the left foot, is so ennobling a sight that the spectator who, without feeling himself elevated by it, seeks to pry into the life, out of the stage, of the actor, must be held to be destitute of a capacity for higher enjoyment. The man who fails to laugh at the sight of Bottom strutting on the stage and suggesting devices for introducing a wall and moonlight into a scene, or offering to play the lion in such a way as to make the duke cry—"let him roar again, let him roar again,"—should, indeed, be pitied. Our commiseration, again, would be much deeper, if it appeared that the incapacity to laugh had arisen from the spectator's knowledge that Bottom, after all, was not an Athenian weaver but only a contemporary against whom there were dozen decrees of the Small Cause Court. Indeed, one whose mind becomes diverted to such low thoughts amid surroundings of such a pleasing and elevated character, has not been unfitly compared by the Persian poet to a filthy porker, which, when admitted into a flower garden, avoids parterres gay with perfumed flowers of various kinds, and searches for some nook reeking with the dirt of the foulest description. Nor, again, it should be remembered, is the stage less beneficent to the unfortunate creatures rescued by it from a life of infamy and placed in a position rendering it possible for them to earn an honest and avowable living. Have we so many professions open to women that one of the most



lucrative and joy-diffusing should be closed to them?

If a theatre were established in every town of the Empire it would no longer be possible to affirm that, in spite of his so-called high education, the average Indian was still in the rudimentary stage in all that appertains to the cultivation of his artistic faculties. And much more than this would a well regulated stage bring with it. The true national spirit would be fostered. An Aryan spectator is reminded that time was when his ancestors were not sunk in civic and intellectual sloth: did not struggle for the privilege of eating a foreign rulers' salt, nor place their chief delights in the chicane and barren triumphs of the law-courts. For a few, fleeting hours at least he forgets his dull and sordid home surroundings and lives the lives of kings, saints and heroes brought as it were a phantasma before him. Let those who echo the parrot cry of the corruption of the stage clear their minds of cant, if only for an evening, and visit the Star, the Royal Bengal or the Minerva Theatres. We venture to affirm that their views would gain in breadth and charity, and that they would admit that the healthy craving for amusement is fairly met in our capital.

#### A MUNICIPAL ELECTION SCANDAL.

IN 1892, we noticed the curious election of a peon of a Raja in the District of Rajshahi. This worthy came in through one of the bye elections in a Sub-division where the Raja has large landed property and much local influence. The Raja conceived a dislike for the Municipal Commissioners or their ways and proceeded to mark his displeasure in a strange way. Unlike the Raja of Krishnagur, he was wise enough not to offer himself for election as a Commissioner to be elected by the Commissioners as their non-official head, but found for them a compeer in the person of an orderly of his own. To the first meeting after his election the peon Commissioner, gorgeously dressed, came in the Raja's carriage. The other Commissioners, who had hoped that they would be saved the disgrace of deliberating on public affairs with a peon of no education and of inferior social status, were disappointed. In that hour of trial they hastily decided to depart without meeting. The matter was then brought to the notice of the Sub-divisional officer, who, sympathising with them, applied for advice to Government through the proper channel. The result was that, under the advice of the Local Government, the district authorities induced the Raja to make his orderly resign the commissionership. An amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act was, we believe, then under consideration, and it was hoped that some provision would be introduced in it to prevent manœuvres with the sinister object of offending and insulting respectable people who willingly devote their time and energy to public business, and in the interest of the election system itself. On a representation, Mr. Risley, the Municipal Secretary, in charge of the Bill, promised to consider the matter which, however, he said, was beset with great difficulties. Those difficulties prevailed and no notice was taken in Council of the Rajshahi scandal, probably because it was a solitary instance. One of the drawbacks of elections in this country is the loosening of the hold on the pushing low and vulgar. It was mainly this consideration which drew forth such opposition to Lord Ripon's scheme of local self-government and which still keeps away many good and worthy natives.

One scandal succeeds another. We will now mention another of a different kind in a different district. Municipal Commissionership, Honorary Magistrateship and other honorary appointments, besides being posts of honour and dignity as of usefulness, have of late become a source of income. The candidates are numerous in every District and Sub-division, and every thing fair and unfair is done to secure the posts. Large amounts are spent and all kinds of recommendations are brought to bear upon the local authorities. Under such circumstances it is evident what value is attached to the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Municipalities or District or Local Boards. There are no doubt honest men but all of them are not fit for the work, while others have hardly any leisure for it. Members, whether worthy or not for the duties, without any visible means of their own, have been known to live like Nawabs, and it is an open secret that the principal source of their income is the Municipality or some other Board to which they belong. Nor are the local authorities ignorant of such instances, but they never trouble themselves about them as long as the fortunate incumbents can play their cards cleverly and please them in other ways. It is the interest of the men of this class to stick like leeches to their honorary posts of emoluments. They know how to fight an election, and not only they themselves are returned but they also bring to the Boards members of their own choosing who, following them as their shadow, support their election as Chairmen or Vice-Chairmen and uphold all they do. Then it is the interest of these Chairmen and their Vices to get such men elected without any regard to their qualifications other than that of subserviency. For this they hesitate not to abuse their powers and employ the municipal servants of all grades to secure votes for their *aphawasta* nominees.

During the last election in one of the largest Municipalities in the Patna division, such unscrupulous but froward men had their way and respectable people had to retire. One of the elected was a bad character whose name was for a long time on the black register of the Police, who was known as a receiver of stolen property and who was shunned by the respectable part of society. This man has been on the Board for the last two and half years and is tolerated by the Commissioners themselves and the executive of the District. The Commissioners justify their inaction by saying that it is the law of the *sarkar* that has brought him in and that it was not open to the Board to send him away. A Commissioner being asked how with any self-respect he could associate with a black sheep in public business, replied that "if Government want that we should associate with sweepers what can we do? When the Magistrate Saheb has no objection to sit with a thief or a cutthroat at a public meeting, who am I to object? am I a greater person than the District Magistrate?"

It is possible that the official Chairman has never been informed of this fact and is still ignorant of it. Is the law so bad that bad characters can not be excluded or expurgated from the Boards? Then, surely, it needs revision. There will be an election before the year closes, and there is a Bill in the Bengal Legislative Council to amend the Municipal law.

Under the old system when Government exercised the full power of appointment, we had had sycophantic or *aphawasta* Municipal Commissioners. With the privileges of election, we are no better,

we make worse selections. The experiment of local self-government not only suffers from such unsavoury successful candidates but the general administration of municipalities is opened to much abuse.

Even if the law gave no power, Government is not so powerless as not to be able to prevent the spread of the Behar scandal. Did it not nip the Rajshahi scandal in the bud? Perhaps the Commissioners are more to blame than Government. If they had resented the election of the bad man, the district authorities could not be deaf to their complaint.

The Act empowers the Local Government, "if it thinks fit, on the recommendation of the Commissioners at a meeting, (to) remove any Commissioner appointed or elected under this Act, if such Commissioner shall have been guilty of misconduct in the discharge of his duties, or of any disgraceful conduct." Objection being taken in Council to the term "disgraceful conduct" as too vague, the Advocate General had replied that the term was not in any way vague or indefinite. "It was conduct unbecoming the position of a Commissioner." The expulsion of a Commissioner must therefore be initiated by his colleagues. It is doubtful also if under this section a bad character elected as a Commissioner can be removed unless for misconduct as a Municipal Commissioner. His bad character *per se* is no bar to his candidature or election. Every candidate for Government service is required to produce a certificate of good birth and good conduct. In the election of Municipal Commissioners such safeguards are not deemed necessary. A thug or a cheat is as competent as any honest citizen for local self-government. Only he must not be found so or denounced at a meeting of his colleagues when only he will render himself liable to be treated as a felon and deprived of his powers. Probably, it was meant that the electors would exercise sound discretion in choosing their representatives and that municipal boards would prove so many reformatories for grown up criminals.

### Official Paper.

#### WATER-SUPPLY AND WATER CESS.

##### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

##### Circular No. 10 T.—M.

From H. H. Risley, Esqre., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government

of Bengal,

To all Commissioners of Divisions.

Darjeeling, May, 22, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed to forward, for your information, copies of the papers noted in the margin, relating to the prevailing scarcity of drinking water in many districts of Bengal. I am to observe that, taken as a whole, the correspondence goes to show that, although the scarcity has been to some extent exaggerated, there can be no doubt that large tracts of country may in years of unusual drought be in real danger of visitation by a water famine which would cause serious and widespread suffering, if not actual loss of life. Such a failure of the supply of drinking water for the daily use of men and animals is in some respects more difficult to deal with than a failure of food-crops. When the water-supply breaks down there is no general warning of what is about to happen, such as is given, in the case of ordinary famine, by the rise of prices; there is no accumulated stock of water to draw upon; nor, if there were, could it be imported into the distressed area except on a small scale and at very heavy cost. Apart, moreover, from the risk of the water-supply actually failing, it is certain, whenever an abnormally dry season occurs, that the people will be driven to use polluted tanks and wells, and that thus epidemics will be started which will tend to spread beyond the tract in which they first arose. There will also be great mortality among cattle. Even in ordinary years serious evils constantly result from the want of proper conservation of the existing sources of water-supply, and without entering on controverted questions of causation, there can

be little doubt that much of the cholera, dysentery, and malarial fever that prevails is traceable more or less directly to the use of bad water. Owing mainly to want of funds, sections 88 to 90, 118 and 119 of the Local Self-Government Act, which purport to deal with this subject, have in practice remained virtually a dead letter, and must be pronounced useless in their present form.

2. In order to initiate effective action for the improvement of the local water-supply, it is clear that the subject must be dealt with in a systematic manner, in order that steady progress may be made from year to year towards the completion of a definite scheme. With this object the Lieutenant-Governor has ordered the registration of all sources of domestic water-supply so as to ascertain and record permanently to what extent (a) municipalities, and (b) rural villages containing more than 100 houses, already possess an adequate supply of wholesome drinking water, and what is being done to meet their requirements in this respect. It is obvious, however, from the mere statement of the case, and without waiting for the statistics which these orders will produce, that the task is a heavy one, and that very large expenditure will be required to produce an appreciable result. As things stand now, the only resources that can be drawn upon for such a purpose are (1) private liberality, (2) loans under the Land Improvement Act, (3) funds raised by Union Committees under section 118 of the Local Self-Government Act, (4) the Road Cess. These can readily be shown, both singly and collectively, to be insufficient to meet the wants of a growing population. Nor can any help be looked for from the income which the Boards derive from pounds, ferries, and educational and medical receipts. These revenues are expansive only within certain limits, which in most districts have already been reached, and their entire proceeds are absorbed by expenditure on education, medical aid, and general administrative purposes.

3. In times now past the land-owners of all grades were active in increasing the supply of drinking water, and to them the country owes a large proportion of the tanks and wells that exist. But the religious sentiment which inspired these works is believed to be weaker than it was; the forced labour by which many of them were executed can no longer be had; more ostentatious forms of benevolence have come into fashion, which compete seriously with local works of charity; and of late the doctrine has been more or less explicitly put forward that the imposition of the Road Cess has relieved the zamindars of their moral and religious obligations in respect of water-supply. This doctrine, though unfounded as regards the original object of the cess—for Bengal Act X of 1871 makes no mention of water-supply, which appears for the first time in Act IX of 1880—will probably in the long run gain ground; and as it spreads, the digging of tanks and wells by private landlords for the use of the public will tend to decline. A few of the great landholders may be expected, in the hope of official recognition, to contribute to the cost of municipal water works; but as a rule hardly any of them will interest themselves in the small and relatively inconspicuous works which rural tracts require. These will be left to the systematised efforts of District and Local Boards and Union Committees, or of Government acting as zamindar in its own estates; while the aid derived from the landlords as a class will be comparatively scanty and occasional.

4. The digging of tanks and wells from loans under the Land Improvement Act was referred to, in my Circular of the 2nd April 1896, as a possible means of adding to a rural water-supply; but such works are really made of private expenditure undertaken by people for the improvement of their own property, and only incidentally benefiting the community. An exceptionally dry season like the present no doubt tends to encourage expenditure of this kind; but it will be seen from the correspondence on the subject that applications for loans have not been specially numerous, and it is clear that whatever help may be derived from this source will be on a small scale and cannot be taken into account in attempting to estimate the funds available for the purpose of providing mufassal villages with a pure water-supply.

5. Under section 118 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, a Union Committee may cleanse or repair any public tank, stream, well or drain within the Union, and may charge the cost, up to a limit of Rs. 100, to the Union Fund, or, if the Fund be not sufficient, may levy the cost from the residents of the Union as if it were chaukidari tax. In paragraph 4 of the Resolution of this Government, dated 1st September 1894, on the formation of Union Committees, it was observed that "this useful provision will make it possible to procure funds for what has long been felt to be one of the most crying wants of rural Bengal—a pure water-supply for the villages in the interior, which cannot be provided with it under the municipal law." It seems, however, to have escaped notice that the powers of the Committee are restricted to public tanks and wells, and of these there are so few in most ordinary villages that in its present form the section is, and must continue to be, practically inoperative.

6. There remains, as the most natural and legitimate source from which the District Boards might be expected to make provision for rural water-supply, the balance of the Road Cess levied

in the district after payment of the expenses of collection. The question of the proper application of the proceeds of the Road Cess has recently been brought prominently to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor, and has been dealt with in the orders noted in the margin (Letter No. 1284 L. S.-G., dated 30th March 1896, to the Commissioner of Orissa), in which special reference has been made to the necessity of improving the supply of drinking water. These orders, however, though they will prevent the diversion of Road Cess Funds to general purposes, such as education or medical administration, will go but a small way towards providing the Boards with the large sums necessary to enable them to cope with the problem of water-supply. Nothing can be more certain than that the income which District Boards derive from the Road Cess, so far from having a surplus for other objects, is really insufficient for the purposes for which the cess was originally levied:—that is to say, as is recited in the preamble to Bengal Act X of 1871, “for the construction and maintenance of roads and other means of communication.” It is possible that the pressure on the District Fund might be relieved to some extent by reducing the mileage of metalled roads; but it is doubtful whether this policy, however rigorously carried out, would enable the Boards to divert an appreciable proportion of their cess income to the purpose of water-supply; while on the other hand it must be remembered that the progressive extension of railways in Bengal requires to be met by a corresponding development of feeder roads, which must be metalled, and which often follow entirely new lines not conforming to the existing system.

7. After fully considering all that has been written on this branch of the subject, the Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied that whatever may be done to reduce the present outlay on roads and bridges, the balance of Cess Funds available for the other purposes specified in section 109 of Bengal Act IX of 1880 must in the most favourable event be too small to enable District Boards within any measurable time to make adequate provision for the water-supply of the villages in the interior. Some relief might perhaps be given to the Boards from Provincial revenues by revising the conditions under which certain Provincial roads were transferred to local management under the Bengal Acts X of 1871 and IX of 1880. It has been alleged, in the course of debates in the Legislative Council, that such transfers have been unfairly made so as to throw on local funds the burden of maintaining roads which should form a Provincial charge, and the subject is now under inquiry. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, however, it is unlikely that this inquiry will result in any material increase of the available income of the Boards.

8. A larger proposal, involving a substantial sacrifice of Provincial income, is to make over to District Boards all ferry receipts except those already reserved to Municipalities. This was considered in 1890 by Sir Stuart Bayley, who admitted the justice of the proposal, but was compelled to reject it by financial considerations. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees in thinking that ferry receipts, being derived from local taxation, should at any rate in theory be devoted to local purposes, and more especially to the construction and repair of roads and bridges. This was clearly the intention of the third clause of section 7 of Regulation VI of 1819, and the case is even stronger now, as most of the ferries of which the tolls are credited to Provincial revenues are situated on roads maintained by District Boards. The condition of the Provincial finances is at present favourable enough to render this concession feasible, and the Lieutenant-Governor will be prepared to make it if effect is given to the other proposals put forward in this letter.

9. While thus expressing his readiness to surrender to District Boards the ferry receipts now credited to Provincial Revenues, the Lieutenant-Governor deems it necessary to declare in the clearest and most positive language that no further alienation of these revenues for local objects, and no material increase of the large grant already made to District Boards, can in future be looked for. The recent debate (Proceedings of the Bengal Council, 4th April 1896) on the Bengal Financial Statement for 1896-97 not only brings out very clearly that the demands on Provincial revenues for ordinary administrative purposes tend to increase very rapidly, but also indicates the possibility of pressure being brought to bear upon the Government to surrender productive sources of income in deference to supposed principles. At the present time the Bengal Government is being urged to add to the number of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges, to build new courts and improve existing ones, to provide residences for Munsifs in the mofassal, to reconstruct portions of two of the great hospitals in Calcutta, and to incur large expenditure on buildings and appliances required for the extension of medical and technical education. Under the head of Civil Buildings alone the expenditure provided in the current year's budget for original works amounts to Rs. 22,14,700. In addition to this an elaborate scheme of roads to serve as feeders to railways is under consideration, and large sums are about to be spent on improving communications in the tea-growing areas of the Western Duars. These charges, it may be said, are not recurring, though they necessarily

involve a substantial addition to the constant expenditure on repairs; but in fact the works which are mentioned represent only a selection from among a number of projects, all of which deserve consideration, and to which new schemes are constantly being added. On another side, again, a demand is being put forward for a general increase in the salaries of ministerial officers, on the ground that the prices of food-grains have risen since these salaries were fixed. It will be seen from the remarks on this subject at pages 185 to 182 of the Council Proceedings already referred to, that an increase of 12½ per cent., or two annas in the rupee, which is a mere fraction of the increase suggested by the Salaries Commission of 1884, would involve an addition to the Provincial expenditure of Rs. 3,68,292 a year. In the same debate reference was made to the alleged obligations of the Government to reduce the fees charged on the institution of suits in the Calcutta Small Cause Court, the growth of the excise revenue was unfavourably criticised, and it was suggested that the rates of process fees in all classes of courts were too high. The last point has formed the subject of correspondence with the Government of India, and it has been estimated that if these fees were fixed so as merely to cover the cost of the establishments actually employed, the loss to Provincial revenues would be about four and a half lakhs. In the face of these possibilities of permanently increased expenditure on the one hand, and of a permanent reduction of income on the other hand, the Lieutenant-Governor feels bound to make it perfectly clear that, over and above the surrender of the ferry receipts, no further liability can be imposed on Provincial revenues in respect of rural water-supply.

10. Existing resources being thus shown to be inadequate, it is clear that other and more productive means of raising funds must be looked for if any real progress is to be made towards the solution of the difficulty of rural water-supply. The Lieutenant-Governor has accordingly been led to consider the comprehensive scheme of local taxation which was drawn up under Sir Stuart Bayley's orders, and was laid before the Government of India early in 1890. On that scheme no action was taken, as the Government of India agreed with the late Lieutenant-Governor in thinking that it was not then advisable to undertake legislation for the purpose of imposing fresh taxation in Bengal. Since April 1891, when this decision was arrived at, circumstances have materially changed. During the last five years a great deal has been done in the municipal towns of this Province to promote sanitation and to improve the water-supply, and it is believed that the upper and middle classes of Native society in Bengal now realise in a way they never did before the great benefits derived from the use of pure drinking water, and the paramount necessity of providing the inhabitants of rural villages with some effective means of raising funds for the purpose of improving the village water-supply. The prevalent feeling of alarm occasioned by the recent scarcity of water, and the serious danger which this indicates in the future, are forcibly expressed by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, C.I.E., in a recently published review of a paper on “Water and Health,” which has appeared in an American Magazine:—

“The present water famine has not come upon us as a surprise. We were receiving warnings regarding it for some time past when the rainfall was becoming less and less from year to year, and our tanks and other reservoirs of water were, in consequence, drying up and threatened with complete exhaustion. We heeded not these warnings. We have not excavated new tanks, we have not even deepened by re-excavation old ones, for the storage of whatever rain water we were having. The threatened exhaustion of the chief sources of the water-supply of the villages and most of the towns of Bengal, as an inevitable result, has come; and unless prompt measures are taken, it will be impossible to avert the consequences of a water famine, which are far speedier and far more frightful than those of food-famine. Already cholera, the offspring of dirty and polluted drinking water, is raging with epidemic virulence, and if the present state of things is allowed to continue, the mortality from this disease alone will be something which it is appalling to contemplate.”

11. The suggestions for legislation put forward in 1890 may be summed up as follows:—

I. (a) That a local general rate or cess be imposed on land in the same manner as is now done in the case of the Road Cess, the amount of the general cess not to exceed one pie in the rupee on the annual value of land, and not to be less than one-third of a pie, or one pie, in the rupee on such value.

Provided that the general cess shall not be levied within the area of those Unions in which a system of local rating has been imposed on Union Committees.

(b) That the proceeds of the local general rate or cess shall be devoted to general purposes, and especially to the furtherance of sanitation and of primary education.

Provided that the Lieutenant-Governor shall have power to direct, in regard to any district, that the whole of the proceeds of the local general cess at its minimum rate of one pie in the rupee, or such proportion as may be determined of this minimum



and not exceeding it, shall be devoted to the furtherance of primary education only.

(c) That, subject to the maximum and minimum as aforesaid, the rate of the local general cess be fixed by the District Boards.

(d) That the proceeds of the local general cess in regard to sanitation and primary education be, so far as possible, expended locally.

II. That it should be declared that the balance of the District Road Fund under the Cess Act, IX (B.C.) of 1880, shall be applied to the objects specified in section 109 of that Act, and to no other.

III. That a permissive power, subject to the approval of Government in each case, should be granted to District Boards, on the establishment of Union Committees, to authorize these Committees to assess and collect a local rate upon the residents within the Union according to their circumstances and property, the amount to be recovered by this rate being fixed by District Boards with the sanction of Government; and that the whole of the proceeds of this rate, after deducting five per cent. for supervision and inspection, should be spent within the Union by the Union Committees, under the control of the Local Boards, in the furtherance of sanitation and of primary education.

Provided that the Lieutenant-Governor shall have power to direct that, in regard to any Union, such proportion of the local rate as he may determine shall be devoted to the furtherance of primary education only.

IV. That District Boards should be allowed in their own right to establish toll-bars on bridges constructed by them until the cost of the bridge, including the capital and interest expended thereon, as well as the cost of maintenance and of renewal if necessary, has been recovered.

12. It will be seen that the chief feature of the scheme was the imposition of a local general cess on land, to be assessed and collected like the Road Cess, the proceeds being devoted to general purposes, and especially to the furtherance of sanitation and of primary education. This portion of Sir Stuart Bayley's proposals the Lieutenant-Governor would now propose definitely to abandon, not only on the ground of the widespread opposition which it would evoke, but also because it appears to him inequitable to lay any further burden exclusively upon the proprietors of the land in Bengal for the purpose of meeting expenditure upon local, as distinguished from Provincial or Imperial purposes, which he hopes to be able to provide for by other and less unpopular means. A further objection, to which the Lieutenant-Governor attaches considerable weight, is that the incidence of the cess, if imposed in the manner suggested in 1890, would necessarily be unequal. It was intended that the cess should not be levied in localities where Union Committees are organised and local rates imposed. It seems to have escaped notice that this system would not merely cause great discontent, but would give rise to intolerable complications in the assessment and collection of the cess. If such a cess is to be imposed at all, it must be universal; it cannot be partial and fluctuating. And if universal, its introduction would of necessity defer indefinitely the introduction of the more promising and equitable scheme of permissive local rating.

13. A second suggestion was to declare by law that the balance of the District Road Fund under the Bengal Cess Act IX of 1880, shall be applied to the objects specified in section 109 of that Act, and to no other. This also the Lieutenant-Governor is unable to accept, for the following reasons. In the first place the object in view has been already attained by the orders contained in my letter to the Commissioner of Orissa referred to in paragraph 6 above, which has been circulated to all Commissioners of Divisions in which the Bengal Local Self-Government Act is in force. Those orders are in effect a direction to the Commissioner as to the manner in which he should exercise the powers of control over the District Board budgets, conferred upon him by section 48 of the Act; and in this way they rest upon a strictly legal basis. Secondly, a formal alteration of the law in the manner suggested in the memorandum would entail the keeping of a separate account for Road Cess receipts, a procedure which would cause considerable inconvenience, and would in practice lead to complicated adjustments and tend to restrict the employment of the District Engineer and his subordinates by the Boards on general administrative purposes. Thirdly, the proposed change would conflict with the principle laid down in 1890, that in time of serious scarcity it is the duty of the Boards to direct their whole resources, subject only to the maintenance of absolutely necessary works in non-affected tracts, to affording relief. It would absolutely debar the District Boards from spending any portion of their income from Road Cess on the purposes set forth in clauses (2) and (3) of section 99 of the Local Self-Government Act, and it would be capable of being construed as equally precluding expenditure on roads, tanks and similar public works started merely for the relief of distress. It may be added that the liability thus imposed upon the Provincial Government by the Government of India, and as such is a matter of Imperial concern.

14. A third proposal put forward in 1890 was to introduce a system of permissive local rating by Union Committees for the furtherance of sanitation and primary education within the limits of the Union. Sir Stuart Bayley then expressed a decided opinion that it was only by such a scheme that real Local Self-Government could eventually be established in Bengal; that if tried in selected districts its success would justify its extension; and that in course of time local rating would spread to considerable tracts of country and in the end obviate the necessity of imposing a general cess on land. He proposed, however, that in the first instance the two systems should work side by side, but that the general cess should not be levied where local rating was in force.

15. It seems to Sir Alexander Mackenzie that the weak point of the entire scheme of 1890 was the attempt to introduce at the same time and for the same purposes two distinct methods of taxation, one of which was intended gradually to displace the other. If the outcry that would be caused by imposing a general cess is to be incurred at all, it should surely be incurred on adequate grounds and for a substantial return in the form of a permanent increase of the incomes of the District Boards; not for a tax the proceeds of which would in the nature of things tend to diminish and eventually to disappear altogether, and which would in any case provoke criticism by its uneven incidence as between localities where Union Committees have been introduced and those where they have not. Moreover, as the extension of local rating was made dependent upon the initiative of District Boards, and every such extension would necessarily have reduced the yield of the general cess administered by them, it seems doubtful whether any real progress would ever have been made in the organization of Union Committees equipped with powers of taxation.

(To be continued.)

### HAPPIEST OF ALL.

THERE is no time in the twenty-four hours when one ought to feel so thoroughly satisfied and content as immediately after a good, hearty meal. And all healthy persons do feel so. The body's demands have been met, and we are easy and comfortable, as though we had paid off an old dun and had money left. We are accessible, humane, and good natured. Then, if ever we will grant a request without grumbling. "True benevolence," says a crusty old friend of mine, "is located in a capable stomach recently filled."

Yes, but what of the incapable stomachs, of which there are so many?—stomachs that disappoint and plague their owners, till the act of feeding, so delightful to others, becomes an act to avoid the necessity of which they are almost willing to die? Ah, that is quite another thing. These poor souls are they who say, as Miss Wallace says in this letter of hers, "I was no longer to be counted among those who have pleasure in eating. Far from it. As for me I was afraid to eat. I felt the need of food, of course—the weakness and sinking that accompanied abstinence—but what was I to do? The moment I ate, my distress and pain commenced. No matter how light the repast was, nor how careful I was not to hurry in taking it, the result was the same. The distress and gnawing pains followed, with discomfort in the chest, and a sense of choking, as if some bits of food had lodged there and were irritating me."

"So objectionable and repugnant to me was the act of eating that for days together I didn't touch a morsel of solid food, subsisting entirely on milk and soda water. Owing to this enforced lack of nourishment I got extremely weak, and about as thin as I could be. I must not forget to say that this happened to me, or rather it began to happen in July, 1886, when I was living at Wellington, in Shropshire. It came on, as you may say, gradually and not with any sudden or acute symptoms. I found myself low, languid, and tired. Then came the failure of my appetite and the other things I have named."

"I took the usual medicines for indigestion, but they had no good effect. After six months' experience of this kind of misery I read in a book about Mother Seigel's Syrup as a remedy for this disease, and got a bottle from Mr. Bates the chemist, in Wellington. Having used it a few days I felt great relief, and when I had consumed two bottles I was entirely well. Since then I have heartily commended Mother Seigel's Syrup to many friends, who have invariably been cured, as I was. You have my permission to publish my letter, if you desire to do so. (Signed) Minnie Wallace, Nurse, The Union Workhouse, Oldham, February 22nd, 1895."

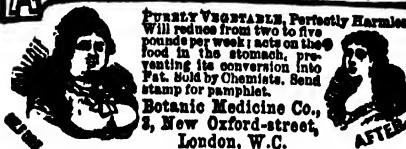
In a communication dated January 8th, 1895, Mrs. Henrietta MacCallam, of 40, Downsfield Road, Walthamstow, near London, states that her daughter Emma fell ill in the spring of 1886 with the same symptoms described by Miss Wallace. She craved food, yet, when it was placed before her, she turned from it almost with loathing. "As time went on," so runs the mother's letter, "my daughter became so weak she could hardly walk. Neither home medicines nor those of the doctors did any good. Her sufferings continued for over eight years."

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Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer,  
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very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft,  
K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,  
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It is not that amid the pressure of harassing  
official duties an English Civilian can find  
either time or opportunity to pay so graceful  
a tribute to the memory of a native personality  
as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of  
the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the  
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Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many  
who are more worthy of being thus honoured  
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We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr.  
Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with  
all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with  
lessons for those who desire to know the real  
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No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not  
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It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist  
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1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a  
profound student and an accomplished writer,  
who has left his mark on Indian journalism.  
In that he has found a Civilian like Mr.  
Skrine to record the story of his life he is  
more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal  
himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2,  
1895.

For much of the biographical matter that  
issues so freely from the press an apology is  
needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee,  
the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an  
explanation would have been looked for. A man  
of his remarkable personality, who was easily  
first among native Indian journalists, and in  
many respects occupied a higher plane than  
they did, and looked at public affairs from a  
different point of view from theirs, could not  
be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that was nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading. —*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness. —*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed. —*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

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complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, and some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality. —*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

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WHOLE NO. 228.

## AN OLD BALLAD.

WOMEN are best when they are at rest,  
But when is that, I praye?  
By their good-will they are never still,  
By night, and eke by daie.

If the weather is bad, all daye they gad,  
They heede not winde or raine;  
And all their gay geare they raine, or neare,  
For why, they not refraie.

Then must they chat of this and that,  
Their tongues alsoe must walke;  
Wheresoever they goe they alway do soe,  
And of their bad husbaundes talke.

When cometh the night, it is never right,  
But ever somewhat wronge;  
If husbaundes be wearie, they are so mery,  
They never cease one song.

Then can they chide, while at their side  
Their husbaundes stive to sleepe;  
"Why, how you snore I gae lye on the floure,"—  
Such is the coile they keepe.

So women are best when they are at rest,  
If you can catch them still;  
Couse them, they chide, and are worse, I have tried,  
If you grant them their will.

Give them their way, they still say nay,  
And change their minde with a trice.  
Let them alone, or you will owne  
That mine was good advice.

## WEEKLYANA.

VESUVIUS is again throwing up liquid lava from many little outlets in the crater opened in July last.

THE young Duchess of Marlborough (a Vanderbilt) has a small menagerie at Blenheim, where two ostriches, several eagles and vultures, and an ibis are housed. Among her curious collection is a garter snake, purchased on the banks of the Nile. A Nubian boy in native costume is one of her honeymoon souvenirs.

LORD Rosebery's attention being drawn to certain statements made by Mr. Chamberlain at the Constitutional Club, he wrote to one of his correspondents:—

"38, Berkeley Square, W., 24th April, 1896. Sir,—The language and tone on which your remark would indeed be noteworthy if they proceeded from any one but Mr. Chamberlain. Coming from him, however, they need excite neither comment nor surprise."

OUT of a total of 28 600 students in the German Universities, 2 287 are foreigners. They are chiefly found in Berlin, Leipsic, and Munich.

ON the walls of the Dover Castle, an ancient gun of unusual size pointing towards France has the following inscription:

Sponge me well and keep me clean;

I'll throw a shot to Calais Green.

Calais is 21 miles distant from the castle. The ordinary modern guns cannot throw their contents so far but can take shells to the sea close to Calais.

A species of Krupp with an elevation of forty-five degrees can vomit a shot weighing nearly one-fourth of a ton to a distance of 12-42/100 miles.

In 1888, the year of the Queen's Jubilee, a smaller gun than Krupp named "Jubilee Round," with 9 2 inch ribs of the wire-wrapped type, with an elevation of 45 degrees, sent a shot weighing 380 pounds to a distance of 12 1/4 miles, at the rate of 2,360 feet per second.

The Elswick Works, of Newcastle, England, have turned a hooped quick-fire 6 inch gun. Firing 19 1/2 pounds of cordite it could send a shot 4,928 feet per second or to more than double the distance done by the "Jubilee Round."

THE earth, like the sea, has its gems. Like the caves of the ocean, the mines in land are no less rich, with hollows of real gems. Burma after its annexation has assumed an additional importance, as the land of gems. When the Burma Ruby Mines Co. Ltd., was organized in London, shares were sold at three times their paper value, though now it is less by twenty per cent. The rubies are found associated with ruby-red spinel, occurring in a layer of sand and gravel in the valley bottoms and also in the beds of granular lime stones. The lime-stone is the original matrix of the ruby.

In Siam, close to Bangkok, rubies, sapphires, etc., are found in a layer of soft yellowish sand at a depth of from few inches to twenty feet.

The rocks in Macon county, North Carolina, yield crystals of ruby. They are flat, hexagonal, and tabular, and equal in size to the medium rubies of Burma.

Sapphire is generally intermixed with ruby in Ceylon, Burma, Siam, the Himalayas, but rarely in the Ural mountains and the United States. Ceylon abounds in ruby, sapphire, spinel, alexandrite, cat's eye, and other gems as also rolled pebbles in gravel in or near old river beds. Ratnapura, at the foot of Adam's Peak, about 6,000 ft. high, is a great mining centre.

Nearly all fine sapphires of the last fifteen years are from the Zaskar range, in the Himalayas, close to the line of perpetual snow. They were discovered accidentally after a land-slip in 1882.

**DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED!** Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Along the eastern flank of the Appalachian mountains in America, you will find corundum. At Franklin, Macon county, sapphires, associated with corundum and blue, purple and green stones, as well as rubies, were taken out of the crystalline rocks.

In Eldorado bar sapphire in plenty is found with other stones. Finest torques, richest in colour, have been discovered in a clayey state near Nishapur, Meshed, Persia. Mt. Sinai has yielded them as also New South Wales, in Australia, though their yield is of inferior quality.

Turquoise is also found in Santa Fé, the Buno Mountains, Grant County, all in New Mexico.

There are emerald mines near Muza, Colombia, America; Emaville mines in New South Wales, Australia; and Siberian side of the Ural mountains.

Topaz is found in Brazil, Ural, Siberia, Japan, Madagascar, New Zealand, Australia, the Strait Settlements, the United States (Texas and Colorado.)

THE *Manchester Times* writes:—

"Admirers of Byron has often wondered at the abrupt termination of his greatest work. The adventures of 'Don Juan,' it will be remembered, end in the midst of a most exciting incident with the revelation to the astonished hero of

The phantom of her frolic Grace—Fitz-Fulke.

Various explanations have been assigned for this unexpected close, but happily all prove to be apocryphal, for the two concluding cantos of 'Don Juan' are in existence, safe in the possession of the late Mr. John Murray's representatives. They will shortly be issued to the public in a complete edition of Byron's prose and poetic works, along with some hitherto unpublished poems."

At the meeting of the Mahomedan Literary Society of Calcutta, held on Sunday last, at 16, Taltolla, the residence of the Secretary, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, the Chairman, one of the Vice-Presidents and since President, Khan Bahadur Abdul Jubbar lamented in Urdu the death of Prince Sir Jehan Kadr Mirza to the following effect:

"Surely we are all to return to Him who brought us into existence. Nothing is so certain as death, yet no one thinks of it even when death stares him in the face. In fact, the charm of this life lies in the forgetfulness of death. Scarcely full three years have elapsed when we met in this very hall to lament the death of the founder of the Mahomedan Literary Society, Nawab Abdool Lutef Bahadur, C.I.E., and at that meeting the very nobleman whose irreparable loss we are called together to-day to bemoan, presided. It was then little known that within so short a space of time we would have to record the sad untimely end of our President, Prince Sir Jehan Kadr Mirza Wahed Ali Bahadur. I must tell you that a meeting of this kind confers no spiritual benefit on the soul of a deceased person, but of late it has been the fashion even among the Mahomedans to hold meetings in memory of their public men. That the late Prince was a worthy leader of the Mahomedan community of Bengal nobody can deny, and a public manifestation of grief by all sections of the community at his death is due to his merits. Of his personal qualities I need not say much. Every one present here is perfectly conversant with his sincerity, frankness and genial temper. We respected him not because he was a Prince, the nobleness of his heart endeared him to all. He had a good word for every one and his loss is keenly felt throughout the length and breadth of this country. By his untimely and sudden death, the Mahomedan Literary Society has been deprived of its President and the Mahomedan community of its sincere well-wisher. There was scarcely a gathering in Calcutta, social or political, in which he did not take a prominent part and which did not borrow lustre from his presence. He belonged to the old school and took particular care not to hurt the feelings of his co-religionists by any act or word inconsistent with the Faith of Islam. Personally, I have lost a great and kind friend, but my consolation is that he has gone to a better world. Now I conclude with a prayer that his soul may find peace in heaven and that his two daughters may enjoy long life and prosperity and be enabled to maintain the good name of their illustrious family."

After lamentations for the deceased President, on the motion of Khan Bahadur Fazl Rubbi, Dewan of the Nawab Bahadur of Moorshedabad, the meeting unanimously elected Khan Bahadur Abdul Jubbar President of the Society. Shams-ul-Ulama Sheikh Mahmood Gilani, the high priest of the Shia community of Calcutta, in a long speech, supported the appointment saying that Moulvi Abdul Jubbar was looked upon as a leader of the Mahomedan community. The great esteem in which he was held by both the Shia and Sunni sects was a guarantee of able discharge of his new duties. Mr. Hashim Bhai Visram, of Bombay, bore another testimony from another quarter to the worth of the new President. He said Moulvi Abdul Jubbar was well-known to the Mahomedan community of the Western Presidency. They knew him in Bombay as a most learned, honourable and pious man and his appointment as the head of the leading Mahomedan Society of Bengal was sure to be received with genuine pleasure.

It was announced at the meeting that, being requested by Government to choose a representative for the Indian section of the governing body of the Imperial Institute for the years 1899, 1902, 1906 and 1909, the committee of management, had elected Sir Charles Elliott, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and Sir Andrew Scoble, M.P., the late Law Member, that is, such one of the two as might be residing in England, to represent the Mahomedan community of Bengal.

Now that cholera is on the wane in Calcutta, the Municipal Commissioners are enquiring into the epidemic. Following the judicial doctrine of *sub judice*, they are for allowing an epidemic to run its own course. At Thursday's meeting, Dr. Jogendra Nath Ghose put the following questions:—

"(a) During severe cholera epidemic is it not a fact that upwards of 90 per cent. of the people living in the midst of the disease, exhibit a natural immunity? (b) Does the anti-choleraic inoculation afford absolute protection, and if so, for how long? (c) If (as stated in question 1) upwards of 90 per cent. of the population are immune, what inference can be drawn from the results of anti-choleraic inoculation as now practised? (d) Has any person been attacked with cholera subsequent to undergoing the complete process of inoculation? (e) Is it not a fact that many persons, who submitted to one inoculation, refused to allow the second dose to be given owing to the pain and distress they suffered? (f) Does one inoculation afford any protection? Why are two inoculations necessary? (g) Is it not a fact that *comma bacilli* are more abundant during the end of an epidemic when the disease is becoming milder and the attacks fewer than during the height of the epidemic?"

The Health Officer through the Chairman replied:

(1) It is not clear what is meant by 'natural' immunity but in the severest epidemics, whether of cholera or Chinese plague or any other disease, there is a large proportion of the people who escape; and 90 per cent. may be admitted as a proper figure to indicate the unaffected for an epidemic occurring in a large population. (2) No, no more than any other treatment of disease known in preventive or curative medicine, but from the observations we have up to date it appears that the anti-choleraic inoculation produces a great reduction in mortality in cholera-stricken population for at least a year after the first four days of inoculation. As regards the duration beyond a year of the effect of the inoculation, as now practised, we have not as yet any facts to decide the question, as the treatment by increased doses of stronger vaccines was not introduced till the close of 1894 after the observations made in the case of the East Lancashire Regiment at Lucknow, and as in the observations made up to date in Calcutta the people referred to were inoculated either before the Lucknow experience or were only treated with the first weak anti-cholera vaccine. (3) The result of anti-choleraic inoculation is established not by a comparison of the inoculated with the bulk of the population of which many escape, but by observations on those of the inoculated who belong to cholera-stricken families, households or isolated bodies of population. In the note submitted to the Chairman on the 6th ultimo, I have shown the results of such observations made in the East Lancashire Regiment, in the jail in Gaya, in the Cachar tea estates, on a batch of Khassia coolies encamped near Mugherita and in the jail in Durbhanga. In Calcutta the comparison between the inoculated and the uninoculated is made exclusively in members of the same household affected with cholera, a part of whom have been inoculated, while the rest have remained uninoculated. (4) Yes. In Calcutta, all those who have succumbed after inoculation except one were inoculated only once with the first weak vaccine; at other places, there were instances of failure even after two inoculations, but chiefly among people inoculated with weak doses of relatively weak vaccines. (5) The anti-choleraic inoculation usually gives an attack of fever with local pains which requires rest for 24 to 36 hours; and on this account the poor classes among whom the inoculations are mostly done find it difficult to undergo the treatment twice. Owing to this circumstance the treatment has now been modified, the 2nd vaccine in slightly reduced doses being now alone given without the previous injection of the 1st vaccine. (6) From the results hitherto observed it appears that even one inoculation affords a high degree of protection. Two inoculations (and specially that with the 2nd vaccine) are employed in order to produce a higher degree of immunity and to lengthen the duration of the effect of the treatment. (7) No. The *comma bacilli* are invariably present in all cases of cholera, the very small proportion of negative results (about one per cent.) in this direction being within the limits of errors of observation. The presence or absence of *comma bacilli* in nature (in water, etc.) has been found by repeated observations in Calcutta to correspond precisely to the prevalence or absence of cholera in a locality."

The reply seems to say—Haffkinism is a sure preventive of, if not a cure for, cholera, and, following the directions on many patent medicines, advises the repetition of the dose, till the epidemic dies off—or kills you.

STATISTICS have been ridden to the despair of the d—. A statistician has counted the hairs in a human body. He is more terrible than the gentleman who finds work for idle hands, but who, it is said, grew tired of a task in connection with a certain hairy growth.



IN May, 21,211 persons visited the Indian Museum, namely, 261 male and 88 female Europeans, and 16,787 male and 4,075 female natives of India. The daily average during the 12 public days was 1,764.

# NOTES & LEADERETTES,

## OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Czar's Coronation has been marred not by any Socialist violent demonstration but by a terrible catastrophe. At Moscow, on May 30, at the people's feast on Khodyn's Koje plain, the impatience of the crowd of several hundred thousands of people to reach the sheds, where food was being distributed, caused a terrific crush, in which 2,700 people were trampled to death. In the absence of any police arrangements, the people fell pell mell in the great hollows in the vicinity of booths, wherein tables were spread with food and presents.

The same night, the Czar attended the French Ball and danced with the Countess of Montebello, the wife of the French Ambassador.

THE French Cabinet have decided to introduce a Bill in the Chamber of Deputies declaring Madagascar a French Colony, and so enable France to cancel all previous treaties between Madagascar and Foreign Powers.

Advices from Madagascar state that fifteen hundred insurgents have burnt the village where the Norwegian Mission was situated. A body of French troops have relieved the Missioners and killed two hundred of their aggressors.

THE Reform prisoners at Pretoria have all been released with the exception of the four leaders, and two who have not petitioned. The fines are maintained, but the sentences of banishment are suspended on condition that the prisoners undertake to abstain from politics. The released prisoners waited on President Kruger to thank him for his clemency. The release has caused general joy throughout South Africa, and a sharp recovery in South Africa stocks has taken place in London.

The first fort in the hills to the southward of Pretoria is being built rapidly by a German engineer.

THE Turkish reinforcements have arrived in Crete, and the Turkish garrison at Vainos has been relieved. Thirty-five battalions of Turkish regular troops have also been ordered to Crete. Many of the insurgents there have retreated to the mountains, and proclaimed the union of Crete with Greece. Russia has informed the Porte that the massacres of Christians in Crete will lead to grave results for Turkey. Led by Russia, the Powers have jointly cautioned the Porte, Russia being especially emphatic. A telegram has been received at Athens from Crete stating that the insurgents have cut to pieces eighty-five Turks who were bringing material from Vainos.

THE Italian Chamber of Deputies have rejected by three votes only the motion of censure on the Marquis of Rudini in connection with the funds of the Interior, nevertheless the Cabinet disregard the narrow majority. The Chamber have authorised the trial of General Baratieri.

LORD Wolseley and the head-quarters staff, all in full uniform, besides the diplomatic body and military attachés, visited the military tournament at Islington. The men representing the Indian and Colonial forces were most warmly popular. The great feature of the show was the pageant called the "Sons of the Empire."

THE *Times* again urges the injustice of charging the Indian Exchequer with the regular pay of the Indian contingent sent to Suakin. In the House of Commons, on June 2, Mr. Balfour announced that a telegram had just been received from the Government of India

asking that no final decision be taken until Her Majesty's Government had heard the views of the Indian Government. Mr. Balfour said that the discussion on Lord George Hamilton's resolution would, therefore, be postponed.

THE judgment of the Egyptian mixed tribunal regarding the appropriation of the reserve fund for the Nile expedition has been deferred until the 8th instant.

Mr. Curzon, replying to Mr. Morley in the House of Commons, said there had been no negotiations with Germany regarding recent events in the Soudan. Communications, he said, had passed between the British Government and Italy, but they were solely of a military nature, and therefore it was impossible to publish them.

General Kitchener has left Wady Halfa for Akashah, where the headquarters of the expedition are now fixed.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes has arrived at Bulawayo. Colonel Carrington, who is now at Bulawayo, intends sending three columns to attack the Matabele in the Matoppos hills.

A RIOT has taken place among the students at the Elashar Mosque at Cairo, where a case of cholera had occurred. The officials on seeking to enforce sanitary measures were resisted, and the police, who came to their aid, were stoned, and the Governor was wounded. The police then opened fire and killed three of the students. One hundred arrests were made, and order was eventually restored. 60 Syrian students have since been banished.

IT is believed in New York that the silverites have a majority in the Democratic Convention at Chicago, and possibly also in the Republic Convention at Saint Louis.

CHOLERA is now decreasing both in Cairo and in Alexandria. The Pasteur Institute is sending a mission to Cairo to test anti-cholera serum.

REUTER'S correspondent at Brass telegraphs that the French expedition to the Niger has been totally routed at Borgu, and many have been killed. The remnant of the expedition reached Kiama on the 12th of May. The Niger Company is sending assistance.

TWO German warships at Shanghai have proceeded to Nanking owing to the maltreatment of the German officers stationed there, who are teaching the Chinese their drill.

THE Budget of the Cape Colony shows a surplus of one and-a-quarter million sterling, which is unprecedented. The Premier in his speech mainly attributed the prosperity of the Cape to its remaining a part of the British Empire.

REFERRING our article on Jemaluddin (*R. & R.*, May 23.) a correspondent says that Abdu wrote a short sketch of the Moulvi's life, and then continues:

"To my knowledge he was not a Shia but a Syed of Koz. His father's name was Feroze, who was Vizier to the Amir Mahomed Azam Khan of Cabool. When he was defeated, Feroze wandered in several places in great distress. Jemaluddin's father's native tongue was Persian and his mother was an Arab woman. He learnt Persian from his father and Arabic from his mother. Jemaluddin was a young man when his father fell into difficulties, and I believe went over to Egypt with his son."

A REPORT reaches us that on Sunday, May 31, at 9 in the morning, in the tract from Jehanabad to Jharcorda, in the Hooghly district, a hot wind passed over this length of 20 miles from the south accompanied with drops of rain scalding men and animals. What is the official report? What the scientific explanation?

THERE is a simultaneous call from the Inspector-General of Registration, Bengal, on behalf of the Local Government, for the second and third free copies of "An Indian Journalist" by F. H. Skrine, I.C.S. Under the old law, the printer was bound to supply within one month.

of the publication, three copies of every book printed by him to Government which would pay for them. The amended law frees the printer from the obligation of supplying three copies all at once. He has now to furnish the first copy as soon as out, and the second and third copies whenever called upon within one calendar year. But there is no payment for any of the copies. In the present instance, the Bengal Government has been liberal enough. It has purchased three additional copies.

IN connection with our article on Municipal Election Scandals (*R.S. R.*, May 30), we are informed that the Maharaja of Krishnagpur was as innocent as the Rajshahi Raja, if not worse. After the Maharaja had severed his connection with the Krishnagpur Municipality, he wanted to have in his place a thatcher to represent him and a ward of the town. He had made all necessary preparations to have the low man returned. The matter getting abroad, the Commissioners took early steps to prevent the scandal. Government being appealed to, the magistrate was instructed to dissuade the thatcher, and the vengeful action of the Maharaja was nipped in the bud.

Thus we find Government is not so powerless as the Act would seem to make it. At Ranaghat, in the Nadia district, it has sent to coventry a truly good and desirable member of society. Baboo Jogesh Chunder Pal Chowdry, the head, since the death of Baboo Surendra Nath (Baboo Nogensdra Nath being in Government service), of the famous Pal Chowdries of Ranaghat, was made to resign the Honorary Magistrateship of the town and his election as Chairman of the Ranaghat municipality was not sanctioned, because of a murder in his zemindary, which the Courts believed he had it in his power to prevent. He had no hand in the murder. He had no hand in the management of the affairs of his family which had been entrusted to a manager. But the murder having been committed in the family property, every adult male member of the family, the manager and other servants were hauled up, convicted and heavily fined, under a preventive section of the Penal Code. For that stain of conviction under a criminal law, for an act of omission, Babu Jogesh Chunder Pal Chowdry, after being doubly punished, has been kept out of all honorary public offices for six years. The rustication ordered in 1891 threatens to be perpetual.

He was, as we have said, elected Chairman of the Municipality in 1891. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division, with full knowledge of the resignation of the Baboo as Honorary Magistrate, did not view with any alarm that election. He evidently believed that the Baboo was more sinned against than sinning, and thought that when the Municipal Commissioners, who represented the town and were supposed to echo the voice of the people, had found no fault with him, he had better be restored to Government confidence. But the then puritanical ruler of these Provinces, a zealous guardian of morality, private and public, refused his sanction.

The Magistrate of the District, while submitting to the order of Government, was free to express that if it was too early then to take back Baboo Jogesh Chunder, his representation for return to confidence might be considered a year after if he still wished to re-enter public service.

Modest and unambitious, finding no sign of return of favour for six long years, Baboo Jogesh Chunder was being reconciled to his lot, when early in March last he had a cheerful vision. There being vacancies, the Sub-divisional Officer of Ranaghat asked the permission of the Baboo to nominate him as an Honorary Magistrate and a Municipal Commissioner. All Ranaghat was pleased that the mind of Government had changed, for the Baboo is held in high esteem and has always been believed by those who know him to be innocent of the offence of omission charged to him. The Baboo also thought that his rustication, supposed to be for 12 months only but continued for half as many years, had ended. All this, however, proved a delusion. He accepted both the offers. But he has been appointed neither the one nor the other. Why this fresh insult?

THE theatre of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science has been the scene of many interesting ceremonies. In April last, there was celebrated the 141st anniversary of Hahnemann's birth-day, and in the month following, on Monday last, the 54th anniversary of the death-day of David Hare. The subject of discourse on both the occasions was medical, and on both the occasions Dr. Mahendralal Sircar presided. At the Hahnemann celebration, held on April 19, Dr.

W. Yonnan read a paper on Influenza. Dr. Sircar, as president of the Hahnemann Society of Calcutta is for the 10th day of April as the birth-day of the Founder of Homœopathy as given by Hahnemann himself and not for the 11th as entered in the baptismal register of Meissen, the town in which he was born, on which day also his 100th birth-day was celebrated there and which day the American homœopaths prefer to the earlier one. In his concluding remarks Dr. Sircar repeated his advice of proving Indian drugs and re-proving old ones. He also impressed on his colleagues, from his experience of over thirty years, that homœopathic medicines were not the innocent things they are represented to be, doing good and no evil. His belief was that homœopathic medicines were as potent for evil when wrongly used, as they were potent for good when properly used. The so-called failures of homœopathy, he laid at the door of ignorance of this great fact.

The paper at the Hare celebration was on the Medical College of Calcutta, and read by Baboo Nilmoney Coomar. None of the morning papers has reproduced it. From the published reports of the meeting it appears that the occasion was marked by the opening of a fund to found a Hare professorship at the Science Association. The resolution, suggested by the lecture, for the Professorship by public subscriptions was proposed by Mr. Justice Gurudas Banerjee, who, to prove that he was in earnest, offered Rs. 1,000 as his contribution to the Fund. Dr. Sircar made a similar offer, while other offers came up to Rs. 300. In the course of his address, the Chairman lamented the absence of native professors other than Drs. Chuckerbutty and Chandra from the Medical College. It was, he said, due to no fault of the natives but to the short-sighted policy of Government in not appointing natives passed from that College as its professors. The meeting was one of the longest on record lasting for about 3 hours, though the attendance was not as could be wished.

THE following letter, received by Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra Nyayaratna from Professor E. B. Cowell, will be read with interest by many :—

"Cambridge, April 24, 1896.

My dear friend,—I enclose you a draft for fifty rupees and I send it to you because I felt sure that you would not mind the trouble of giving it to the Editor or Superintendent of the Mahabharata translation for use.

I am glad to be able to show my real feeling of sympathy in that meritorious work.

I am now reading over again the "Sankhya Tattva Kaumudi" in Tarkavachaspati's excellent edition. I was delighted to find out the explanation of a hard phrase which often occurs, as in p. 9, "sattvapurnusha" for "prakritipurnusha," in our old Sanskrit College text books: *Mûgla*, canto 4, 55; I came upon it quite accidentally, and it shone on me "pradipavat." I have not been quite well lately, but the weather is better, and I hope to be soon strong and well again. Mrs. Cowell is fairly well, I am glad to say. She sends her kind remembrances to you.

When I read Sanskrit philosophy, I seem to be back in Calcutta and to hear your voice as in 1864! It is like what our poet Wordsworth describes in one of his poems—a woman who was born among the mountains has long lived in London; and one day she hears a bird sing, and immediately, as by magic, all London vanishes and she seems to be walking alone as a girl in the mountain valley where she was brought up.

Good bye.—Yours affectionately, E. B. COWELL."

Pronounced meritorious by many scholars, the English translation of the Mahabharata has at last been completed. The last fasciculus, numbered the hundredth, has come out of the press. Poor Pratapa Chandra Roy is not alive to receive the congratulations of friends and the reading public in general. It is a melancholy pleasure to his widow who, for carrying out the last injunction of her husband, has devoted even her *stridhan* for completing the work which he had begun and nearly finished. We hope the debts incurred by her, amounting to about Rs. 10,000, will be paid off. There are two postscripts, one by the widow, and the other by the translator who appears in it *in propria persona*. The announcement is scarcely a surprise. For the last twelve years, it was an open secret. Anonymity, with regard to such a work, could scarcely be possible. Patronised as the undertaking was by many eminent officials including provincial Governors and Viceroys, the authors

name could not fail to be known. Oriental scholars in every part of the world made enquiries which could not but be answered. Many people think that the translator did an injustice to himself by remaining behind the screen. The translator's postscript is full of interesting matter. He has not exaggerated the difficulties which he had to struggle with. There are many verses in the Mahabharata which are of the nature of oracles. Considerable light has been thrown upon them by Nilakantha. It is believed that the interpretations given in that great commentator's gloss represent those which came down to his time from great teachers before him. It is a matter of regret that the two vernacular versions we have of the Mahabharata are both disfigured by numerous errors. The Santi Parva, in particular, has been made a mess of by the Bengali translators. In the postscript of the widow, mention is made of a Bengal Zemindar who has not paid his promised contribution; and of two others who, though generally liberal, have strangely neglected to aid this herculean enterprise. It is not too late yet for them to help the poor widow out of her difficulties.

Few Oriental scholars in England have devoted themselves with greater earnestness to the study of Sanskrit than Professor Cowell. His solidity is beyond dispute. His love for the people of India is genuine. The poem of Wordsworth to which he alludes is entitled "The Reverie of Poor Susan." We quote the lines:—

At the corner of Wood Street, when daylight appears,  
Hangs a Thrush that sings loud, it has sung for three years :  
Poor Susan has pass'd by the spot, and has heard  
In the silence of morning the song of the bird.

'Tis a note of enchantment ; what ails her ? She sees  
A mountain ascending, a vision of trees ;  
Bright volumes of vapour through Lothberry glide,  
And a river flows on through the vale of Cheapside.

Green pastures she views in the midst of the dale  
Down which she so often has tripp'd with her pail ;  
And a single small cottage, a nest like a dove's,  
The one only dwelling on earth that she loves.

She looks, and her heart is in heaven : but they fade  
The mist and the river, the hill and the shade ;  
The stream will not flow, and the hill not rise,  
And the colours have all pass'd away from her eyes !

RECENTLY we spoke of the Seals' Free College in this City. Another small and modest charity has been newly opened under the name of Students' Home. The number of inmates is very limited and they are all free boarders, receiving their food, clothing and all other requisites. True to its name, it aims to supply, as far as possible, all the comforts of home. It is a boarding house but no school.

In our advertisement column will be found the starting of an experiment of a free school and free home for students.—K. P. Pal's Free Higher Class English School, at Secundarpore, near Tarakeswar. The advertisement gives all particulars. We will only introduce the proprietor by saying that he constructed a fine bathing ghat at Howrah (through the Port Commissioners) at a cost of Rs. 20,000 and a wooden shed at another ghat at Seebpore for the convenience of female bathers. He is already known to the student population for his gift of Rs. 5,000 for the Marcus Square recreation ground. Having attended to their health, he has now turned his attention to their education.

LAST week, at Calcutta, there were 44 deaths from cholera, against 71 and 86 in the two preceding weeks, and three deaths from small-pox against three in the previous week.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, June 6, 1896.

### SERPENTS AND THEIR BITES.

THE great Darwin wrote : "Battle within battle must ever be recurring with varying success ; and yet in the long run the forces are so nicely balanced, that the face of nature remains uniform for long periods of time, though assuredly the merest trifle would often give the victory to one organic being over another, Nevertheless so profound is our ig-

norance, and so high our presumption, that we marvel when we hear of the extinction of an organic being ; and as we do not see the cause, we invoke cataclysms to desolate the world, or invent laws on the duration of the forms of life !" In evolution nature tries to preserve the balance by adaptability of species to altered conditions. In this way, they are preserved. But the change is a continuous contest for life, the weak succumbing to the strong. By nature poisonous serpents are generally ophiophagus. For instance, cobra bungarus (*chandrachura*) and cobra di capello devour their young as soon as born. A casual observer at the Calcutta Zoo will observe a common serpent being swallowed by cobra bungarus during an afternoon meal in the summer season. On one occasion it was observed that the serpent food was gradually taken in by two bungari from the two ends, head and tail, and only a small portion remained undevoured. Then the danger of devouring one of the bungari became imminent. The duty of the keeper of the serpent house was to cut the food serpent into two by a pair of scissors. He entered the room and did his work coolly in the midst of serpents of the same species. Bungari have been known to devour full grown *gakhuras* or *kautias*. The popular notion is that these are double-faced without a tail. This is a mistake and it arises from the caudal scales being of the same character and colour with the mouth. The present Superintendent of the Zoo has seen only one of this species bearing marks in the tail, exactly resembling those on the head including the eyes. Such specimens are very rare. Their ophiophagus nature is a bar to their infinite multiplication. And for another reason. *Herpestes griseus*, the Indian moonngos (*benji*) is a deadly enemy to them, and kills and eats them.

Serpents are old inhabitants of the earth. They have been traced to the tertiary strata of geological formation. Most of the early species belong to the class of pythons or rocks nakes (*bora*). The order of ophidia is pre-eminently tropical, and becomes scarce as the distance from the equator increases, and wholly disappears before the arctic or antartic circle is reached. The most poisonous are found in the portion of the earth inhabited by human beings, so there is a continuous war between man and the reptile. Serpent poisons not only kill all living beings but can cure diseases and they are so being utilized from remote antiquity. The two great store houses of serpents are India and South America. In the new world cobras predominate, in the old crotalidæ (*crotalus-horridus* type), while vipers abound in both, the most poisonous among the last, Russel's viper (*daboia russeli*) being in India.

The old classification of poisonous and non-poisonous snakes has been found unscientific. Modern research has proved that some of the so-called non-poisonous snakes have also grooved fangs like the poisonous ones, but in the back of the jaw. The serpent class belongs to the order ophidians of Zoology. According to Nicholson, the three important groups of the existing ophidians are the colubrine, the constricting and the viperine snakes, but they are usually treated as one. The family of colubridæ have distinctive characters. The head is generally shielded, the nostrils apical, lateral open, the belly covered with broad band-like shields, the tail conical and tapering. The typical genus is *coluber* (*dhonra*) found in almost all countries. The

colubridæ are divided into *aglypha*, without grooved teeth, *opisthoglypha*, having grooved teeth in the back of the jaw, and *proteroglypha*, having grooved teeth in the front of the jaw. We are concerned with the second and third varieties, with grooved fangs supposed to hold poison. To the second belong many of the tree snakes as *cælopeltes* allied to *psammophis* and *dryophis* found in West Africa and Bengal. They paralyze their small prey before deglutition. Mr. Boulanger, an authority on this subject, writes: "It is probable that all snakes with grooved teeth will prove to be poisonous to a greater or less degree, as it is clear *a priori* that these grooved fangs are not without a function." Another genus of tree snakes, *dipsas*, belongs to this variety. In ordinary language it means a serpent whose bite was fabled to produce unquenchable thirst. There is in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, X., 526:—

*Cerastes* horn'd, *hydrus* and *ellops* drear, and *dipsas*.

This variety has a repulsive look with flat heads, grooved teeth, body long and compressed, vertical scales square, lateral scales linear, subcaudal plates double. The common green tree snake of India (*laudaga*) has grooved fangs placed behind the jaw. It devours the prey at once and does not seem to paralyze it by the poison.

Of the third class are the poisonous snakes, such as the cobra *bungarus*, serpent eater (*chandrachura*), *kautia*, *gokhura* and others. In this class several degrees of perfection of the poison fangs are seen. Some tree snakes whose salivary gland secretes a mucus which can not properly be said to be poison, have the fang-like teeth situate behind on a lengthened maxillary bone. The elapinæ have a short rounded head, covered with plates. The fangs are smaller but more deadly than in viperine snakes. The skin of the neck is loose and can be distended into a hood. The tail is long and tapering, with a double row of plates beneath. The cobra di capello (*Naja Tripudians*) belongs to this family. The word is Portuguese and means hooded cobra. The *gokhura* has generally nine plates on its behind head which is broad, the neck is very expansible, covering the head like a hood, and the tail round. The colour is brown above and bluish-white beneath. When the disc is dilated the hinder part exhibits dark markings like a pair of spectacles reversed, or rather a pair of barnacles, whence it is sometimes called spectacle snake. One species of it is very white and called the *khoya gakhura*. The *kautias* are black, without distinct plates on the head and with irregular lines. The expanded disc does not resemble spectacles. For their colour they are known in the Burdwan district, Bengal, as black snakes. They are not always wholly black. Some of them live on animals within shells by breaking their cover, and hence they are called *garibhanga*. *Naja Haje*, another variety, known as Cleopatra's asp, is common in Ceylon. It is also deadly poisonous. In Elapinæ the fangs are placed in front and the glands secrete a deadly poison. The fangs are deeply grooved or folded over to form a channel; they are placed on the front of the maxillary, which has a slight power of movement.

In the highly poisoned apparatus of the vipers, the two sides of the groove coalesce and form a complete channel, giving the appearance of a perforated tooth. The maxillaries have a considerable moveable power and the fangs can be erected or depressed at the will of the snake.

The term viper is derived from "vivipara" or "viviparus," producing live young, from "vividus", alive, and "pario", to bring forth. Vipers do not attain to any great size. They know their venom to be very deadly, for having bitten their prey, they leave it to die, and then leisurely prepare to swallow it. The best known species are the common viper (*vipera communis*) of Europe; the cerastes (*vipera cerastes*); the horned (*vipera cornuta*), and the River Jack viper (*vipera rhinoceras*) of Africa, and Russel's viper (*daboia russeli*), *ulobora* of India.

The vipers are distinguished from the crotalidæ by the absence of any depression between the eyes and nostrils. They are attached to Palæ arctic and Ethiopian regions, only one species being found over a large part of Africa and South-Western Asia. The common viper ranges over the whole of the Palæ arctic region, from Portugal to the Saghalien Island, reaching to 67° N. in Scandinavia and 58° N. in Siberia. Some authorities include the genus *Acanthophis* in this family, and place them in the Australian region, while others transfer them to Elapinæ. Wallace, following Strauch, divides the genera into three classes, (*vipera*, *echis* and *atheris*), and the species into twenty-two. *Crotalus* is derived from the Greek word *krotalon*, a rattle. *Crotalus horridus* is the rattle snake. It is so-called because a series of horny bodies loosely united together at the tail end rattle when the reptile moves or is angry. It has a deep pit on each side of the nose lined with small plates. The crown of the head is scaly, the belly covered with shield-like plates. The poison fangs are very large, while the other teeth are small. Its habitat is South America. A specimen is to be found at the Calcutta Zoo.

Its mobility and the facility with which it can move its head make it easy of the serpent to bite. Now as to the mechanism that connects the bones of the jaw with the skull. In an ordinary harmless snake, the maxillary (jaw) bone is found to run as far as the eye socket. With it are joined the transverse and pterygoid bones, studded with teeth, forming the interior row. The pterygoid meets another bone, the quadrate, which unites it with the skull. In the cobra, the maxillary bone is short, bearing a grooved poisonous fang and two or three solid teeth behind it. The transverse is long and the quadrate moveable which enables the snake to move its fang through an angle of 45 degrees. The mechanism is perfect in Russel's viper. The maxillary is very short and higher than those bearing the fang, without any other teeth. The transverse is longest and the quadrate has the greatest motion. On opening the mouth the quadrate is forwarded and with it the maxilla is pushed into front. The fang can be rotated to 90 degrees and erected at right angles. In sea snakes, the maxilla is long and there are two fangs with solid teeth behind. The movement of the quadrate is almost nil.

Cobra poison has been analysed by Wolfenden, Blyth, Pedlar and others. It is an amber coloured, syrupy, frothy liquid. Sp. gr. 1.046. It has a feeble acid reaction, and contains albumen, a minute trace of fat and a crystalline body called cobric acid. It dries up, on exposure to the air, to a yellow acrid pungent powder. The poison of "gakhura" is more yellow than that of "kautia." The poison of "kautia" is recommended, in Hindu Medicine, as that of the black snake. In popular belief the poison of this snake has quicker action than that of "gakhura."



Crotalus and cobra poisons have been analyzed and physiologically experimented upon by Drs. Mitchell and Reichart who, in 1886, sent a paper on the subject to the Smithsonian Institute of America. They write : "The active principles of venom are contained in its liquid parts only. The solid constituents, such as we observed suspended in the poison, consist of epithelium cells, some minute rod-like animal organisms, and micrococci, &c., which when separated from the liquid fresh venom by means of filtration and well washed by water are harmless. Micrococci are constantly present in fresh venom but having nothing to do with its virulence. Venoms may be dried and preserved indefinitely in this condition with but very slight impairment of their toxicity. In solution with glycerine they will also probably keep for any length of time. There probably exist in all venomous representatives two classes of proteids, globulins and peptones, which constitute their toxic elements; the former may be represented by one or more distinct principles."

Then they describe their experiments on animals. They make a distinction between the poisons of crotalus and cobra. "Cobra venom does not produce the marked lesions of crotalus-poisoning because it is so lacking in globulins; it is weak in ecchymosis of the altered corpuscles and of the non-coagulability of the blood, but the effects of cobra venom are closely in accord with the actions peculiar to peptones. The peptone of cobra seems to have a more decided power in producing convulsions than that of the rattle snake." They recommend a study of the poison of bungarus and daboia on this basis. These researches seem to be the best of their kind. Dr. Fayer, the author of "Thanatophidia," and Dr. Shroff, of Madras, have worked to no purpose for an antidote of the snake poison. Dr. Cunningham is experimenting in the Calcutta Zoo, to the same end with hardly any better result. The present recognized treatment of a bite of any poisonous snake, is the rapid application of a few ligatures at a short distance from the wound to prevent the circulation of the poison with the blood. Such ligatures are only possible when the cut is in one of the extremities. Immediate sucking of the bitten part or soon after the ligatures by a man who has no spongy gums, may help to draw out the poison. Deep cutting and burning of the wound are the other methods adopted to take out or destroy the poison. To fight the poison, stimulants are generally administered. The action of the poison is very rapid because of the circulation in man being completed once within twenty or thirty seconds. It is slower in the capillaries than in the larger veins and arteries. When a sufficient quantity of poison is injected by any snake, there is little chance of recovery. Not unoften poisonous symptoms are produced from the bite itself without the injection of the poison, from fear only. In Australia, where most of the serpents belong to the sub-family of Elapinae, to which also the cobra belongs, their poisons are not so powerful as the cobra's. It is said that the injection of a saturated or strong solution of permanganate of potash cured snake bites in that Island continent, but here in India, it has failed entirely. Injection of nitrate of strychnia gives no better result. Our indigenous drugs, *achyranthes aspera* (*apang*), *nerium oleander* (*seth karapi*), *calotropis gigantea* (*seth akanda*) and several such others have proved as fallacious. Ancient India is said to have possessed the remedy, but modern India has yet to find a cure for snake bite.

## NOTICES OF BOOKS.

*Málavati Natak*, composed and published by Radharaman Mittra, from 9, Shambazar Street, Calcutta. 1301 B. S. All rights reserved.

Considering the general run of dramas coming out of the press in Bengal in these days, the production of Babu Radharaman Mittra need not fear a comparison with the very best. It is a Pauranic story that Babu Mittra has utilised. The characters are gods, celestial Rishis, Gandharvas, and Gandharvi girls. The dialogues are not deficient in vigour. The songs are good. The field for the portraiture of character is not large, yet some of the characters have not been unsuccessfully drawn. The heroine is Málavati, the eldest daughter of the Gandharva chief, Chitraratha. The Hindu virtue of devotion to the husband distinguishes her. The drama, if represented on the boards of any of our theatres, may draw as good houses as any recent drama that we have seen acted. Babu Radharaman Mittra deserves to be encouraged. *Malavati* is his first production. He is certain to improve with practice.

*Cebinnamasta, Sarbani, Ami*, composed by Kalimaya Ghatak, and published by the Sanskrit Press Depository, 20 Cornwallis Street, Calcutta.

It was observed by Bacon that some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested. The books under notice fall under the first of these classes. Babu Kalimaya Ghatak has taken leave of biography, and is now a novelist. *Cebinnamasta* is a romantic tragedy in prose. It gives a vivid portraiture, with lights and shades, of the sinister influences of early marriage, we mean, of course, infant marriage, such as is seen in this country. *Kapālīni*, the heroine of the plot, is a wonderful product of the writer's imagination. Married at the early age of five, she became subject to a rigorous discipline and looked like a wild bird confined in a cage. Before other girls learn to abstain from sport, she became a housewife and mother of a deformed child. Her husband loves her deeply. To him she is a veritable goddess. But she suspects his chastity. She wrongly accuses him of an intrigue. The husband leaves home. The wife finds out her mistake. She too flies away disgusted in quest of her absent lord whom she now loves with all her heart, becomes a *sanyasini* and devotee of the goddess *Cebinnamasta*, the headless form of Sakti, and, at last, by an accident, meets him in a crematorium in the impenetrable darkness of the night. The catastrophe reminds one of the tragical end of Bankim Chandra's *Kapalakundala*, who closely resembles Babu Ghatak's *Kapālīni*. The same melancholy fate overtakes both. The former drowns herself, the latter stabs herself to death, mourned by a loving husband. Both are children of nature. Both of them, like Wordsworth's *Lucy*, are the sweetest things that grow besides a human door. The solemn stillness of the moon-lit midnight; the sweet babbling of the meandering stream; the occasional howlings of jackals breaking the horrid silence of a vast crematorium, the sounds of the leaves of trees shaken by the wind; the lake resembling a white sheet of paper spread out under the rays of the moon; the morning breeze, charged with the perfumes of flowers, blowing softly, and slightly agitating the rows of flower plants in the cultivated gardens; the full-blown lotuses on the bosom of the sylvan tank rippling with little waves; the blue canopy of heaven, decorated with innumerable starry diamonds; the ruins of a palatial mansion, covered with creepers and plants, and ap-

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 9 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDING, HOLBORN, LONDON.

pearing from a distance, under the rays of the moon, like a mound of silver; these are some of the pictures presented by the author in *Cebinnamasta*. Babu Ghatak's extreme fondness for colloquialism has, in many places, marred the beauty of the writing. Many words have been admitted that are unknown in other districts of Bengal. His *Sarbani* is a better production. Though the story is a simple domestic one, still it has merits of its own. The book is written in a delightful and easy style. The description of *Sarbani* is so natural and enchanting that the reader cannot but follow the narrative till the end. *Sarbani* surpasses her sister *Kapalini* in natural attractions. *Sarbani's* character is pure and unalloyed. *Kapalini* is a jealous woman. She suspects the love of her husband, and, therefore, ruin overtakes her and engulphs her unfortunate husband also.

The author's third book goes by the name of *Ami*. It contains some very good essays on social and domestic subjects. These will repay perusal.

All the three productions are worthy of Babu Ghatak. His literary reputation stands high. He has done much for the Bengali language by his varied publications consisting of biographies and novels. These are sure to please a large class of readers.

### Official Paper.

#### WATER-SUPPLY AND WATER CESS.

##### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Circular No. 10 T.—M.

From H. H. Risley, Esqre., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government

of Bengal,

To all Commissioners of Divisions.

Darjeeling, May, 22, 1896.

[Concluded from page 262.]

16. If, however, the scheme of permissive local rating is allowed to stand by itself without being hampered and discredited by the odium attaching to the imposition of a general cess, the Lieutenant-Governor believes not only that there will be no serious difficulty in extending it wherever Union Committees are constituted, but that a modified form of it may be introduced into all villages of a certain size, whether situated in Board districts or in districts to which the Local Self-Government Act has not yet been extended. The provisions necessary to legalise this action are contained in sections 36, 44, 56, 57, 104---119, 119A---119I, 130, 133, and 134 of the annexed draft amendment of the Local Self-Government Act. Instead of taking these sections in order, it will be convenient first to explain the object and scope of the group of sections numbered 104 to 119, which will take the place of Part III, Chapter III of the present Act, dealing with the duties and powers of Union Committees.

17. Sections 104 and 104A are intended in the first place to remove a technical difficulty which has arisen from the confused paragraphing of the sections of the Local Self-Government Act which deal with the powers of Union Committees. The obvious intention of certain sections is that there shall be a chain of delegation, and that the District Boards shall delegate, if they think proper, certain powers to Local Boards, who shall in their turn bestow such of them as they think fit upon Union Committees. On the other hand, there are some sections which appear to give to Union Committees independent powers either absolutely or subject to rules to be made by the Local Government. Sections 108, 109, 112, 114 and 115 are instances in point. Moreover, the working of Chapter III of Part III is complicated by the fact that in many districts it has been found unadvisable to entrust to Local Boards the administration of primary education and sanitation, while nowhere do they deal with the registration of births and deaths; and thus, if section 104 be literally construed, it would appear that wherever Local Boards have not taken these matters under their direct control and administration, they devolve upon Union Committees. In order, therefore, to place the law on an intelligible basis, and at the same time to enable the District Boards either to deal direct with Union Committees or to delegate their powers wholly or partially to Local Boards, section 104 has been amended so as to place Union Committees directly under the District Board, and section 104A has been added so as to enable the District Board, where it thinks fit, to delegate its powers of control to a Local Board.

18. Sections 105 to 117 repeat the provisions of the present law either unchanged or with such modifications as are rendered

necessary by draft sections 104 and 104A. In section 114 a further change has been introduced. In its present form it requires every Union Committee to provide for the registration of births and deaths, and to submit such returns as the Local Board may direct. But the registration of births and deaths is not, and never has been, under the Local Board, and consequently if section 104 be strictly interpreted, section 114 would unconditionally impose upon Union Committees the duty of registering births and deaths. In fact, however, registration of both births and deaths is carried out by the police under the control of the Magistrate, and there is no intention of transferring the work to the District or Local Boards. In 1892 it was found necessary to relieve Municipalities of this duty, as most of them were quite incapable of conducting it properly; and there is no reason to suppose that District or Local Boards would do much better. Bengal Act IV of 1873, which provides for the compulsory registration of births and deaths, has not yet been extended to any rural area; but should this hereafter be found desirable, the District Magistrate, and not the District or Local Board, would be the controlling authority. For these reasons section 114 has been altered so as to provide that a Union Committee shall register births and deaths only if required to do so by the District Magistrate—an occasion which is most unlikely to arise.

19. Section 118 deals with the powers of a Union Committee in respect of water-supply, and is intended to take the place of section 118 of the present Act, which, as has been explained, is too limited in its scope to be of any practical use. The new section is based upon sections 51 of the English Public Health Act, 1875, and 8 of the Local Government Act, 1894. Its most important provision is clause (iii), the object of which is to enable the Union Committee to utilise for public purposes any source of water-supply, whether public or private, within the Union, provided that they do not interfere with the exercise of certain specified rights. The rights so specified—fishing, irrigation, and the exclusive use of tanks resorted to by the female members of a household—are understood to be those to which the proprietors of tanks in Bengal attach most importance, and it is hoped that if these are expressly reserved, the powers given to Union Committees of utilising private sources of water may meet with general acceptance. The measure is no doubt a strong one, and goes beyond section 8 (e) of the Local Government Act, 1894, in so far as it restricts the saving of private rights to certain specified cases. Experience, however, has shown that owners of tanks in the mufassal are frequently deterred from placing them at the disposal of local authorities, by the fear that they will thus lose valuable fishing rights, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that in practice this clause will render it possible for Union Committees to order the reservation of private tanks for drinking purposes without interfering with rights of fishing and irrigation. The concluding words of this clause have reference to *zanana tanks*, in respect of which no public rights can be exercised. Such tanks are usually more or less enclosed, and it is unlikely that any Union Committee would wish to interfere with them except in pursuance of a private quarrel. Sub-section (2) of section 118 reproduces section 119 of the existing Act with the changes necessary to adapt it to the new section 118.

20. Section 118A is based upon section 5 of Act XIX of 1889, the Central Provinces Village Sanitation Act, modified in the following respects:—

(1) The proceeds of the tax may be applied to all the purposes of Chapter III, except village roads, which should be paid for by a grant from the Road Cess income at the disposal of the District Board.

(2) The character of the tax is defined and its amount limited as in section 85 (a) of the Bengal Municipal Act, instead of leaving the limit to be fixed by rule.

(3) The sanction of the Commissioner of the Division is substituted for that of the Local Government.

21. Sections 118B, 118C, and 118D.—The first of these is based on section 6 of the Central Provinces Act, already referred to, and gives the Local Government power to make rules for dealing with the Union Fund, for regulating conservancy, and for defining and punishing nuisances. These powers will, it is understood, cover whatever provisions may be necessary to prevent the pollution of the village water-supply. Sub-section (3) of section 118B enables the Union Committee to realize arrears of the tax as if they were arrears of *chaukidari* tax under Bengal Act VI of 1870. This procedure is simpler than that prescribed in section 6 (3) of the Central Provinces Act; it is one with which the rural population are already familiar, and its adoption will facilitate the transfer of the powers of *chaukidari panchayats* to Union Committees, should this measure hereafter be found advisable. Sections 118C and 118D are based upon sections 46A and 46B of Bengal Act VI of 1870, and provide for the not improbable contingency of the Union Committee being unwilling to take the trouble and incur the odium of collecting the tax themselves.

22. Chapter IIIA, comprising Sections 119---119H, deals with

the sanitation of villages not included in Unions, and is intended to be applicable not only to Board districts, but also to the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division and Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and the Sonthal Parganas, where the Local Self-Government Act is not in force. The entire chapter has been drafted on the lines of the Central Provinces Village Sanitation Act, with such alterations as are necessary to adapt it to the condition of this Province. For example, in section 119B, which is modelled on section 4 of the Central Provinces Act, the maintenance of roads has been omitted from the purposes for which a tax is to be imposed, because in Bengal village roads are already a charge on the Road Cess. In section 119C, corresponding to section 5 of the Central Provinces Act, the maximum limit of the tax has been fixed by law instead of being left to be determined by rule, and the assessment has been made subject to the sanction of the Commissioner of the Division. Sections 119D, 119E, and 119F correspond to sections 118B, 118C, and 118D, the object of which has already been explained.

23. Sections 36, 44, 56, 57, 130, 133, and 134 merely introduce into the corresponding sections of the present Act the alterations which are rendered necessary by the provisions of the new Chapters III and IIIA.

24. It will be observed that the scheme of permissive local rating now put forward differs from that proposed by Sir Steuart Bayley in the following particulars :—

(a) the power of taxation is conferred on Union Committees as such, and is not made dependent first on the authorization of the District Board, and then on the sanction of Government ;

(b) the amount to be raised by taxation is to be fixed by the Union Committee subject to the control of the Commissioner of the Division, instead of being fixed by the District Board with the sanction of Government ;

(c) no deduction is proposed for supervision and inspection ;

(d) a maximum limit is fixed for each assessee ;

(e) the proceeds of the tax may be applied to all purposes included in chapter III, with the exception of village roads, and their application is not restricted to sanitation and primary education ;

(f) the powers of the Union Committees in respect of water-supply are materially extended ;

(g) the present scheme is more comprehensive in that it provides for the water supply and sanitation of villages in Board districts which are not included in Unions, and also of villages in districts to which the Local Self-Government Act has not been extended.

25. The fourth suggestion was that District Boards should be allowed in their own right to establish toll-bars on bridges constructed by them, until the cost of the bridge, including the capital and interest expended thereon, as well as the cost of maintenance and of renewal if necessary, has been recovered. Tolls on roads and bridges are leviable on roads made or repaired at the expense of Government under Act VIII of 1851, which is still in force ; and under this Act toll gates were formerly established in most districts on local and district roads. The receipts appear to have reached their highest figure in 1870-71, when they amounted to Rs. 92,189. At this time the Road Cess Act of 1871 was passed and it was the frequently declared policy of Sir George Campbell that as this Act came into force the existing system of tolls should be abolished. This policy was slowly given effect to, for the Road Cess Committees generally murmured against it, and as recently as 1877-78 the receipts from tolls in Bengal amounted to Rs. 62,237. In 1879-80 all tolls on roads and bridges were abolished under the orders of Sir Ashley Eden, on the ground that "toll-bars were a great hindrance to trade and traffic, and, managed as they must be, were sure to produce much extortion, oppression and fraud." In Bombay and Madras the law allows tolls to be levied by the District Boards on both roads and bridges, and the net revenue of the Madras Boards from this source amounts to more than six lakhs of rupees. From a financial point of view, therefore, the reimposition of tolls would be likely to yield a considerable revenue to the Boards in Bengal. Sir Steuart Bayley, however, was not prepared to reverse a policy which had been deliberately followed for many years. He considered the arguments against the proposal too strong to be resisted, and held that the reimposition of tolls on roads or bridges as a source of revenue, and not merely for the recovery of the cost of construction, would be a retrograde measure and obstructive to trade. While holding, however, that tolls on roads could in no case be justified, he thought that there were no similar objections to the proposal that District Boards should be empowered to levy tolls on a bridge erected in place of a ferry. It seems, however, to the Lieutenant-Governor that in the discussions of 1890 the case against the imposition of tolls as a source of revenue was stated in too abstract and general a form and that insufficient weight was given to the practical argument in favour of such a measure, that the people would rather pay tolls than be saddled with an additional local rate to be collected with the rent. As Mr. Wace pointed out in 1889, "one recommendation of the toll to the raiyat will be that it hits the baniya

harder than the Road Cess does. The baniya, of course, will try to pass it on, but of this the raiyat will be unaware ; and even if he should feel it less than another turn of the tahsildar's screw." A similar opinion, which may probably be taken as representative, was expressed by Mr. Ashutosh Gupta, then Officiating Collector of Jessore, who observed :—"The entire cost of constructing roads and bridges is borne by the agricultural classes, while the commercial classes, who profit most by the opening up and maintenance of communications, contribute nothing. It is only fair that the traders should contribute a portion of the District Fund." As regards risk of oppression, Mr. Wace argued that there was less at a toll-bar on dry land than at a ferry. "The ferryman sitting in his boat, six yards from shore, is much more likely to dictate his own terms and levy excessive toll than the man at a bar, and I maintain that the levy of excessive tolls is even now rare."

26. There appear to be three forms in which the power to levy tolls might be conferred upon District Boards, with or without the antecedent sanction of Government ; thus :—

(1) Tolls may be levied on roads and bridges, without restriction as to the recovery of initial cost, on the system sanctioned by Madras Act V of 1884.

(2) Tolls may be levied on roads and bridges, until the initial cost has been replaced, as is contemplated by sections 158--172 of the Bengal Municipal Act III of 1884.

(3) Tolls may be levied on bridges only until the cost of construction, maintenance and renewal has been recovered with interest, as proposed in head IV of Sir S. Bayley's scheme as summarised in paragraph 11 of this letter.

The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that reasonable grounds exist for adopting the second of these methods, and for allowing the levy of tolls to continue until the Board have recovered the initial cost of constructing the bridge or road, and the capitalised value of the estimated cost of maintenance and of renewal in the case of bridges required to be periodically renewed, together with interest on such expenditure. The necessary provisions are contained in sections 86A to 86K on the draft annexed, which are based upon sections 158 to 170 of the Bengal Municipal Act, and, like those, require the previous sanction of the Local Government in each case. Section 138 (H) supplements these by conferring on the Local Government power to prescribe the mode of ascertaining the capitalised value of maintenance and of determining what class of bridges requires periodical renewal.

27. The proposals discussed in the foregoing paragraphs would, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, be sufficient in themselves to place the question of local taxation in the rural portions of Bengal on a sound and permanent footing, and to provide both District Boards and Union Committees with a fairly progressive income for expenditure on local purposes. As, however, the entire scheme is of a permissive character, it seems desirable to leave as much latitude as possible to local authorities, and to give them the power to vary their modes of taxation in accordance with special conditions, subject of course to the sanction of Government in each case. In this view, I am to mention the three following taxes, power to impose which might, if opinions are favourable to them, be embodied in the amendment of the Local Self-Government Act which is now before a Select Committee of the Bengal Council.

28. Fees on musical processions which have been sanctioned by the police have been levied for the last thirty years by the Municipal Commissioners of Patna, and in 1894-95 such fees amounted to Rs. 1,589. Similar fees were levied in 1890 by the Dinapore Nizamut Municipality on the scale noted in the margin ; but this practice was discontinued in 1892, under the orders of the Commissioner of Patna, who, however, recommended, with reference to the Bill to amend the Municipal Act, which was then before the Legislative Council, that a provision should be introduced legalising the general imposition of such fees by Municipal Commissioners. Towards the end of 1893, Mr. Forbes's proposal was referred for consideration to the Select Committee on the Bill, but they expressed no opinion on the subject, and the matter seems to have been overlooked. It has since been suggested that the opportunity of the Act being now under amendment might properly be taken to introduce a section empowering Municipal Commissioners to levy fees on musical processions sanctioned by the police, in accordance with a scale to be approved by the Commissioner of the Division. In my letter No. 3T.--M. of the 28th April last, circulating for opinion the draft Bill to amend the Municipal Act, which was introduced into Council on the 11th April, this proposal has been referred to, and District Officers, Municipal Commissioners, and public bodies have been asked for an expression of opinion on the subject. So far as the Lieutenant-Governor has been able to ascertain at present, native feeling is decidedly in favour of an impost of this kind, and it is believed that such fees would be paid without a murmur, if Union Committees were invested with the powers which it is proposed to confer upon Municipalities. The proceeds no doubt would be small in any given place, but the possible sources of income available



to a Union Committee are so few that, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, it would be unwise to reject any means of adding to them that is likely to meet with popular acceptance.

29. Marriage tax.—A further suggestion of a somewhat similar type is to permit Union Committees to levy a tax on marriages celebrated within the Union in proportion to the expenditure incurred, and in accordance with a scale to be fixed by them with the approval of the Commissioner of the Division. The Lieutenant-Governor is aware that as a measure of Imperial taxation the imposition of a tax upon marriages has been discussed and rejected on the ground that it would not yield much revenue unless assessed and collected in such a way as to reach the poorest classes in the country; and that, if so collected, it would be extremely unpopular. It may be doubted, however, whether these objections, the force of which His Honour fully admits, are at all applicable to a marriage tax as a mode of permissive local taxation introduced, assessed and collected by a rural representative body, and expended by them for the benefit of the community which they represent. In favour of such a tax, so administered, it may be urged that something practically indistinguishable from it already exists in the form of the so-called subscription or *chanda* which is levied in most villages on the occasion of all domestic ceremonies which involve any kind of entertainment, including not only marriage but also *annaprāsana*, the giving of the first rice, and *upanayana*, the investing of a boy of the higher castes with a sacred thread. In the hands of a committee of villagers intimately acquainted with the circumstances of every assessee, the proceeds of a marriage tax would probably be quite large enough to form a substantial addition to the income of the Union; the expenditure which it would affect is purely luxurious; and the control of the Commissioner, to whom the scale of fees would be submitted for approval, would be a sufficient guarantee against any unreasonable exaction. Finally, it is quite possible, as has been observed in previous discussions on the subject, that the levy of such a tax may be found in practice to appeal to the popular instinct of display, and that the official receipt showing that a particular person has paid the tax on a certain outlay as stated by himself or appraised by the Committee, may come to be regarded in popular estimation as evidence that the individual has discharged a social obligation with suitable pomp and circumstance. The tax may thus not only swell the income available for village purposes, but may also indirectly tend to bring about a reduction of wasteful expenditure. I am to add that in 1889 a proposal that the District Board should be authorised to levy a tax on marriages within the district was brought forward, in connexion with the scheme of local taxation then under consideration by Babu Ram Chandra Mukherji, Government Pleader of Nadia, and Vice-Chairman of the District Board, who wrote as follows on the subject:—"People spending hundreds and thousands on marrying their sons and daughters will gladly contribute a certain amount to the district fund on such happy occasions. It was, and still is, the practice in this country to contribute a certain amount to village pathsalas on the occasion of marriages, and we, the village people, invariably levy a certain amount of money from the bridegroom's party whenever a marriage takes place. The amount is now-a-days paid as a gift, and it depends entirely on the option of the *karta* of the bridegroom's party and his circumstances. In my opinion, in all marriages in which the expenditure is below Rs. 50, the rate of contribution ought to be four annas, and in all other cases the rate should be the same as prescribed by Article 13 of Act I of 1879, prescribing value of stamps for bonds."

30. Wheel tax.—A third suggestion, which seems to the Lieutenant-Governor to deserve consideration, is the proposal to sanction the levy of a wheel tax in the form of a yearly or half yearly fee for the registration of carts. Such a tax could of course only be levied in districts where tolls were not introduced and there would be some difficulty in dealing with carts which only occasionally ply for hire. On the other hand, it may be urged—

(a) that it would be popular with the District Boards, and that public opinion would generally be in favour of it on the ground that country carts with their narrow tyres and heavy loads damage the roads more than any other form of traffic;

(b) that in many of the drier districts a substitute is needed for tolls, which can so easily be avoided that it would not pay a District Board to establish them on roads, while even on bridges they would only be effective during a part of the year;

(c) that such a tax is levied in Municipalities and regarded as an important source of income, and that its adoption by District Boards would put an end to the difficulties of assessing the tax fairly which are referred to at length in paragraph 25 of the Resolution on the working of Municipalities during 1894-95;

(d) that the opportunities for extortion, and the expenses of collecting the tax, would be reduced to a minimum, as a gratuity could only be exacted once or twice a year when the cart was registered, and when once the system of registration had been fully introduced, the tax would practically collect itself, as the carters would take care to renew their tickets periodically;

(e) that if the tax fell solely on the owners of carts, they could well afford to pay it; while on the other hand, if its burden were shifted to the producer or consumer of the goods carted, neither of them would be aware of its incidence.

31. In conclusion, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor is so impressed with the necessity of substantially increasing the resources of District Boards and Union Committees in Bengal, and thus enabling them to promote village sanitation and water-supply, that he considers it essential that the present opportunity of introducing a comprehensive measure of permissive local taxation should not be allowed to pass without pressing the question to a decisive issue. The exceptionally dry weather which now prevails has brought home to the population of Bengal the serious danger to health which arises from an inadequate and impure supply of drinking water. Neither Government nor the District Boards can hope with the resources at their disposal to reconstruct the sanitary arrangements or to reform the water-supply of villages in rural Bengal. That task must be left to the people themselves; but given suitable machinery such as the legislation now proposed would call into existence, the Lieutenant-Governor is not without hope that the village authorities, taught by the experience of the last few months, will be ready to make effectual use of their powers, and thus to bring about within a reasonable time a sensible improvement in the material conditions of rural existence in Bengal.

32. I am accordingly to request that the Lieutenant-Governor may be favoured with an expression of your opinion, and of that of the District Boards of your Division, in order that, if possible, the requisite provisions, somewhat in the form of the annexed draft, may be embodied in the amendment of the Local Self Government Act now under consideration, and passed into law during next cold weather. Your report should reach this office not later than the first week of August.

### HAPPIEST OF ALL.

THERE is no time in the twenty-four hours when one ought to feel so thoroughly satisfied and content as immediately after a good, hearty meal. And all healthy persons do feel so. The body's demands have been met, and we are easy and comfortable, as though we had paid off an old dun and had money left. We are accessible, humane, and good natured. Then, if ever we will grant a request without grumbling. "True benevolence," says a crusty old friend of mine, "is located in a capable stomach recently filled."

Yes, but what of the incapable stomachs, of which there are so many?—stomachs that disappoint and plague their owners, till the act of feeding, so delightful to others, becomes an act to avoid the necessity of which they are almost willing to die? Ah, that is quite another thing. These poor souls are they who say, as Miss Wallace says in this letter of hers, "I was no longer to be counted among those who have pleasure in eating. Far from it. As for me I was afraid to eat. I felt the need of food, of course—the weakness and sinking that accompanied abstinence—but what was I to do? The moment I ate, my distress and pain commenced. No matter how light the repast was, nor how careful I was not to hurry in taking it, the result was the same. The distress and gnawing pains followed, with discomfort in the chest, and a sense of choking, as if some bits of food had lodged there and were irritating me."

"So objectionable and repugnant to me was the act of eating that for days together I didn't touch a morsel of solid food, subsisting entirely on milk and soda water. Owing to this enforced lack of nourishment I got extremely weak, and about as thin as I could be. I must not forget to say that this happened to me, or rather it began to happen in July, 1886, when I was living at Wellington, in Shropshire. It came on, as you may say, gradually and not with any sudden or acute symptoms. I found myself low, languid, and tired. Then came the failure of my appetite and the other things I have named."

"I took the usual medicines for indigestion, but they had no good effect. After six months' experience of this kind of misery I read in a book about Mother Seigel's Syrup as a remedy for this disease, and got a bottle from Mr. Bates the chemist, in Wellington. Having used it a few days I felt great relief, and when I had consumed two bottles I was entirely well. Since then I have heartily commended Mother Seigel's Syrup to many friends, who have invariably been cured, as I was. You have my permission to publish my letter, if you desire to do so. (Signed) Minnie Wallace, Nurse, The Union Workhouse, Oldham, February 22nd, 1895."

In a communication dated January 8th, 1895, Mrs. Henrietta MacCallam, of 40, Downsfield Road, Walthamstow, near London, states that her daughter Emma fell ill in the spring of 1886 with the same symptoms described by Miss Wallace. She craved food, yet, when it was placed before her, she turned from it almost with loathing. "As time went on," so runs the mother's letter, "my daughter became so weak she could hardly walk. Neither home medicines nor those of the doctors did any good. Her sufferings continued for over eight years. In June, 1894, she began taking Mother Seigel's Syrup, of which we had just read in a little book that was left at the house. In a week she was better, and in less than two months she was enjoying better health than ever before. She has since ailed nothing and can eat any kind of food. (Signed) (Mrs.) Henrietta MacCallam."

"Happy," sings Homer "were they who fell under the high walls of Troy." Happier are they who have never fallen under the crushing weight of indigestion or dyspepsia. Happiest, perhaps, of all are they who have been lifted up by Mother Seigel's remedy and placed where once again they can eat, drink and be merry. And if all these could be gathered together they would make a greater host than the Greek poet ever dreamed of.



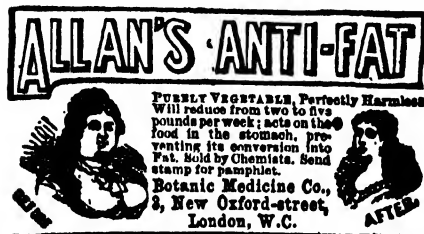
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from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
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It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading. —*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

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The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspiced by harshness. —*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

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The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee" a book just edited by a distinguished citizen of Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

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complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dazing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, and some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality. —*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 729.

## LUCY.

The simple and beautiful ballad below is said to have been written by William Laidlaw, steward and friend to the author of *Waverley*, and of whom the touching anecdote is told, that on Sir Walter's return from Italy, during his last illness, he was capable of recognizing but few of his friends and relatives; however, on Laidlaw's entering his room and standing at his bedside, his eye brightened, and looking up in his face, he exclaimed: "Is that you, Willie! I ken I'm hame noo!"—*Boston Courier*.

'T was when the wan leaf frae the birk-tree was fa'en,  
And Martinus dow'ie had wound up the year,  
That Lucy row'd up her wee kist we' her a' in 't,  
And left her auld maister and neebors sae dear;  
For Lucy had served i' the glea a' the simmer—  
She cam there afore the flower bloomed on the pea;  
An orphan was she, and they had been kind till her,  
Oh, that was the thing brocht the tear to her e'e.

She gaed by the stable where Jamie was stannin',  
Richt sair was his kind heart, the fittin' to see;  
"Fare ye weel, Lucy," quo Jamie and ran in,  
The gatherin' tears trickled fast frae his e'e.  
As down the barn side she gaed slow wi' her fittin',  
"Fare ye weel, Lucy," was ilka bird's sang,  
She heard the crow sayin' 't, high on the tree sittin',  
And Robin was chirpin' 't the brown leaves among.

O, what is 't that pits my puir heart in a flutter?  
And what gars the tears come sae fast to my e'e;  
If I wasna ettled to be ony better,  
Then what gars me wish ony better to be?  
I'm just like a lammie that loses its mither,  
Nae mither or friends the puir lammie can see;  
I fear I hae tist my puir heart a' the gither,  
Nae wonder the tear fa's sae fast frae my e'e.

Wi' the rest o' my claes I hae row'd up the ribbon,  
The bonnie blue ribbon that Jamie gae me;  
Yestreen, when he gae me 't, and saw I was sobbin',  
I'll never forget the wae blink o' his e'e.  
Tho' then he said naething but "Fare ye weel Lucy,"  
It made me I neither could speak, hear nor see;  
He could nae say mair but just "Fare ye weel Lucy,"  
Yet that I will mind till the day that I dee.

The lamb likes the gowan wi' dew when it's dronkit,  
The hare likes the brake and the braid on the lea,  
But Lucy likes Jamie---she turned and she lookit,  
She thocht the dear place she wad never mair see.  
Ah, weel may young Jamie gang dowie and cheerless,  
And weel may he greet on the bank o' the burn;  
For bonnie sweet Lucy, sae gentle and peerless,  
Lies cauld in her grave, and will never return.

## WEEKLYANA.

IT is not that Britannia,  
Whose march is o'er the mountain-waves,  
Whose home is on the deep,  
It is not that

Britannia needs no bulwark,  
No towers along the steep.

There is a proposal in Parliament in the shape of a Bill to fortify some of the commanding heights between London and the South Coast, in order to better prepare the ocean-warriors,

The Mariners of England,  
That guard *their* native seas,  
Whose flag has braved, a thousand years,  
The battle and the breeze,

Their glorious standard launch again  
To match another foe,  
And sweep through the deep,  
While the stormy tempests blow;  
While the battle rages loud and long,  
And the stormy tempests blow,

and to make

The meteor flag of England  
Yet more terrific burn,  
Till danger's troubled night depart,  
And the star of peace return,

when, when,

Their song and feast shall flow  
To the fame of *their* name,  
When the storm has ceased to blow;  
When the fiery fight is heard no more,  
And the storm has ceased to blow.

THE Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught have been made Knights of the Grand Cross of the new Victorian Order.

PRINCESS Henry of Bittenberg has been appointed to the Governorship of the Isle of Wight vacated by the death of her husband.

AT Cimiez, during her stay, the Queen purchased the Villa Sicard for Princess Beatrice.

THE Queen has got another great-grandchild. On the 2nd May, a daughter was born to the Crown Princess of Greece, who is a daughter of the Empress Frederick and sister of the German Emperor.

A PACK of cards of the fifteenth century "Tarrochi di Mantegna" from the collection of the late lady Charlotte Schreiber fetched, in a London sale, £120.

THE Hungarian Millennial Exhibition was opened in Buda-Pest

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with pomp befitting the occasion. The members forming deputations from different provinces and guests numbered about twenty thousand.

ONE of the largest dinners to the press of recent times was given on the 4th of May by the largest hotel in Europe, the Hotel Cecil. Covers were laid for five hundred persons. Viscount Hurdingle, the chairman of the Hotel company, presided. The hotel has splendid accommodation for thousand diners. A fine orchestra has been permanently engaged.

THE Playfair-Kitson appeal has been settled out of court. Mrs. Kitson has agreed to receive £9,000 in full satisfaction of £12,000 awarded her by the Jury, who by the excessively heavy damage marked their disapprobation of the conduct of Dr. Playfair which deprived her of the means of livelihood.

MRS. Langtry's action against the Union Bank of London, for the loss of her ornaments, has been amicably settled. The bank pays her £10,000 but no costs. The jewels, if recovered, would go to her on her refunding the amount received.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL Lord Raglan and Major the Hon'ble Grenville Somerset, both of the Royal Munrothshire Engineer Militia, have compiled statistics which show that of 14,051,902 male adults in England and Wales, only 48.72 per 10,000 are in the Militia. In Scotland with 1,942,717 adults, the percentage is 60.48, while in Ireland with 2,318,953, it is 93.16.

TRISTAN D' ACUNHA, a small island lying between the Cape of Good Hope and South America, is owned by Great Britain. It was recently visited by the Captain of the *Dartford* who found the population to be no more than forty-five women and fifteen men. The latest addition was a shipwrecked mariner who was washed ashore and received in marriage before he was dry.

*Out and Home*, a London journal, writes:—

"The Dominion of Canada, the largest of British colonial possessions, has a voluntary militia force of about 40,000 men, who are called up for drill sixteen days every year. In addition, it maintains several permanent corps and schools of instruction of a maximum strength of 1,000 men. The Victorian land forces number between 5,000 and 6,000, and those of South Australia some 2,600, including a thousand volunteers. Queensland, by an Act passed in 1884, keeps up a drilled force of 4,500 including about 150 fully paid engineers, 2,500 militia, paid for each day's drill, and 2,000 volunteers assisted with uniforms, etc. In N.W. South Wales, the defence force numbers upwards of 8,000 men of whom some 600 are regulars, 4,000 volunteers and 3,500 reserves. New Zealand maintains a voluntary force of 10,000 men, besides a small permanent militia for artillery and torpedo work. Finally, Tasmania and Western Australia each maintains small volunteer forces, the former of about 2,000 men and the latter of considerably under 1,000.

In nearly all the colonies the law provides that, in case of emergency, the whole of the male population, usually between 18 and 55, may be called upon for service. Taking the figures as they stand, they do not furnish a very imposing display of military strength; but if the colonial forces are small in numbers, they are of excellent quality. For the most part, the men are of superb physique, literally ready to go anywhere and do anything."

WE read in the *Times of India*:—

"For all the good they are likely to achieve in bringing to a head the important question of house connections in Bombay the two elaborate reports which have been formulated by the Committee appointed to discuss the subject might never have been written. The Committee appear to be hopelessly divided, though one would think there could hardly be two opinions on the subject. The final conclusions of the majority of the Committee are that house connections should be divided into two parts, the first including all work to be carried out on public thoroughfares which, the Committee observe, should be done at municipal cost out of general drainage funds; while the second, consisting of all the rest of the work, external and internal, required for connecting the house, should be carried out by the house owner at his own cost. The native house-owner, however, with a few

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exceptions, is notoriously indifferent to sanitary requirements, and it seems pertinent to inquire by what means the Municipality would seek to compel him to do what he does not want to do and what he does not see the necessity of doing. Is the Municipality prepared to undertake the wholesale prosecution of every refractory householder in Bombay? The task would be altogether too Herculean; and, moreover, would mean a delay of years in the carrying out of this eminently necessary sanitary reform. The minority of the Committee come to a much more sensible decision when they declare that the Corporation is responsible for the health of the city, and must employ the best agency for the construction and maintenance of house connections; in other words the Corporation itself must do the work, and if the common revenue is not sufficient to meet the cost it must be made so by increased taxation."

In Calcutta, the house owner has to pay for the connection, but perhaps it is not so costly as in the first city of the Empire. Before the water is laid in any house, the Bombay Municipality cannot do better than guard against waste of water. It is almost criminal in Calcutta.

FROM his championing of all Indian religions, the sage of the lion-guarded Aryan Cottage in Moti's Lane has come to the conclusion that "all our physical ills are due to sins, committed either by ourselves or by our ancestors," and that "if we are to raise ourselves physically and materially, we must elevate ourselves spiritually."

THE *Indian Mirror* reports that "the Cotton Institution shall remain closed for Thursday, the 11th instant, as the day to congratulate on the new coronation of the Rajah Shih Chunder Bannerji Bahadur, the vice-President of the Institution." We have not seen any subsequent account shewing where and how the new king was crowned and how many hundreds of persons in their quick march to the tables spread out with food and presents were trampled to death. Nor is there any announcement about banquets, balls, parades, theatrical performances, royal receptions and popular festivities following the "new coronation."

ENDORING our remark that it is too late for the *Indian Mirror* to condemn the kerosine oil because of its foreign origin, Babon Monmath Nath Bose writes:

During X'mas of 1893 I had occasion to go up to Chandusee, a station on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway. I went up to Nazimabad, once the residence of Nazimaddanla, the Viceroy of Shah Akun the second, the last Emperor of Hindustan, whose name it still bears. His tomb close by the small square fort, is still to be seen; but the buildings within it were dismantled during the Sepoy revolt, lest the rebels would use them. After a few days' stay, I went higher up to the Karnasram on the banks of the river Malinee, which the immortal Kalidas, in his celebrated *Sakuntala*, has dealt with so minutely. Thence to Haldikater, a plateau of the Himalayas, 25 miles North-West of Nazimabad. This place is full of jungles and is almost uninhabited, except by some Paharees who have 10 or 12 huts of rude construction to live in. Supreme in ignorance they recognize no currency and the British rupee, which has invaded the Native States, has no value to them. Some baniahs from the lower valley bring them rice, flour, salt, &c., and receive in exchange linseed, wheat, maize and other local productions. But marvel not, Mr. Editor, if I tell you that the darkness of Haldikater is illumined by kerosine—the oil for the poor. Therefore I think you were quite right to say "too late" when commenting on the paragraph quoted from the *Indian Mirror* of the 20th May. It is a vain endeavour to stop the consumption of the oil which for a trifle gives more light than any indigenous oils. It may be patriotism but is not Political Economy.

THE latest official report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops in the N.-W. P. and Oudh is:—

"The whether is somewhat unsettled. Duststorms with showers are reported in several districts. Heavy rain fell in one tahsil in Bara Banka. The extra crops are flourishing everywhere and are being reaped in places. Cane and indigo are being irrigated where practicable and are doing well. Sowings for the autumn crops continue. The numbers employed on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief on Sunday, May 30th, were—Banda 88,688, Hamirpur 49,068, Jhansi 33,953, Jalaun 41,821, Allahabad 8,008, Pilibhit 1,903, Gorhwal 2,522, Almora 1,769, Haridwar 793—total 228,615; of this number 30,995 dependants were gratuitously relieved on the works, and excluding Jhansi for which figures are not reported, 7,282 persons received relief under other provisions of the Famine Code. The numbers employed on village works were—Jhansi 915, Banda 22,067, Hamirpur 24,291 and Jalaun 12,495. Supplies are generally sufficient, but fodder is becoming scarce in many districts. Water is still deficient in Hamirpur and Lucknow. Prices continue high and are rising in most districts."



ACCEPTING the opinion of the Madras Government, the Government of India have held that hand-pumps, not being "ordinarily used in processes of husbandry, or for the preparation for use or for sale of the products of husbandry," and also not being ordinarily known as "water-lifts," are not exempt from import duty.

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A SPECIES of spider has been discovered in the forests of Java, which produces webs of such extraordinary strength that a knife is required to sever them.

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THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Benson, has expressed the opinion that in no part of the world are there to be found greater refinements of brain than amongst the Hindus.

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THE biggest library in the world is the National in Paris, containing 2,100,000 volumes. If they be arranged in a straight line, they would, it is said, occupy a length of 32 miles. The next greatest is the collection in the British Museum of England, with 1,260,000 volumes, which might cover 30 miles. The Russian Imperial Library in St. Petersburg has 1,000,000 volumes capable of occupying a lineal space of 29½ miles.

### NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

&amp;

#### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Committee of the French Chamber has adopted the Bill declaring Madagascar a French Colony. This step has been taken to enable France to cancel previous treaties between Madagascar and the Foreign Powers. America has accepted the move and renounced her treaty.

MR. Labouchere moved that the House of Commons do adjourn for the purpose of demanding further explanations regarding the Nile Expedition. Sir William Hircourt supported the motion, and quoted from the Italian greenbook to show that the expedition was undertaken in the interest of Italy, and that the idea of any danger to the Egyptian frontier was purely an afterthought. Mr. Curzon replied that the Italian despatches were only a gloss placed upon the language of Lord Salisbury by the Italian Ambassador. The Government, he said, took certain steps for the security of Egypt which had the advantage of assisting Italy. Mr. Balfour defended the non-publication of the correspondence with Lord Cromer, and concluded by declaring that confidential negotiations would be impossible unless greater discretion was shown than had been done by Italy. The motion was eventually rejected without a division.

In the Italian Chamber of Deputies the Duke of Sermoneta admitted that some of the documents in the greenbook were published contrary to usage, but said that their publication was necessary in order to enlighten the Chamber. Explanations, he said, had been exchanged with Britain which afforded fresh proof of the cordiality of the relations between the two countries.

MR. Rhodes in a speech at Bulawayo sketched a prosperous future for Matabeleland as an autonomous state connected with the Cape, by joint defence and trade relations which would eventually lead to federation.

ITALY is sending to Abyssinia an Engineer who is a friend of King Menelik, to propose a treaty of peace, based on resuming the treaty of Ucciali, and making the river Mareb the frontier of Erythrea.

GENERAL Kitchener has established his head-quarters at Omkeh, slightly to the north of Akasheh. The Egyptian troops from Akasheh, under command of the Sirdar, after marching all night, attacked and totally dispersed the Dervishes at Firket on the morning of the 7th. The Dervishes lost heavily, their camps, camels, horses, and stores were all captured. Their loss in men amounted to one thousand, including commander Emir Hammuda and many important Baggara chiefs, and some hundreds of prisoners. Although strongly posted,

the Dervishes were surprised by an ably planned and vigorous attack. The Egyptian and the Soudanese troops behaved splendidly and lost twenty killed and eighty wounded. No British officers or men were killed or wounded. It is reported that King Menelik has offered to assist the Khalifa against the Egyptians.

Major Burn Murdoch, of the Egyptian Cavalry, has occupied Suarda, capturing the Dervish camp and killing many of the enemy. Infantry are advancing to hold Suarda, which gives the Egyptians command of the whole Nile to the north. The Egyptians have captured a quantity of cattle, stores and treasure at Suarda. Altogether forty-five principal Mahdist Emirs have been killed, wounded or captured.

Advices from Bulawayo state that the British, on Saturday last, attacked and routed the Matabele near there, and that the Matabele lost three hundred in killed.

The Egyptian Mixed Tribunal has pronounced the advance from the reserve fund for the Nile expedition illegal, and ordered Government to refund the amount paid with five per cent. interest. All further advances are prohibited. The Egyptian Government and the British, German, Austrian and Italian Commissioners have appealed against the decision. In the House of Commons, Sir Michael Hicks Beach said that he had every hope of a reversal of the decision, and that the Government were considering whether they should invite Parliament to aid the Egyptian Government.

NEWS from Crete through Greek sources states that the Turks are still pillaging and burning. There is great excitement at Athens over the Cretan question.

MR. Curzon, replying to several questions in the House of Commons, said the Government had been pressing the Porte to remedy the state of unrest in Crete since December last, and the British Consul at Canea had been instructed to join the other consuls there and intervene in the negotiations between the Turks and the insurgents.

ALL honour to *Punch*! It has an excellent cartoon in which India, represented as a graceful girl, is saying to John Bull: "I have found the men for Snakin, but why the money too?" To which John Bull replies: "I really don't see why you should."

A GREAT sensation has been caused throughout Spain by the late outrage at Barcelona at the Corpus Christi festival. Forty Anarchists have been arrested, and the Cabinet is compiling a special Bill for the severe repression of the agitation.

THE trial of Dr. Jameson and his officers was resumed at Bow Street on June 11. The evidence showed that the raid had been long in preparation.

THE Commercial Congress of the Empire has passed a resolution in favour of arbitration in international disputes.

THE Rand Reform leaders have been released on payment of a fine of £25,000 each, and undertaking to abstain from politics in future under pain of banishment. Colonel Rhodes, refusing to abstain from Transvaal politics, has been banished.

MUHAMAD ALI, the eldest son of the Shah has been proclaimed heir-apparent.

THE rumour that Mr. Justice Ghose retires is premature, if not wholly unfounded. His pensionable term will not be complete till May next, when he goes on furlough. If then time be heavy on his hands, he will continue in service.

THE third Criminal Sessions begins on Wednesday, the 1st of July next. Already the Sheriff's notice requiring the attendance of gentlemen to serve on the special jury is out. It contains the seal of the sheriff and a signature supposed to be Mr. Playfair's. We are not sure that the signature is his. The practice in the office is to empower the deputy to sign the sheriff's name. Is this legal? Is the

notice valid? At any rate, the chief executive officer of the highest Court should be above any device however well intentioned or adopted for convenience. If the sheriff has to sink himself in his deputy, the nominal head may well be removed, especially when he cannot always earn his own poundage.

THE Royal Bengal Theatre Company of Beadon Street have had a most successful campaign at Chittagong. Engaged by the Empress's Birthday Festival Committee for three days only, they received so much encouragement that they remained for a fortnight, playing to crowded houses in spite of the heat and frequent storms of rain and wind. Their financial success is the more remarkable inasmuch as men apparently qualified to speak with assurance by long residence at Chittagong were unanimous in prophesying that the people would not pay for admission. The Company left Chittagong last week for Comilla after performing two operas, for the special delectation of Mahomedans, to a house packed with followers of the Prophet. They were loud in their acknowledgment of the hospitality received from the inhabitants and the pains taken to provide them with lodging and fare of the very best. The glimpse of a higher life thus afforded to the Chittagonians is already evident in an amelioration of the popular manners. It had hitherto been usual, in this most neglected corner of the Province, for people denied admission to a public entertainment to signify their disapprobation by pelting the building and audience with brick-bats. The custom was a recognised one, and those indulging in it were called *kujaras*. It was put in practice during the first few nights; and the Assistant Manager was struck on one occasion by a missile hurled at him from the outer darkness. Measures were instantly taken to keep the local "roughs" under proper control, and not only were the audience during the last week unmolested but silence succeeded the Babel of tongues which had at first drowned the business on the stage.

The public were especially charmed with the grace and modesty displayed by the actresses; and, indeed, there was but one complaint—the absence of programmes. Here, we venture to think, reform is called for in the Calcutta Theatres. The programmes supplied are generally bald records of entrances and exits, and fail to satisfy the average spectator's desire to gain an idea of the action of the piece. An ideal programme, or, more properly, playbill, begins with the *dramatis personæ* and gives the names of the actors and actresses taking the several parts. Then follows a synopsis of the plot which tells the story of the play in brief and simple language. Next, the *venue* of the different acts and scenes, and the bill ends with the names of the business and stage managers, the leader of the orchestra and other officials of the Theatre.

A BRAHMAN named Sashi Bhusan Roy obtained a rule from the High Court, Original Side, against Shamapada Roy Chowdry, a convert, to produce his infant daughter Mrinalini Debi whom Sashi claimed as his wife. He made an affidavit saying that he was married to the girl in the year 1892, when she was nine years of age; that after marriage she remained with her mother who lived in the paternal family dwelling house separate from her husband who had left his own religion for Christianity. In the year 1894 the mother also embraced Christianity and left the family dwelling house to rejoin her husband. Two years after, the parents caused the child to be surreptitiously removed from the custody of the members of the father's family and to be brought down to Calcutta with the avowed and secret purpose of converting her to their new faith. Sashi's next statement was that the child was being detained against her will by the parents, and that arrangements had been made on the day next to the day on which the application for the rule was made, to compel the girl to renounce Hinduism, and that the child was so much averse to the treatment that she was receiving from her parents, that she declined to take food from their hands or to eat with them, and that she herself absolutely refused to be compelled to embrace the Christian religion. In answer to the rule, the father swore that there was no surreptitious removal of the child at all, that no force or compulsion had been employed for the purpose of removing the child from the custody in which she was left by the mother, to bring her under the care and charge of her parents, that she was living with them of her own free will and was content to remain with them, that the girl was of the age of 11 years and not 13, and had not attained puberty. On these two affidavits, Mr. Justice Sale pronounced judgment discharging the rule. His words are:—

"The question is whether the present custody of the child by the parents is legal custody which a Court can or ought to interfere with under the provisions of Section 491, Cr.P.C. Now I don't think there is any reasonable doubt as to the jurisdiction which is vested in the Court under the provisions of that section. That section gives the Court the jurisdiction which was formerly vested in this Court as the successor of the Supreme Court, and that jurisdiction has been thus described by Mr. Justice Phear in the case of *Queen vs. Vaughn*, V, B. L. R. 427. I refer to his case as it is mentioned in the case of *Week vs. Krishna* reported in I. L. R., IX, Mad. 306. The latter case is one of the cases which are referred to in the case in XVI, Bom. 307.

(After reading the remarks of Mr. Justice Phear on the nature of a habeas corpus which had for its object the guarding the liberty of the subject, and which was issued on behalf of a person illegally confined, and not for the purpose of lending the arm of the law to any person claiming authority, Mr. Justice Sale continues:) Now taking that as the correct view of the jurisdiction exercised by this Court under Section 491, the question is whether I can say that it has been shown that the present custody of the infant is illegal custody. It has been strongly urged that under the Hindu law the right of a husband over an infant wife is paramount, but that right, as has been remarked, is subject to this qualification, that it may be limited by any custom shown to exist, under which, until the infant wife attains puberty, the proper custody of the child is the recognized custody of the parents. The case here is not one which so frequently happens as between the husband and a stranger who is acting as guardian of the infant, but the question here is as between the natural parents of the infant child and her alleged husband. It is shown that the child has never been in the custody of the husband, but has throughout remained in the custody of the parents or those appointed by the parents. It seems to me under these circumstances, for the purposes of exercising the summary jurisdiction of this Court under Section 491, that it would be impossible to say that custody of that character is an illegal custody. I think that it is unnecessary, having regard to the age of the child, that I should stop to consider whether she is now being detained by her parents against her will, though I am bound to say that, if I thought it necessary, I should be inclined to exercise the power which the Legislature has thought fit to clothe the Courts of this country with, under the Guardian and Wards Act in cases where the question of the proper custody of the child arises. In these cases, by Section 17 of the Guardian and Wards Act, one of the circumstances which the Court must take into consideration in determining the proper custody of the child is the preference of the child, if it is old enough to form an intelligent preference. Therefore in cases of that character the question would depend not upon the age of the child but upon its intelligence. But as I have said, I do not think, having regard to the facts of the case, that it is necessary for me to consider what the choice of the child itself may be except so far as it is stated by the father in his own affidavit, and I should also desire to observe that not only does the Hindu law itself recognize that the authority of the husband over the person of an infant wife is subject to the limitation which I have already mentioned, but also the Legislature itself has thought fit, under certain circumstances, to give the Court power, upon questions of custody, to disregard the authority of the husband. By Section 12 of the Act, in cases where it becomes necessary to provide for the interim protection of the person of an infant the section provides (reads the Section). I must say that it appears to me extremely undesirable that the Court in a proceeding of this character should take upon itself to determine definite questions of custody when these questions may be, and as I think ought to be, properly determined by a regular suit for the purpose. It is undesirable, I think, that under the summary jurisdiction of this Court parties should be encouraged, under the guise of an application for the custody of an infant, to exercise or enforce rights arising upon marriage. But even assuming that the husband has in a case of this kind a paramount authority, before the Court would exercise jurisdiction under Section 491, Cr.P.C., so as to assist the husband in obtaining possession of the person of his child-wife, it would be necessary that it should be satisfied that the exercise of its power was required for the welfare and well-being of the child. On more occasions than one the Court has exercised the jurisdiction which it undoubtedly has, by declining to give effect to the legal custody of infants where the circumstances have shown, for the purpose of securing the welfare and well-being of the infant, that that legal custody should be interfered with; and it is from that point of view that I have to regard the present application. As I have already pointed out, the application was made for the purpose of preventing what, it was alleged, would be a lasting injury to the child. The facts shew that no case of that sort has to be considered so far as the infant is concerned. Whatever injury it was the object of the applicant to prevent happening to the child, has already occurred. If the fact of eating, taking its food with its parents, has the result of outcasting it, that result has already taken place, and I am not prepared to say that under the circumstances it necessarily follows, assuming that the marriage with her alleged husband is a valid marriage, that the welfare of the child demands that her custody should be now entrusted to the husband. It seems to me that the circumstances, as they at present exist, demand rather that the child should remain with her parents. Whether or not it will be for the welfare or well-being of the child that the marriage which took place in 1892 should be recognized by the Court by the handing over of the child to the parents, must depend upon a good many facts and circumstances which are not now before me. It has been suggested that, if I am unable to say that this marriage proceeds upon the basis of a valid marriage, before determining the question now at issue, I should set down the fact of the marriage to be determined upon oral evidence as a separate issue. It seems to me that if I take that course I should be turning the proceedings under Section 491 to purposes for which it was never intended. Whether the marriage is a valid marriage or not, is a question which at present I have not before me to determine. The fact that the validity of the marriage is denied by the father of the infant is one of the circumstances which I take

into consideration in determining whether it is for the well-being of this child that she should, in the present proceedings, by the order of this court be made over to the custody of her husband.

Thinking as I do, upon the facts I have found, the circumstances shew that the welfare of the child demands that she should remain with her parents until the question as to the right of the husband be otherwise determined. This rule should be discharged with costs."

Supposing the husband retire from the business, will the father of the girl be free to marry her again before another order is made by the court? It seems that on the conversion of the father, that the child might not be lost to Hinduism and be overtaken by the fate of Native Christians, she was married by her near relatives to the claiming Brahman. The father repudiates that marriage as without his consent, and considers the marriage invalid. He thinks that with his conversion, all his children became converts and that as a supposed Christian his daughter could only be married under the Christian Marriage Act. Mr. Justice Sile was not evidently prepared to dispose of such grave questions in a summary proceeding and left the husband, if he still claimed his wife, to establish his right in a regular suit.

AN extension of two years having been granted by the Lieutenant-Governor to Mr. B. C. Seal of the Statutory Civil Service, at present District Judge of Beerbhoom, a gentleman, evidently belonging to the Covenanted Civil Service, took umbrage at it in the correspondence column of the *Englishman*. In attempting, however, to prove the extension as unwarrantable and as inflicting a downright injury on Covenanted Civilians, the writer discovered a complete unacquaintance with facts as also service regulations. The truth is Sir Alexander Mackenzie had not to stretch a point for doing what he has done. Extensions to members of even the Covenanted service are by no means rare; nor are they opposed to the regulations governing the statutory service. As a rule, Covenanted Civilians retire after a definite period of service. That period is 35 years. In the case of Statutory Civilians, however, retirement follows the attainment of a certain age, *viz.*, 55 years. Allowing that there is a difference in stamina between the European and the Indian constitution, it does not follow that every native, after fifty-five years of age, becomes incapacitated for further employment under Government. Mr. Seal is an exceptional officer. Then, again, the retention of a senior officer beyond the usual limit of age or period of service should not be looked upon as a block in the way of the advancement of junior officers. It is very true that extensions operate to delay the promotion of juniors, but then the interests of the public are graver than those of individuals. It is to the benefit of the public that a capable senior officer should not be superannuated at fifty-five. Such a material consideration should not be overlooked for the sake of avoiding the displeasure of men who look upon the public service as only a milch cow that exists for them and their clientele. There is no better paid Service in the world than the Indian Civil Service. Created under circumstances that no longer exist, its retention on the old basis can scarcely be justified. When India was little known to Englishmen, when, indeed, the climate of this country was regarded as exceedingly baneful to the European constitution, when an appointment in India was looked upon as the best means for disposing of a younger son, when a voyage to these shores could not be accomplished without doubling the Cape and risk of shipwreck and scurvy, when a residence here for six months was sure to bring an affection of the liver and the spleen without a qualified physician to consult within fifty miles around, when such appliances of art as ice, *punkahs* and *khaskhas* for mitigating climatic rigours were unknown, when there was not a mile of railway for journeys on land and not even a poor flat on the water propelled by steam, high pay and especial privileges were needed for attracting superior men into this country. More than a century of British rule, however, and the advancement of science and art, have done much to alter the condition of things. Accordingly, in those days, young men of sound university culture,—indeed, the flowers of Oxford and Cambridge,—have not the slightest disinclination to come out to India and enter the public service. What can be the justification, then, of keeping up an expensive and exclusive organisation for recruiting the Indian service? It can be confidently said that the curriculum of studies for the Civil Service examination is narrower than that of many of the examinations of the British universities. We do not deny that even the Competitive Civil Service has given us many men possessed of high culture and exceptional talents and, therefore, capable of holding their own against all comers. But

who will deny that similar men are capable of being furnished by the universities of the United Kingdom? Upon a comparison of results, the universities, it will seem, have always been the nurseries of talents far higher than those which the Indian Civil Service Commissioners have been able to foster or find out. It is somewhat ridiculous that at a time when the civil service itself is looked upon as an anachronism and anomaly, its defenders should harp upon the interests of its members, seeking to extoll and protect them against the interests of the Indian public. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has acted very properly by retaining Mr. Seal in the service. The advantages the public will derive from the matured experience of Mr. Seal will prove heavier if weighed against the injury done to a few juniors. The fifty-five years rule, again, is scarcely consistent with wisdom. Superannuation at that age is undoubtedly too early.

ELSEWHERE we have given the last week's report of the famine. This week's account is that relief works have been started in the Shahpur tansil and the Lahore district, where 7,460 persons are now employed. General rain has fallen in the North-Western Provinces, and the crops have much benefited. The numbers on relief works are 193,837, of whom 20,000 are being gratuitously relieved. This does not include some 45,000 persons on village works at at Banda, Hamirpur, Jhansi and Jalaun in Central India. Nearly 20,000 persons are on works in Bundelkhand, 3,000 in Gwalior, and 3,500 in Bighelkhand. In Rajputana the agricultural stock are suffering, and in Meywar and Alwar, and are dying in parts of Jaisalmer for want of fodder. In Mirwar 5,000, Merwara 2,000, and Ulwar about 1,000 persons are on relief works.

No sooner acquitted of the charge of murder of her husband, Mrs. Emily Ghose made preparations to receive her boy love Solomon in open matrimony. The marriage was not gone through in any church. The pair were afraid of violence from neighbours if the ceremony were performed openly in their house. They had therefore decided to call in the Registrar of Christian Marriages and make their declarations of affection in secret in his presence. But he, wise man, equally afraid of a row, preferred his own office, which was crowded with Bibos of the Secretariat eager to have a view of the famous couple. We hope she will love him truly and he shall have a cheerful home.

THE Bengal Provincial Conference, to be held at Krishnagur, will be presided over not by Raja Jagadindra Nath Roy of Nutor but the Hon'ble Guru Prasad Sen. Biboo Gouprasad is one of our ablest men and is deserving of the honour done him. The sittings are fixed for next Friday and Saturday, the 19th and 20th days of June.

LAST week, the deaths in Calcutta numbered 235 against 257 and 280 of the two weeks preceding. There were 33 deaths from cholera, against 44 and 71 in the two preceding weeks; the number is higher than the average of the past quinquennium by 18. There was one death from small-pox against three in the previous week.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, June 13, 1896.

### COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION NOT A SOUND TEST.

COMPETITIVE Examination is the rage of the day. Of all the Governments in India, that of Bengal has ridden the hobby to absurdity. It has prescribed that test of merit for all kinds of posts—from a Police Sub-Inspectorship to a Deputy Magistrateship. It is said that Bengal has much advanced in education and that the State must have the best educated men for the public service. This argument may look very well in theory and be arrayed with much effect in the public utterances of our rulers, but when carefully examined it is not so invincible as it may seem.

Let us see what has been the effect of the system. This examination has been introduced for more than 12 years, and since then the selection has

generally been made from the University degree-holders. A glance at the civil list would show that we have a set of highly educated men in the subordinate public service, but would Government take the public (who are interested in the appointments) into its confidence and tell them what is its experience as regards character and qualifications of such Deputy Collectors and Deputy Magistrates and how they have been reported upon by the District and other superior officers? We have now every class of men in this branch of the service, which may be said to be truly representative with sons of Rajas, Nawabs, Rai Bahadurs, Khan Bahadurs, scions of old and respectable houses, would be founders of families and houses, men of all grades of society, of various sects and castes,—sons of peons and orderlies, ploughmen and grass-cutters, not excluding Sir George Campbell's representative rayyets and respectable fakirs.

It is true that Government has reserved the power of taking in scions of respectable families who may not come up to the standard of education laid down, but who, for various reasons, for their own good and the good of the State, ought to be encouraged to Government service. For a time also this power was exercised in the spirit in which it was reserved. Of late, however, there has been a tendency to shew no such disposition. From the recent examinations, it seems that a sort of limited competition has been introduced among the candidates who fail in the open competition but obtain  $\frac{1}{3}$  marks or more. Among these, preference is given to such as gain the highest numbers. Of these, again, if there is any with a family or other claim, it is considered a qualification in his favour, above the educational. In other words, in the first place, they only are accepted who win in the examination; next, those who, failing in the prescribed test, are fortunate enough to gain one-third or more marks and have respectable connections. But a truly respectable candidate with general knowledge and fair education, failing to obtain one mark less, is nowhere in the race. He must give way to one who has obtained just the passable numbers. It does not matter who this man is or from what stratum of society he comes. High birth if not caste and good breeding are great factors in Indian administration. The first has been recognized in the highest office in the Empire. The low-born or the ill bred, though educated in the ordinary sense, without being raised, by their little knowledge of English, to the caste of Vere de Vere, not only

Smile at the claims of long descent,

but also consider it a privilege and take delight in humbling those claiming long descent or respectability. They are the scourge of the land and do not add to the prestige of British Government in India. Yet they must be obeyed.

This year's result of the examination confirms what we have noticed of late. Among the successful Mahomedans we do not find one single name which indicates that the accepted candidates had any other claim than the marks obtained at the examination. Very good and able Mahomedans with strong family claims presented themselves from Behar and Bengal. Not one of them has been gazetted. Mahomedans from Behar have appeared for two years successively, but to no purpose. The result is very discouraging to the Mahomedans of Behar and generally to the higher and respectable classes all over the Province.

Is this examination or mode of nomination truly conducive to the interests of the service, or is it an unfailing test of the ability and character of the candidates? Is Government convinced that men so chosen are, as judicial officers or administrators, superior to, or as good and reliable as, men formerly appointed under the nomination system, whose race has not yet died out?

Competition pure may be a necessity in China or may have been found successful in England. India is differently circumstanced and that mode of selection of public officers cannot be only for good. India has been said to be an epitome of the world. That observation is as true geographically as in other ways. With various races and religions, with different and opposing customs, with no end of grades of society in various stages of development, with different and conflicting interests, where all is race and caste, where kings and chiefs are believed to be more divine than human, where heredity rules, the administration of the Indian empire is a stupendous administrative difficulty. It will not do to bodily import any Western or Far Eastern system. To adapt it to this country, it must be modified by the necessities of the country itself and the experience gained in it, and have proper respect for the long cherished feelings and prejudices of the people. Administrative abilities and qualifications are quite different from academical distinctions and literary acquirements. Dons, if not dunces, are not always successful judicial officers or administrators. The university stamp is only an indication of a man having received a fair education. Administrative talent in India is inherent in the higher respectable classes. With the firmer consolidation of British rule, the quality of governing is dying out, and whatever remains is visible only in the upper ten. A ruler of men, one who is placed in a position of authority over his fellow countrymen, one whose duty it is to administer justice between man and man, must command the respect and confidence of the public as of the contending parties. In the case of Europeans and especially civilians, this rule does not apply, and we need not give the reasons. If India is to be governed justly and properly, Government cannot afford to ignore this great consideration.

Can an official who has his cousins as peons under the Nazir, or whose father-in-law is the Record-keeper of the Collector, or who is daily seen in court during lunch to smoke *hooka* or chew betel with the ministerial officers under the Bur tree or in the private chamber of his Amla, command any respect from subordinate officers or the public at large, and can he have the courage to control his men? Can an officer whose brother or uncle is a Sub-Inspector of Police or a Head constable in the same district or sub-division have the inclination to reprimand or censure a Police Inspector, the immediate superior of his relation? Can he detect a defalcation in the *tanzi* or treasury by his kinsmen? Can he stop corruption and not be afraid of being boycotted the next day in the society in which he moves and lives. Can a low officer keep a tight hand over such members of the bar who unnecessarily waste the court's time? Are men of this calibre worthy of the respect and confidence of superior officers?

Not only they are not free to perform their ordinary daily routine of duty, but they are also a drag in times of trouble and danger. They lack the courage to walk up to a crowd of religious rioters



and have not the tact to restore peace among them. Kurmi and Jnola Deputy Magistrates will not face a cow killing fight where guns are fired and heads are broken. They or their like are not the men to remain unmoved in times of trouble and stand long by the side of a handful of besieged Europeans rendering them every assistance possible in their power. They are the last men to protect the lives of helpless Europeans or the Government Treasury at a time of commotion and rebellion, which god forbid! If they are not brave enough to receive a bullet shot standing by the side of their Magistrate when the whole population of a city are in arms against the Europeans, they are equally useless in arbitrating a religious or social dispute among the Natives as well. They bring no influence of their own to their posts except such as their places may give them, their education and training in the service fail to bring them any, except that by law they are to be obeyed in peaceful times. They are no leaders, born or "groomed," of men. Then, again, a poor Bania boy, who has never seen 100 Rs. together, is not always and everywhere the officer to resist the temptation of a thousand rupees offered him to go wrong. We had reason to believe that the present race of educated officers were above suspicion and, if anything, they brought honesty to the service. We are afraid, Government, by blindly following a hard and fast rule, is introducing undesirable men, and native Fordyces and Jones are again filling the service. Government may appoint any man to the public service, it may lay down any educational tests for its own guidance in the selection of officers.

But an honest man's aboon its might.

Miserliness may be no disqualification for public service. It is all the same a sin, and a miser is a disgrace to society and may be to the public service. If not dishonest in the discharge of their regular duties, most of the men we are speaking of, are a set of money making machines whose great aim in life is hoarding. That is quite natural for men brought to service from depths of poverty. Their mode of living and style of dressing are inconsistent with their position and cannot raise them in the estimation of the public. With all their elevation, they are not without their grievance. Their general complaint is that they are not properly treated by their European superiors. This neglect is greatly due to their own fault. If they knew how to draw respect they would get it first of all from a European superior. They know that they are not raised by the service, but they do not see that the service suffers by their connection; and, to the misfortune of the country, the boy Magistrates who rule the districts appear to be under the impression that all deputies are of the same class.

The old class of Deputy Magistrates (of whom we are still some left) raised themselves to the highest public positions in the gift of Government, commanded general respect, and rendered most valuable services to their own country and to Government. What a change with the present order of things! The new class hardly bring any dignity to their office. Many of them are proud if they are allowed a seat in front of a pheaton of some big Banker or Bania in his drive. They mind no insults from the ghatwal and Railway ticket collectors.

There are certain families who have served

Government with credit and honesty for two or three generations in this branch of the service, but under the present system of competition and nomination there is very little chance for their sons in the future.

In the N.-W. P. and the Punjab almost all the higher judicial and executive appointments are filled by members of respectable families. In the former any respectable person who has passed the B. A. examination can, without further examination, be appointed a Deputy Magistrate. There can not be any comparison between the present generation of officers in Bengal and the N.-W. P. In the Upper Provinces they are in every way a much superior class of men, possessed of real administrative abilities. Many of them have not passed the higher University examinations, but still they are well educated men. If the Government of the Lower Provinces do not change its system of examination, in another decade the entire rank of the service will not boast of any superior men.

#### LITERATURE OF BENGAL—V.

(Conclusion.)

Let me now resume the thread of my discourse. In my last letter I attached sufficient reasons to show that the era of Lakshmana Sena must have commenced from 1108 A. D. I cannot close my present letter without pointing out some archaeological vagaries of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra and of some European Oriental scholars who have expressed independent opinions on the subject.

(1) In page 256 of Dr. Mitra's *Indu-Aryan*, he says,—"the Era must have commenced in January, 1106 A. D."

(2) Further down in the same page he says :—"Beginning with 1105 A. D., Lakshmana Sena had a very prosperous reign."

(3) In page 256 of the same work he says :—"its date in 1874 was 767." (1874 - 767 = 1107).

(4) In page 256 he says :—"the era is still current and in the present year (1878 A. D.) reckons 791." (1878 - 771 = 1107).

(5) In page 201 of his work on *Buddha Gaya* he says :—"In the present year, it numbers 770. Its initial date must, therefore, correspond with A. D. 1103" (vide also Major-General Sir Alexander Cunningham's *Archæological Survey Report*, vol. XV, page 159).

(6) In Dr. Francis Buchanan's *Account of Purneah* (vide his *Eastern India*, vol. III, page 4), it is stated that the year 1810 A.D. was the year 705 of the era of Lakshmana Sena according to the almanacs of Mithila. (1810 - 706 = 1104).

(7) In the preface to his translation of the *Digest of Hindu Law*, Mr. H. T. Colebrooke says :—"Hityatha, the spiritual adviser of Lakshmana Sena, (a renowned monarch who gave his name to an era of which six hundred and ninety two years are expired)," &c.

(8) In noticing an inscription from Buddha Gaya, Mr. James Prinsep, the celebrated numismatologist, writes :—"the era (of Lakshmana Sena) commenced on Thursday, the 12th of the wint, in the month of Vaishakha, Sam or year 74 after the expiration of the reign of the auspicious Lakshmana Sena."

(9) In page 254 of his *Indu-Aryan*, Dr. Mitra writes :—"Calculated with the datum given by Colebrooke, it would have at once settled the date of Lakshmana Sena; but this was not done."

(10) In page 160 of his *Archæological Survey Report* (vol. XV) Major-General Sir Alexander Cunningham says :—"The era of Lakshmana Sena commenced in 1107 A. D."

(11) Dr. Albrecht Weber writes as follows (vide his *History of*

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBER, 19, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

*Indian Literature* p. 210, footnote 219a) :—"According to Bühler letter, September, 1875), Jaydeva, who does not appear in the "Sarasv. kanthab" flourished under king Lakshmana Sena of Gouda, of whom there is extant an inscription of the year 1116, and whose era, still current in Mithila, begins, according to the *Indian Antiquary*, iv, 300, in A.D. 1170."

According, therefore, to Dr. Rajendralala the era commenced in 1106 A. D., again, in 1108 A. D. (*vide* quotation 5 above), and again in the beginning of the auspicious reign of Lakshmana Sena, and once more "in the year 74 after the expiration of the reign of the Sena Raja." What a derangement of epitaphs,—confusion worse confounded—is here! Again, according to Dr. Buchanan and Colebrooke, the year commenced in 1104 A. D.. Colebrooke's "Digest" was published in December, 1796. Therefore, 1796-690=1104 A. D. is the reason advanced.

It appears to me that all the Oriental scholars named above, and Dr. Rajendralala also, were nodding at the time. Dr. Mitra was an archaeological Bohemian. The appellation of "Dr. Error" he had earned was scarcely improper. In a highly autocratic way all these antiquarians have presented the public with a debris of facts. I need not say anything more, for, from the above tabular list the reader will be able to measure the extent of the vagaries committed. As regards General Cunningham, all I have to say is that the datum from which he calculated the commencing year of the L. Era is not an accurate one. That datum is the last line of the copper plate noticed in the last paragraph of my last letter on Babu Trailokyanath Mookerjee's *Life of Bidyapati*. I would request the reader to refer to it again. That my calculation is the most accurate one, I think, I have made out. The late Babu Rajkrishna Mookerjee, in his *History of Bengal*, also fixed the year 1108 A. D. as the commencing year of the L. Era.

In pages 139 and 145 of his book, Mr. Dutt says :—"And at last, in 1828 he (Rammohan Roy) established the Brahmo Somaj," &c. This is clearly an error. On the 6th July, 1829, Rammohan Roy bought a piece of land for the foundation of his Brahmo Somaj. The building was completed in November. In December the Brahmo Somaj was formally opened by the Rajah. In page 156, Mr. Dutt says,—"One Gouri Sankar Bhattacharjee started a rival paper," &c. The italics are mine. One who is not familiar with the name of Gouri Sankar *alias* Goorgoore Bhattacharjee, should not take up the pen for writing a work on the *Literature of Bengal*. The very women of our country know the name of the Pandit who waged a spirited journalistic war with Iswar Chandra Gupta, and who, in spite of his coarseness, amused our ancestors greatly. If Gupta was superior in rhyme, Bhattacharjee was superior in prose. Mr. Dutt says,—"Madhusudan was born in 1824 in the village of Sagandari," &c. The birth-place of the poet is Sagandari and not Sagandari. Is this a printer's error? The quotation from Shakespeare's *Macbeth* which appears in page 204, is faulty. In page 42 (footnote) Mr. Dutt says :—"An English translation of this work (Mahabharata) was undertaken and nearly completed by the late Pratap Chandra Rai. His widow has piously undertaken to complete this work." But the question is who is the translator of this famous work? The celebrated person, who, after Herculean labour and at great self-sacrifice has Englished the Mahabharata, so long chose to remain behind the screen. Hitherto the reader was groping in the dark. It is well, therefore, that the veil has been withdrawn. A Sanskrit scholar and a lawyer, Babu Kisari Mohan Ganguli was eminently fitted for the task. He has placed not only all India but the whole world in ever-lasting debt. His erudition, his Job-like patience, his inspired pen helped him to continue, if not to begin, and complete the grand work. The Englished Mahabharata has made the names of its publisher and translator immortal in the annals of the world. Poor Pratap Chandra Rai was not destined to see the completion of his gigantic project. He was snatched away by the cruel hand

of Death in the midst of his glorious undertaking. So in his death-bed, with a longing lingering look behind, he implored the translator to finish the Mahabharata. Sreemati Sundaribala Dasi, the widow of Pratap, by sacrificing a considerable portion of her *Stridhan*, fulfilled the promise which she made before her beloved lord, not to leave a stone unturned for completion of his project. Hers is equally a heroic sacrifice, considering that she inherits nothing but widowhood by her husband's death.

In page 222 Dutt writes :—"Bankim Chandra was the first B.A. in India." Is this correct? The fact is, Bankim was one of the first batch of B.A.'s of the Calcutta University. There were others who took the degree in the same year with him. Mr. Dutt writes in page 184 :—"The *Sans Saucbi* theatre was established in Chowringhee early in the century." This is clearly a mistake. The building of the theatre was completed in May 1840 and opened in March 1841.

Professor Horace Hayman Wilson, M.A., F.R.S., the Father of the Indian Drury, was the originator of that theatre from which the name of the Theatre Road was derived. He had no connection whatever with the *Sans Saucbi*. He left India for good in 1833. Mr. Joakim Hayward Stocqueler, the founder and Editor of the *Englishman*, was a great encourager of the *Sans Saucbi*. Gentlemen of "blue blood," monarchs of officialdom, sons of Mars, and others "as valiant in courage as gentle in birth" flocked to Wilson's banner as amateurs and, the performances were so successful that on alternate Friday evenings in the winter season, you would see all ranks of people collected in the Calcutta Drury more regularly than in churches on Sundays. Tickets were highly priced, Rs. 8 for the box and Rs. 4 for the pit, and yet there was scarcely a single seat unoccupied when the door opened, about an hour before the performance, which was always advertised to commence on the arrival of the Governor-General, who had a box reserved for himself. This theatre did yeoman's service in its days. It created a genuine interest in the native mind for dramatic performances in proper form, which led to the formation of the Belgachia theatre, where the first brilliant fruits of the Hindoo College played eminent parts as dramatic personages.

Mr. Dutt's version of the genesis of the Bengalee language from *Prakritic* source is based upon a contestible ground. Professor Max-Müller and Babu Padmanav Ghosal—a Sanskrit scholar whose opinion is entitled to more weight, are disposed to think that the Bengalee language took its first impetus from Sanskrit and not from *Prakrit*. Mr. Dutt calls Pandit Prem Chandra Tarkabagish as Prem Chand Tarkabagish (*vide* p. 152). Pandit Tarkabagish never signed his name in Mr. Dutt's way, and, therefore, I think, we have no right whatever to make his name a misnomer by calling him Prem Chand Tarkabagish, though it is a more familiar sound. Mr. Dutt does no full reverence to the Maharaja of Pathuria-ghata. He has lowered him down by calling him "Maharajah Sir." Where is "Bahadur"? As our author is a high official he ought to distinguish the very fine line of demarcation and of honour between "Maharajah" and "Maharajah Bahadur," though there may not be anything like "Bahaduri" on either's part. The person of the "Maharajah Bahadur" class is a man of greater honour in the Government Darbar than one of "Maharajah" only.

With these words, and with the blessings of a Brahmana on Mr. Romesh Chundra Dutt who may have some respect still for the descendant of a Rishi, I take leave of his book. The Earl of Beaconsfield said,—"Those who love best, should criticize best." I love Mr. Dutt with my whole heart. I have, therefore, criticised him in a really friendly feeling. All that I contend for is that an author of Mr. Dutt's scholarship should value accuracy of statement. Slipshod work should never be given by one of his calibre and training. The great Sir Walter Scott himself was open to the charge of offering work after work to the public

without careful revision. "Apollo's venal son" was the sobriquet he earned from Byron in his celebrated satire. Of all calumnies, this seemed to stick to him. Mr. Dutt is an over-worked official. That he has still time to devote his energies to the writing of books is, no doubt, to be commended. But he should not, through haste, give crude works to the public. His example may be followed by others. That a man like him should be inaccurate in even his quotations is very much to be deplored. The public can ill afford to see only a book-maker in him. He should be something more. He should, indeed, be an author in right earnest. Of mere book-makers the public have enough. Every person of sense cannot but regret to see Mr. Dutt entering the field of text-book literature, manufacturing English primers not distinguished by particular merit, or histories with very little original matter. Such competition in the post of a well-paid Civil Servant, with poor pedagogues desirous of adding to their income, seems to be undignified.

S. C. SANYAL, M.A.

## OUR LONDON LETTER.

15th May.

*Imperial Parliament.*—Two events of first class importance have taken place since the last mail went out. On the early morning of the 14th inst. the great division on the education scheme of the Government took place, and the second reading was carried by the record majority of 267. This enormous majority was due to the Irish members, both Parnellites and anti-Parnellites having been compelled by their priests to throw over Sir William Harcourt for the time being and support the hated Government of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour. No one can foresee the consequences of this great division. Some think it has for ever destroyed Mr. Gladstone's old age delusion of Home Rule. Never again will the Radicals and the Irish party act together in complete unison. The political parsons, denounced by the Emperor William as "monstrosities," the Rogers, the Cliffords, the Hughes, the Berrys, are for the moment out of court. With them there is nothing but wailing and gnashing of teeth! Fortunately for the cause of progress, the British working man has sense enough and independence enough to assert himself. He cares nothing for the fulminations of the Gladstonian pulpits. The names I have given are representative. They form an ecclesiastical party as repellent to good, sound, honest Protestantism, as the veriest priest of the Church of Rome in the wilds of Connaught. Hence their delirium! Mr. Hughes has a paper of his own, and in it he has invoked all the pains and penalties of hell fire against those who refuse to bow the knee at his dictation.

The other matter of supreme importance was Mr. Chamberlain's masterly speech, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the House of Commons, on Friday evening, the 8th. It was a great speech, and the proof of it is found in the fact, it has had a most irritating effect, both on Oom Paul and the German press. There is no doubt that, at the present moment, Mr. Rhodes is under a cloud. I do not speak of the crocodile affectation of virtue on the part of Mr. Labouchere. Every one knows the value to be put upon his opinion. Whether he is praising or denouncing--no matter what the subject may be--the universal sentiment is "It is only Labby's way," and no one but the Radical boot-makers of Northampton care a two penny daum (to use the favourite expression of the great Duke of Wellington) what Labby's opinion on any subject may be. But, among all self-respecting citizens it is felt that Mr. Rhodes has to prove himself innocent of the charges Oom Paul has brought against him. Did Mr. Rhodes, as Prime Minister of the Cape Parliament, and as a member of the Privy Council, connive at Jamieson's raid? Did he say what was true or false, when he assured Her Majesty's High Commissioner--Sir Hercules Robinson--that he knew nothing of it? These are questions that must be probed to the bottom. All Mr. Chamberlain asks is that judgment be suspended until his (Mr. Rhodes') guilt or innocence be proved in legal form. All Englishmen acknowledge his illustrious services in building up our Empire in Africa--that is, all but poor conceited Labby. The terrible misfortune is the necessarily prolonged delay in bringing Jamieson and his officers to final trial. For while Mr. Chamberlain offered a joint commission of both Houses of Parliament to investigate the affairs of the South African Company, it was believed that such an investigation could not be undertaken until the issue of the great assize was determined. It is understood the trial will take place before a special court composed of the Lord Chief Justice of England and two of his most eminent colleagues. But this cannot be before July, and the Houses of Parliament will be dispersing just as the final judgment is arrived at. So it will be November before the Joint Committee of Lords and Commons can begin its work. It is in this prolonged delay that the danger lies.

It is notorious that Oom Paul hates Mr. Rhodes with a hatred it would require Milton's pen to delineate. You can almost imagine you hear Oom Paul ejaculating

I do hate him as I hate the devil,  
to put it in the form of Ben Johnson in his famous play  
"Every man out of his humour."

*France.*—One can only say of France that it is in a state of unrest. The new Ministry is not expected to last, and when the appeal is made to the country at large, it will probably be for President Faure to fight for his own. Many of the best friends of France must mourn now more than ever the untimely death of the Prince Imperial. Had he been in life, he would assuredly now have been Emperor. The crimes and blunders of the *coup d'état* could not have been visited on him. As for the Bourbons, the hatred of the French peasantry--a hatred passed on from sire to son for generations--will never be overcome. The follies of Louis the XIVth and the shocking immorality of Louis the XVth are as vividly known in every French peasant's home, as the latest foibles of Mons. Bourgeois, or M. Hanotaux. The future, the near future will possibly bring about strange developments.

*Russia* is wholly engrossed with the approaching coronation, *Italy* with her Abyssinian blunders and her fatal financial impasse. *Turkey* is in sore straits, and the wretched Sultan fears from hour to hour the same fate will overwhelm him as that of the late assassinated Shah of Persia.

Persia makes me remind my Indian friends that our minister at Teheran bears a name specially honoured in India, Sir Mortimer Durand. In the troublous future, and against the machinations of Russia, Sir Mortimer will require all the grand courage and fearless diplomacy of his illustrious father.

The difficulty between *Spain* and *America*, over Cuba, is for the moment happily settled.

Turning from politics to social matters, London is now in all its glory. The lilac, laburnum, chestnut, May and other blossoms are at their very brightest and best. We have had a spell of almost Indian heat, and the country is crying loudly for rain. But, just at the moment, London will bear comparison with any capital in the world, and socially everything ought to please the London tradesmen. The approaching marriage of the Princess Maud of Wales, is attracting a wonderful amount of interest not only on her own account, but because of the lavish loyalty of all to her gracious mother.

The opening of the Hotel Cecil between the Strand and the Embankment, gives London the largest Hotel in the world or nearly so. Its 700 bed rooms are all occupied. Already complaints of charges are appearing in the "Times." One unfortunate for half a small lobster, bread and butter with a pint of ale had to pay 7/ for his lunch. I am afraid you and I, Mr. Editor, will have to give it a wide berth.

22nd May.

An all-night sitting of the House of Commons! That is to-day's great news. It is too early to ascertain the reason of it. Naturally the Government wished to have the Agricultural Rating Bill out of Committee before rising for the Whitsuntide.

Like a good "Old Indian" I am always afoot by 5 and after my *chata bazree*, I go out for a long walk. To-day was a lovely summer morning, and when strolling in Hyde Park, I was amazed to see the light burning in one of the Towers of Westminster indicating that the mill was at work. I went down and beyond hearing five members--including the worst man that ever sat in the House of Commons, Dillon--I could get no rationalist account of the procedure.

I went down again at one o'clock, and found the House had risen for the Whitsunday holidays till Monday week.

The awful member for Battersea--Mr. John Burns--the persistent advocate of an eight hours Bill, was no doubt among the obstinate and insolent minority. I spoke to an old friend, a policeman, and he told me that he had been on duty seventeen hours, probably extended to twenty-four before the House rose. But, as the police do not contribute to Mr. Burn's salary, he will, doubtless, leave them religiously alone. After the House resumes on Monday week, we shall be thrown into all the horrors of a battle over the Education Bill.

As I surmised in my last, the Irish vote on behalf of the Government has completely broken up the alliance between Irish Nationalists and the Radical members of the House. Had that grand old man General Gordon been in life, he might well have said to the selfish octogenarian of Hawarden Hustle, "Khartoum is avenged." The saying is, there are only two men who believe in union boom--Mr. Gladstone and his son Herbert.

Thank God the role has been played out and for many years to come we shall not see Master Herbert in any ministry.

How true was Lord Palmerston's sagacity in foretelling Mr. Gladstone would be the ruin of the Liberal Party. No man hates Scotch Presbyterianism more than he does, as you can find for yourself in the life of Hupe Scott of Abbotsford, or in Bishop Wilberforce's life, and yet for political purposes Mr. Gladstone yields himself to the Scottish Presbyterians, while these last out of hatred to the Established Church of Scotland, banded together as Free

Church and United Presbyterians, to destroy the grand old historic Church of Scotland, though the last election has given these "reverend monstrosities" their quietus.

*Spain and Cuba.*—An exceedingly interesting and instructive article appeared in the "Times" of the 14th.

*France.*—The new Government has hardly settled down yet.

*Russia.*—Is wholly occupied with the Coronation festivals, after which the young Emperor will be expected to show that he has a good head on his shoulders. To any of your readers who wish to know what manner of man he is, I cannot do better than refer them to Mr. Stead's remarkable article in this month's "Review of Reviews."

*Home News.*—As I write death sentence has been pronounced on the Muswell Hill murderers, as also on the Whitechapel murderer. Complain as you like about our London police, they are often to the front when called upon it.

*India.*—How are your prospects of famine in the North West Provinces? Many Conservatives are hardly fired by the determination to charge on the Indian revenues the ordinary cost of the troops sent to the Soudan. The Government ought undoubtedly to have dealt with the question as it does when Imperial troops are sent to India.

I have nothing more to add today, but keep us well informed as to the actual facts of the famine, and generally on all questions on which your late illustrious guide, Dr. S. C. Mookerjee would have given us "light and leading."

## Official Paper.

### THE ROAD CESS—A CESS FOR ALL PURPOSES.

No. 1284 L.S.-G., dated Calcutta, the 30th March 1896.

From—H. H. Risley, Esq., C.I.E., Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,  
Municipal Dept.,

To—The Commissioner of the Orissa Division.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 32 T., dated the 17th January 1896, with which you submit copies of correspondence which passed between your predecessor and the Director of Public Instruction, on the subject of the educational allotment of the District Board of Balasore for the year 1895-96. You give reasons for differing from Mr. Cooke on this subject, and you go on to recommend that in this and other districts, where the Local Self-Government Act is in force, formal recognition should be accorded to the principle "that the proceeds of the road cess should be spent on roads, bridges, and water channels only, and that education and medical charity should be supported from other sources of income." In order to give effect to this principle, you propose that a separate account should be kept of the income derived by the Boards from road cess and of the expenditure incurred by them on the roads.

2. In reply, I am to point out that your letter discloses some misapprehension of the legal aspects of the question which you raise. The Proclamation relating to the expenditure of the road cess, which was issued under Sir George Campbell's orders in 1873, had reference mainly to section 90 of Bengal Act X of 1871. It stated in popular language that the funds raised under that Act would be spent within the district on the local roads, canals, and rivers, and would not be diverted to any other purpose. It gave, however, no pledge that the law would never be changed, and in fact, seven years later, a material change was introduced. By section 109 of Bengal Act IX of 1880, the objects on which road cess funds might be spent were substantially enlarged, so as to include the payment of leave allowances, gratuities or pensions, the planting of trees by the roadside, the improvement of the supply of drinking water, and the provision or improvement of drainage. At the same time the limitation to objects within the district, on which stress was laid in the Proclamation of 1873, was expressly extended, so as to enable the District Road Committee to construct, take charge of, or contribute towards any means and appliances for facilitating communication within the district, or between the district and adjacent districts.

3. The Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 effected a further change. The second schedule of that Act, read with section 2, remodelled section 109 of Bengal Act IX of 1880. Nearly the whole of the first clause, making the cost of collection and valuation and the indemnification of the Collector a first charge on the District Road Fund, was re-enacted, and the rest of the section was replaced by a provision laying down that "the balance, after payment of such expenses, shall be credited to the District Fund of the district." Section 53 defined the application of the District Fund, and the fifth clause of this section made the fund applicable to "the payment of expenses incurred by the District Board in the performance of the duties imposed by this Act." In other words, while the Cess Act of 1880 had authorised the expenditure of road cess on pensions, water-supply, and drainage, the Local Self-Government Act of 1885 made a further departure from the

principles of the Act of 1871, merged the road cess in the District Fund, and added pounds, education, medical relief, sanitation, vaccination, famine relief, the destruction of noxious animals, fairs, and agricultural exhibitions to the list of objects to which the fund might be applied. From that time forward the income of the District Board, from whatever sources derived, has been one fund and may legally be spent on any purpose provided for in the Act.

4. The view of the law, which is explained at length above, is that which has been taken by the Government on various references which have been made from time to time on the subject. It is a mistake to suppose that the orders issued in 1888, settling the educational expenditure of different districts and allotting grants from Provincial revenues, contemplated any separation of road cess funds from the general incomes of the Boards. The form in which those orders were passed was determined by considerations of financial convenience, and has no bearing on the general question now raised by you. At the same time, although under the law the District Boards, subject to the direction of the Commissioner, possess ample discretion as to the purposes upon which they may spend the District Fund, the Lieutenant-Governor considers that, on grounds of expediency and quite apart from any legal obligation, it is desirable as a general rule that an amount approximately equivalent to the proceeds of the road cess should be devoted to the objects which the Legislature had in view when Bengal Act IX of 1880 was passed. Special attention is urgently called for at present to the improvement of the supply of drinking water. Under section 48 of the Local Self-Government Act the Commissioner can exercise full control over the District Board budget, and it is for him to see that effect is given to the principle laid down so far as the special conditions and needs of the district admit.

### HAPPIEST OF ALL.

THERE is no time in the twenty-four hours when one ought to feel so thoroughly satisfied and content as immediately after a good, hearty meal. And all healthy persons do feel so. The body's demands have been met, and we are easy and comfortable, as though we had paid off an old dun and had money left. We are accessible, humane, and good-natured. Then, if ever we will grant a request without grumbling. "True benevolence," says a crusty old friend of mine, "is located in a capable stomach recently filled."

Yes, but what of the incapable stomachs, of which there are so many?—stomachs that disappoint and plague their owners, till the act of feeding, so delightful to others, becomes an act to avoid the necessity of which they are almost willing to die? Ah, that is quite another thing. These poor souls are they who say, as Miss Wallace says in this letter of hers, "I was no longer to be counted among those who have pleasure in eating. Far from it. As for me I was afraid to eat. I felt the need of food, of course—the weakness and sinking that accompanied abstinence—but what was I to do? The moment I ate, my distress and pain commenced. No matter how light the repast was, nor how careful I was not to hurry in taking it, the result was the same. The distress and gnawing pains followed, with discomfort in the chest, and a sense of choking, as if some bits of food had lodged there and were irritating me."

"So objectionable and repugnant to me was the act of eating that for days together I didn't touch a morsel of solid food, subsisting entirely on milk and soda water. Owing to this enforced lack of nourishment I got extremely weak, and about as thin as I could be. I must not forget to say that this happened to me, or rather it began to happen in July, 1886, when I was living at Wellington, in Shropshire. It came on, as you may say, gradually and not with any sudden or acute symptoms. I found myself low, languid, and tired. Then came the failure of my appetite and the other things I have named."

"I took the usual medicines for indigestion, but they had no good effect. After six months' experience of this kind of misery I read in a book about Mother Seigel's Syrup as a remedy for this disease, and got a bottle from Mr. Bates the chemist, in Wellington. Having used it a few days I felt great relief, and when I had consumed two bottles I was entirely well. Since then I have heartily commended Mother Seigel's Syrup to many friends, who have invariably been cured, as I was. You have my permission to publish my letter, if you desire to do so. (Signed) Minnie Wallace, Nurse, The Union Workhouse, Oldham, February 22nd, 1895."


In a communication dated January 8th, 1895, Mrs. Henrietta MacCallam, of 40, Downfield Road, Walthamstow, near London, states that her daughter Emma fell ill in the spring of 1886 with the same symptoms described by Miss Wallace. She craved food, yet, when it was placed before her, she turned from it almost with loathing. "As time went on," so runs the mother's letter, "my daughter became so weak she could hardly walk. Neither home medicines nor those of the doctors did any good. Her sufferings continued for over eight years."

"In June, 1894, she began taking Mother Seigel's Syrup, of which we had just read in a little book that was left at the house. In a week she was better, and in less than two months she was enjoying better health than ever before. She has since ailed nothing and can eat any kind of food. (Signed) (Mrs.) Henrietta MacCallam."

"Happy," sings Homer "were they who fell under the high walls of Troy." Happier are they who have never fallen under the crushing weight of indigestion or dyspepsia. Happiest, perhaps, of all are they who have been lifted up by Mother Seigel's remedy and placed where once again they can eat, drink and be merry. And if all these could be gathered together they would make a greater host than the Greek host ever dreamed of.



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to, Atkinson the late Mr. E.E.T., C.S.  
to, Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to, Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
to, Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to, Chelu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to, Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
to, Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.  
to, Gunguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.  
to, Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.  
to, Ghosh, Babu Kth Prasanna.  
to, Graham, Mr. W.  
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.  
from Guna, Babu Siroda Kant.  
to, Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.  
from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
to, Jenkins, Mr. Edward.  
to, Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.  
to, Knight, Mr. Paul.  
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
from Linsdowne, the Marquis of.  
to, Law, Kumar Kristodas.  
to, Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
to, Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
to, Mallik, Mr. H. C.  
to, Mauston, Miss Ann.  
from Metha, Mr. R. D.  
to, Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.  
to, Mookerjee, late Raja Dakshinaranjan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
from Nayarathna, Mahamahapadhyaya M. C.  
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.  
to, Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.  
to, Rao, the late Su T. Mithava.  
to, Rattigan, Sir William H.  
from Rosebery, Earl of.  
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.  
from Russell, Sir W. H.  
to, Row, Mr. G. Svamala.  
to, Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sasthah.  
to, Sinha, Babu Brahmaunda.  
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.  
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.  
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
to, Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vamb'ry, Professor Arminius.  
to, Venkataramanuth, Mr. G.  
to, Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to, Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from  
Abdus Subhan, Moulvi A. K. M.  
Ameer Hussein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.  
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
Banerjee, Babu Manmathanath.  
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Shib Chunder.  
Barth, M. A.  
Belchambers, Mr. R.  
Deb, Babu Manahar.  
Dutt, Mr. O. C.  
Dutt, Babu Prosadoss.  
Elgin, Lord.  
Ghose, Babu Narendra K.

Ghosh, Babu Kth Prasanna.

Graham, Mr. William.

Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.

Haudis Viharid is Desai, the late Dewan.

Iyer, Mr. A. Krishnaswami.

Lambert, Sir John.

Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.

Mitra, Mr. B. C.

Muter, Babu Sidheshur.

Mookerjee, Raja Peary Mahan.

Mookerjee, Babu Surendra Nath.

Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.

Routledge, Mr. James.

Roy, Babu E. C.

Roy, Babu Sirat Chunder.

Sanyal, Babu Dinabandho.

Sivriti Library.

Tippera, the Bira Thakur of.

Vamb'ry, Professor Arminius.

Vizianagram, the Maharaja of.

### POSTSCRIPT.

After paying the expenses of the publication, the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal of the family of the deceased man of letters.

Orders to be made to the Business Manager, “An Indian Journalist,” at the Bee Press, 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

### OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his life and letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Bibus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man. Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 730.

## COSSACK CRADLE-SONG.

DURING the night one of the men sang us some wild Cossack songs, one of which I had often heard the women crooning parts of before. Whether it was that the wild forms and scenes that were round me lent them a beauty the words do not really possess, or whether there is in fact some charm in this cradle-song of a warlike race, in some things not unlike our borderers of two centuries ago, it seemed at the time very impressive. I will therefore try to help my readers to judge for themselves, from a translation of Poushkin's verses, which, if it does not convey all the spirit of the original, is at least a close transcript of the words and metre.

The words 'bai-oosh-kie-baiou' are merely the refrain of the song, and as untranslatable as our 'lullaby,' so that I have left them in the original.

From scraps of songs which I have from time to time heard crooned in the Crimea and elsewhere, I should almost imagine that Poushkin's words here translated are only a remodelled and completed form of some popular cradle-song in use in his time among the Cossacks.

I am sadly afraid the Cossacks are no longer the romantic persons they were when the poet wrote of them. 'Richard's occupation's one' may be said of them. There is no one left for them to fight, and their existence as Cossacks would lack an object were it not for their duties as postmen. They are as rough as ever, but not, I should say, as ready with their weapons. Their love of cattle-lifting can no longer be legitimately gratified, and I fear I have cause to add that it has degenerated to the level of petty pilfering.—Clive Philipps-Volley, late British Vice-Consul at Kertch.

Sleep, my darling boy, serenely,  
Bai-oosh-kie-baiou,  
While the still moon, calm and queenly,  
Gleams thy cradle through.  
I will rise and tell thee legends,  
Chanting rhymes thereto;  
Ah, thine heavy eyes are closing,  
Bai-oosh-kie-baiou.

'Neath the rocks grim waves are sweeping—  
O'er them glides the Turk:  
Comes the vengeful Tscherkess creeping,  
Whets an hungry dirk.  
Peace! thy father, battle-hardened,  
Keeps watch keen and true.  
Sleep then, darling, sleep securely,  
Bai-oosh-kie-baiou.

Know thou, too, that days are nearing,  
Loud with war's alarms.  
Thou shalt spring to horse unfearing,  
Bearing warrior's arms,  
I'll weave charms upon thy saddle  
With a silken clue:  
Sleep, my baby, sleep, my heart's blood,  
Bai-oosh-kie-baiou.

Cossack to the core I read thee,  
Hero-like thou'lt stand:  
To the field myself I'll lead thee—  
Child! dost press my hand?  
Ah, the bitter tears in secret,  
Tender mothers rue;  
Sleep, my angel, stilly, sweetly,  
Bai-oosh-kie-baiou.

Ah, the bitter grief, the sorrow,  
Comfortless to wait!  
Each morn praying for the morrow  
All night guess thy fate.  
I shall dream thy days are wasted,  
Pining fond and true—  
Sleep—cares all as yet untasted—  
Bai-oosh-kie-baiou.

Round thy neck, my boy, I'll fasten,  
Ere thy path be trod,  
Relics rare thy life to chasten,  
And to lead to God.  
Tender heart, grow strong for peril,  
Be to mem'ry true!  
Now, sleep on—wild days are coming—  
Bai-oosh-kie-baiou!

## WEEKLYANA.

TODAY Her Majesty begins the sixtieth year of her reign. There was only one English monarch, George III., who had reigned three months more and lived to the age of 82. Queen Victoria is now in her 78th year. Second in age and in length of reign to only one English king, she is also the oldest reigning Sovereign with the exception of one—the King of Denmark, who is older by about 11 months. The Queen-Empress of India has been a widow over 34 years. May she yet live and rule us long!

OF the many accessories which combine to make the Czar's coronation memorable, not the least is the manifesto issued on the occasion. The present Czar's manifesto begins thus:—

"Be it known to all ye our faithful subjects, after we, by the will and grace of Almighty God, had fulfilled our sacred coronation to-day and had received the holy unction, we knelt at the throne of the King of Kings with humble and earnest imploring that He might vouchsafe to bless our reign, to the welfare of our beloved country; strengthen us in the fulfilment of our sacred oath; and enable us to continue the work handed down to us by our crowned predecessors of completing the Russian nation and promoting religious faith, good morality, and true enlightenment. Inasmuch as we recognise what all our faithful subjects stand in need of, and in particular turn our eyes upon the wretched and heavy-laden, whether their case be through their own fault or through forgetfulness of duty, our heart impels us to grant them also the utmost possible relief, so that, entering upon the path of a new life on this memorable day of our coronation, they may gladly be able to take part in the general jubilation of my people."

Then are enumerated fifteen different classes of amnesties and

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remissions of punishment. First of all, arrears of taxation in European Russia and Poland are remitted, and the land tax is reduced by one-half for a period of ten years. Then come remissions or reductions of all fines, together with the striking out of State claims in various places. Next, all convictions for petty offences punishable by reprimand, fines up to 300 roubles, arrest, or imprisonment without loss of certain social rights are remitted, the exceptions being robbery, embezzlement, misappropriation, usury, extortion, fraudulent bankruptcy, and offences against honour. The exiles are not forgotten. Those banished to Siberia after serving twelve years, and those banished to remoter Siberian Governments, after serving ten years from the date of their arrival, are permitted to choose their place of residence anywhere except in capital cities or provinces with seats of Government. They are, however, not to be restored to civil rights. Criminals who are interned in Siberia or the remoter Governments, or who are bound to remain in a fixed place of residence, will have one-third of their sentences remitted. For such sent to penal colonies, the term of residence necessary for obtaining freedom will not be ten but four years. Sentences of penal servitude are reduced by one-third, and life sentences commuted to twenty years. Many other punishments are also ameliorated and sentences reduced.

*The Westminster Gazette* reports that the Prince of Wales has been left £1,000,000 sterling by Baron Hirsch. It is the first time that a member of the Royal Family has come in for a windfall. Years back, a crazy individual named Neild left Her Majesty a legacy variously estimated at from £500,000 to £1,000,000. The Prince has now a grant of £76,000 a year, and the Princess £10,000. The other sources of income are the receipts from the Duchy of Cornwall and the estates at Sandringham and in Ahrdeenshire. There are also some military emoluments.

LORD Roberts is an indefatigable cyclist. Will cycling be a feature in the next war, great or small?

A TOBACCO journal states that the falling off in the demand for cigars will amount to 70,000,000 cigars, and this loss is generally credited to cycling.

AMERICAN shoe-makers state that the feet of women are getting bigger, but more healthy, owing to cycling, tennis, and other out-door exercises.

AFTER inquiry into the comparative merits of European and American armour, the contract for Russian armour has been given to the American Carnegie and Bethlehem Companies.

A POLISH engineer has invented a portable crematory, having the appearance of an army baking oven. It is intended to avoid the danger of epidemics from burial of large numbers of men. Burning is undoubtedly the safest disposal of the dead.

ELECTRICITY is being utilized for detection of artificial diamonds. A small disc of aluminium is attached to the spindle of a small motor. A clamp with a flat spring provided with an adjustable screw, holds the article to be tested. It is then moistened and placed in contact with the rapidly revolving disc. In the revolution the genuine stone shews no brilliancy, while the counterfeit produces brilliant metallic marks.

A WRITER in *Truth* says:—

"The London man of former generations, by which I mean the West End man, led a comparatively quiet life, and having had a classical education read every book that came out, and having had a play, and became the recognized judge and patron of literature and arts. The conditions of today have entirely changed the West End man in this respect. He now seldom reads anything but the news of the Stock Exchange quotations.

It is the West End woman who reads, and therefore the majority of authors write to suit her taste. Even admitting the contention that the women of our time are better cultivated and more experienced in such matters than they were formerly, the tone of the literature of today shows how injurious is the altered condition of things. A quarter of a century ago every year some book or books were published which from that moment had to be added to the standard literature of the language. Now years pass by without one such work being produced. As a matter of fact, at this moment the judgment of the provinces and of the colonies is of more value than that of the West End in this respect; for the men in the former have the leisure to

read and the ability to discriminate for themselves. The best literary representations of our generation have not been made by first obtaining the approval of the West End, but by first obtaining popularity in the provinces and in the colonies. The London literary reputations have mostly been attained through what is popularly called 'log-rolling.'"

"COMMERCE," an illustrated weekly journal of London, writes:—

"Don Quixote de la Mancha was surely never more enthusiastic over the manifold perfections of his Dulcinea del Toboso than is the *Times* over its Cecil Rhodes."

THE *Times* wrote:—

"Our policy in South Africa through a series of years has rested and, as Mr. Chamberlain has recently pointed out, still rests, on a twofold basis. We have proclaimed in words and shown by our acts that we are resolved to assert ourselves as the paramount Power throughout that region."

To this *H.* replies in *Commerce*:—

"Had the remark been made by a half penny braggadocio journal I could have better understood it. But to read such stuff in the first journal of the British Empire is, to put it mildly, astounding. We certainly have 'proclaimed by words' that we are resolved to assert ourselves in South Africa, but how dare the *Times* assert with any regard for truth that we have 'shown ourselves a paramount Power throughout that region.' We have done nothing of the sort, a fact which recent events have only too clearly shown. It is ridiculous to make assertions at which Englishmen must blush, and make even our well-wishers laugh in their sleeves. I do not wonder that *de Labruyere* said cynically that the highest reach of a news-writer is an empty reasoning on policy and vain conjectures on the public management. Then follows the servile eulogy which is a disgrace to a highly-placed English journal, remembering the object of the encomium has done his utmost to damage the reputation of the British nation in the eyes of the whole world."

THE same writer continues:—

"It is with no small amount of indignation I append the following excerpt: 'To his (Mr. Cecil Rhodes') foresight and his promptitude the Cape and the Empire owe that rich inheritance for all ages to come. Had he not seized it for her British South Africa would have been shut out for ever from all possibility of fulfilling her national aspiration of expansion to the north. But the statesman who secured for her this great field for future effort did not work for his own race alone. By a long course of legislation and administration in the Cape Colony he proved that it was his ardent desire to build up the men of English blood and the men of Dutch blood into one people.'

I will take the extracts in parts and analyse them. First there is the mention of his 'foresight and promptitude to which the Cape and the Empire owe that rich inheritance,' etc. Mr. Cecil Rhodes is possessed of foresight and promptitude which he uses for his own ends, being an opportunist of the worst description. The Cape and the Empire have to thank him today for the 'rich inheritance' of tarnished honour—ay, and it hurts me to write it—inglorious enterprise to which, thank God, our country, but for his machinations, would have been a stranger. The second in the *Times'* panegyric of its favourite which I will analyse, is 'The statesman who secured this great field for future effort did not work for his own race alone.' No. The statesman—or why not have put promoter, oh *Times*?—did not work for his own race alone. He, bless and save you, did not put his faith entirely in Dukes, in companies, in shares, in money-making! No. He aimed higher. Land grabbing was his game, and what though the covert was composed of human beings—flesh and blood equal to yours, though black, oh, my white brethren—he was determined to have it though he had to wade, neck deep, in blood to get it. This, the *Times*, hard *Times*! does not mention. 'By a long course of legislation,' continues my contemporary, 'in the Cape Colony he proved that it was his ardent desire to build up the men of English blood and the men of Dutch blood into one people.' Was the like hypocrisy ever heard, save from a Tartuffe or a Uriah Heep? Cecil Rhodes' desire was to sow the seeds of dissension and cold-blooded treachery, and—now he reaps the harvest of his ill-doing. This my contemporary does not see—will not see in fact. It therefore behoves us all, as Englishmen and Englishwomen, eager to follow the higher doctrines of a wide intellectuality and generous impulse, not to follow in the narrow lines of interested and mendacious journalism, otherwise our better judgment will be subverted and our nobler instincts dragged in the mire by closely attending to the tenets of false prophets who have their own interests to save."

A HORSE will, it is said, eat in a year nine times his own weight, a cow nine times, an ox six times, and a sheep six times.

THE jewels of the Shah of Persia are believed to be the most valuable in the world. There is one sword-scabard which is covered with diamonds, not a single stone being smaller than the nail of the little finger. A huge and splendidly brilliant emerald is almost the gem of the collection; on it are engraved the names of many kings who have possessed it at one time or another. The *Kohinoor*, now in the crown of Queen Victoria, was in the last century the property of the Shah.

If Volapuk is not to be the language of the world, the English bids fair



to be the *lingua franca* of Asia. In Siam, English is the trade language of all the nationalities.

THE mail this week was delivered one day late, that is, the day after the mail left Calcutta. Next week, it is expected in time on Tuesday.

IT has been computed that every day there is one suicide in the Punjab. In the town of Calcutta, last year, in the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Police, there were 66 cases against an average of 81 during the preceding 4 years.

THE Act to provide for the protection of Muhammadan Pilgrims, passed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in Council, received the assent of His Honour on the 17th April, 1896, and having been assented to by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General on the 27th May, 1896, was first published for general information in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 10th June 1896, from which date the law came into operation in Calcutta. It is open to the Local Government to extend the Act to any other place in the Province of Bengal. The working is entrusted to the Commissioner of Police, who "shall from time to time grant licenses empowering persons to act as pilgrim brokers." Power is reserved in the Local Government from time to time to "make rules to regulate the grant of such licenses and to prescribe the conditions to be embodied therein." We do not see that the Act prescribes any fee, but we are not sure that no fee will be charged. A higher fee than the Police Act allows is levied on licenses for native musical processions in streets, and a license is refused if no additional payment demanded for Police is made. The Police Commissioner may very reasonably ask for a payment to meet at least the cost of a license under the Pilgrims Act. A person who, without a license, acts as a pilgrim broker, or who lends to another person a license granted to himself, commits an offence under the Act for which the maximum punishment is a fine of two hundred rupees. The Police Commissioner is not empowered to inflict the fine, but "the penalties to which masters, owners and agents of ships are made liable by this Act shall be enforced only on information laid at the instance of the Commissioner of Police." The same fine of Rs. 200 overtakes a licensed pilgrim broker if he

- (a) commits a breach of any of the conditions of his license; or
- (b) purchases for or sells to any pilgrim a passage-ticket by any ship to which the Native Passenger Ships Act, 1887, applies, at any time before notice has been given by the master, owner or agent of the ship, under section 7 of that Act, of the time at which it is proposed that the ship shall sail; or
- (c) purchases for or sells to any pilgrim a passage-ticket by any ship, unless the proposed time of sailing is printed on such ticket; or
- (d) charges any pilgrim a sum in excess of the cost-price of any passage-ticket, or of any provisions or other articles, purchased for him, or receives from him any fee or commission on account of any such ticket; or
- (e) receives from the master, owner or agent of any ship, or from any railway-servant, any fee or commission in respect of the sale of any passage-ticket for a pilgrim, exceeding five per centum of the price of such ticket; or
- (f) purchases for any pilgrim a passage-ticket on which there is not printed or stamped the price charged for the passage according to the class of accommodation secured; or
- (g) by fraud or false representation, or by any false pretence whatever, induces any person to purchase a pilgrim's passage-ticket.

A "pilgrim" is defined to mean a Muhammadan who is proceeding to or returning from the Hedjaz; "pilgrim broker" means a person who buys and re-sells, or sells on commission, or takes any reward for the purchase or sale of, passage tickets, whether by sea or railway, for pilgrims.

A CONTEMPORARY, a great respecter and defender of the cow, writes:

"The *phuka* process is beneficial alike to the cows subjected to it and the society. The *goulas* are, notwithstanding this, sent to jail for resorting to this process for milking a cow which has lost its calf. And why? Is it because the number of idiots in the world preponderate (sic) those who have some sense? A cow, when it loses its calf is apt to get rheumatism, and it is necessary, to protect it from the disease to relieve it of its superabundance of milk. By this process, a most wholesome drink in the world is obtained, and this is lost to society by these senseless prosecutions. It is suggested that the process is painful to the cows. But has any one ever tested this statement? How is it then that cows permit themselves most willingly to be subjected to the process if it is painful to them? Nay, the cows do more. They show an impatience to be relieved of their milk by this process. All these any one can see who has eyes, and who will take the trouble to see it. The *phuka* process came to be condemned in this way. There was a prosecution and a witness was brought forward before Mr. Marsden, the then Magistrate. The witness a veterinary

Surgeon deposed that he fancied that the process was painful to the cows. When questioned he said he had dealings with horses but nothing to do with cows. All the subsequent *phuka* prosecutions are based upon this extraordinary evidence of the European Surgeon. Is there not one Magistrate who has the good sense to see, that before he punishes a *goula* for having resorted to this process it is his bounden duty to satisfy himself that it is really painful to cows?"

The statements are misleading if not a wilful perversion of facts. Our contemporary, like the famous "Doctor of Error," the late Raja Rajendralala Mitra, who thought that it not only caused no pain but also by titillation imparted a pleasurable sensation to the animal, is a defender of the process condemned by all Hindus. Painful or exhilarating, it has been made penal by law and magistrates are bound to punish the offence according to the law.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

CHOLERA is spreading in Egypt and the epidemic has now reached Assuan.

THE Emperor William has sent a telegram to the members of the Institute of British and Naval Architects who were lately visiting Hamburg and Berlin in which he hopes that the cordial reception given them in Germany has proved to them that "blood is thicker than water." He has also sent to the 1st Royal Dragoons, of which he is Colonel, a wreath to decorate the colours of the regiment on Waterloo day.

IN the House of Lords, on June 12, Lord Salisbury, in reply to a question, said that Dongola was the present objective of the Nile expedition. He would not, he said, pledge Government to a forward policy beyond Dongola this or any year, but he did not consider Egypt was made duly safe until her flag was floating over Khartoum. He added that General Kitchener had a free hand to Dongola, but was instructed not to go beyond. He warmly praised the conduct of the Egyptian troops in the late engagements. Mr. Curzon, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said he believed the expense of the Nile Expedition would not reach half a million for some time.

A DEPUTATION of the Associated Chambers of Commerce waited on Lord Salisbury, and asked the support of Government for making trade routes to China either by building or guaranteeing railways. Lord Salisbury replied that he was unable to assist any railway outside British territory, but that if a powerful and solvent Company was formed Government would do their utmost to assist in carrying a railway to the edge of British territory, and that done, there was not the slightest doubt the line would be able to penetrate foreign territory whenever desirable.

DR. Jameson, Sir John Willoughby, the Hon. Henry Frederick-White, the Hon. Robert White, Mr. Raleigh-Grey and the Hon. Charles Coventry have all been committed to stand their trial, and the rest of the prisoners have been discharged. For Dr. Jameson and his five fellow prisoners, bail has been accepted in the sum of two thousand pounds each on their own recognizances and one thousand pounds in one security each. Sir Edward Clarke said that Dr. Jameson assumed complete responsibility of the whole affair, and the others merely obeyed his orders. Lord Russell has consented to transfer to the High Court the trial of Dr. Jameson and his colleagues. The trial will not commence before the 20th July.

THE court-martial held at Asmara on General Baratieri has acquitted him of the charges brought against him, while deploring that the command of the Italian forces in Erythrea was entrusted to an incompetent leader.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ear, &c.; no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

BOTH Yamagata and Li-Hung-Cheng have been enthusiastically received at Berlin. In handing his credentials to the Emperor William, the Chinese envoy said that the relations of China with Germany were more conspicuously friendly than with any other Treaty Power. He thanked Germany for her powerful assistance in the last year's negotiations for the retrocession of the Liatung Peninsula. In reply, the Emperor hoped for a still further development of the friendship between Germany and China, for the welfare of both countries, and desired Li-Hung-Cheng to convey to the Emperor of China his thanks for sending a Mission to Germany, and subsequently conferred on Li-Hung-Cheng the Grand Cross of the Red Eagle. Li-Hung-Cheng also lunched with the Emperor and Empress at Potsdam, Prince Hohenlohe and the Members of the Chinese Legation, besides other notables, being present on the occasion. Li-Hung-Cheng paid a visit to Frankfurt-on-the-Oder, and had a grand reception, the streets were decorated and he was warmly cheered. A parade of troops was also held, after which he lunched with the officers. Li-Hung-Cheng, interviewed at Berlin, denied that a secret treaty existed between Russia and China, but admitted that a Russian railway was to be built through Manchuria. The parleying between Li-Hung-Cheng and Baron Marschall, the Foreign Minister, regarding the commercial concessions sought by Germany commenced on the 18th. Marshal Yamagata had too an audience of the Emperor on June 17, at Potsdam. Prince Hohenlohe had paid him on June 15 a prolonged visit. The Japanese Field Marshal does not visit England and Canada, but sails back for Japan immediately.

FOUR hundred British Blue Jackets attended the Mass, on June 14, in the Sistine Chapel, at St. Peter's, Rome. The Pope was present and blessed the audience. As he left all rose, cheering and waving their hats. The men were afterwards entertained at an excellent dinner in the corridor adjoining St. Peter's.

A MEETING of Unionist members was held in the Foreign Office to consider the situation in Parliament. Mr. Balfour urged the party to facilitate the passing of Government measures, specially the Education Bill. He hoped the House would be able to adjourn by the middle of August, and re-assemble in January. The meeting undertook to support the Government.

THE American Republican Convention met at St. Louis. Mr. Fairbanks, who was appointed temporary chairman, said the party would resist any attempt to degrade the currency to the level of the Indian and Chinese currency. He urged his audience to restore the protective tariff, and maintain the highest standard of value. His remarks were received with applause. The platform of Convention, as drafted, opposes the unlimited coinage of silver except by international agreement which it will strive to promote. Meanwhile, it upholds the existing gold standard and maintains silver paper currency on parity with gold and demands. It is strictly for a protectionist policy, and discriminating duties and for building up a Merchant Marine. It also upholds the Monroe doctrine and demands the protection of American Missionaries in Armenia. It sympathises with the Cuban struggle for independence and favours the granting of belligerent rights to the rebels. The Convention has nominated Mr. McKinley for the Presidency on the first ballot, and adopted the Republican platform by an immense majority. The Monroe doctrine plank is very emphatic that to permit any increase in the present European dominion in America there is no pretext, and hopes for an eventual and entire withdrawal of European rule.

AT a banquet at the Mansion House to Bankers and Merchants, Sir M. Hicks-Beach made a speech in which he said that the gigantic fabric of British credit was based on a gold standard, and he believed the vast majority of Bankers and Merchants desired to maintain it.

**DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED!** Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

THE week has been a terrible one with reports, from various corners of the world, of disasters of kinds.

The Cape mail steamer Drummond Castle, bound for London from the Cape with 247 souls on board, struck on a rock, off Ushant, at midnight, on June 17, and sank in three minutes. Of the 247 only 3 lives were saved. The good Queen of England has telegraphed her deep distress at the disaster.

An earthquake and tidal wave in the north-east coast of Japan, have destroyed the town of Kamashi, drowning ten thousand people and sweeping away many other towns.

The Marquis de Moers, the head of the French exploring expedition to the Egyptian Soudan, has, with his party, been massacred by a Tripolitan tribe.

The steamship Nonowai which arrived at San Francisco on the 10th May last, reported a wholesale massacre of traders and missionaries at Manning's Straits, in the Solomon Islands. It is also stated that the traders killed were afterwards eaten by the savages.

The *New York World* publishes a telegram from Caracas stating that a sanguinary conflict has taken place between the British and Venezuelans at Bauma.

Advices from the Cape state that a fresh outbreak of natives has taken place between Umtali and Salisbury, and that two native police and three whites have been murdered.

A telegram from Rangoon says that the native town of Mogok has been destroyed by fire. The Government offices and the European quarter escaped.

THE much desired monsoon has burst. It broke at Onty with some violence, felling trees, flooding rivers, and dismantling huts. The rain has been continuous, but not heavy, for the last four days. A heavy thunderstorm passed over Madras. The wind was very violent and the steamer Damera snapped her mooring chain. She was, however, removed without any damage. A coffee shop at St. Thomas's Mount was struck by lightning, and a Bombardier of the Royal Artillery considerably injured. Other men in the shop were thrown to the ground and rendered temporarily unconscious. After some excessively hot days heavy showers have fallen at Benares. At Calcutta, the rains are continuous for the last 3 days. From private letters we learn that there has been a copious fall in the Burdwan district and the prospects of crops have improved. A letter dated Dacca, the 17th, says "the weather is close, we expect rain every moment."

THE numbers on relief works in the North-Western Provinces have fallen to 144,000, of whom 17,000 are gratuitously relieved. Besides these some 20,000 are on village relief works. Nearly 8,000 persons are on relief works near Lahore, about 32,000 in Central India, chiefly in Bundelkud and Gwalior, and about 12,000 in the Rajputana States.

THE following is a translation of the letter written by the Hon'ble Prince Sir Jehan Kadr Mirza immediately before his death to Moulvi Abdul Jubbar, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E.:-

"God the Preserver! Full of merits, best of friends and a pilgrim to both the sacred places, may God prolong your life and enhance your virtues. After what is due by me (i.e., respects), my object in writing to you is to inquire about your health. In these days when the heat is excessive, the climate changeable, and various diseases are prevalent in the country, you have preferred to reside in Burdwan, and I have no information of that place. On this account I am very anxious in the present unfavourable state of my health in which you saw me last. May I therefore ask you that until I have obtained a personal interview with you, you will, during your absence, be so good as to continue to favour me with a line or two respecting your health and to relieve me from anxiety? You will excuse the trouble which this request of mine entails on you. You will also let me know when you may return safely to Calcutta. In the words of the poet, I say that, although my mind is happy at the recollection of yourself, there is no relief to the eyes which long to see you. My constitution is good by the blessing of God, but the pain in the back and the difficulty of breathing in consequence have made me much weak and spiritless as you saw me. I have neither sleep at night nor rest in the day or night. I am unable to do any work, even to read or write. With great difficulty I have written these few lines. With Salaam, Mirza Jehan Kadr, 16th April, 1896."

May God forgive him!

IN the Resolution on the Annual Report on the Police Administration of the Town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1895, occurs the following passage :

"Mr. Pearson acknowledges the great assistance rendered by the Honorary Magistrates generally, and especially by those who, at some self-sacrifice, attended at a moment's notice to form a Bench on the default of others. Sir Alexander Mackenzie desires also to record his appreciation of the excellent services rendered voluntarily to Government by the Honorary Magistrates, and his thanks are in particular due to those gentlemen who have been specially named by Mr. Pearson. The number of Honorary Magistrates who sat once or oftener was 88, the same number as in the previous year, and the average number of sittings attended by each rose from 11·6 in 1893 and 13 in 1894 to 14·5 in 1895. His Honour, however, regrets to observe that many gentlemen sometimes absented themselves without giving notice of their inability to attend."

The concluding expression of regret might have been spared if the Local Government were aware of the printed form of invitation by the Chief Magistrate. We reproduce one letter issued this month :

"From the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta,  
To....."

Honorary Presidency Magistrate.

Calcutta Presidency Magistrate's Court,

The June 1896.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that there will be a criminal bench-sitting on—lay, the—June 1896, at 12 o'clock noon, and to invite your attendance thereat.

Should it be convenient for you to attend on that day, I shall feel obliged by your informing me accordingly at your earliest convenience.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

T. A. PEARSON,

Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta."

Honorary Magistrates are not required to intimate their inability to attend. Yet they are sometimes taken to task for omitting to do so. Mr. Pearson is not peremptory, like some of his predecessors, in his demand for explanation for any fancied omission, or so rude as to threaten all pains and penalties to a defaulting colleague in his death bed. Nevertheless, he does not omit to visit on his willing associates the sins of his office.

A CORRESPONDENT from the Hooghly district writes :—

"The phenomenal hot wind and shower of blood at Jharkhand, is a story and a fable. The place is 8 miles from Jehanabad on the bank of the River Darkishure and on the border of the Burdwan District. If anything of the nature had occurred, I would have heard of it. From enquiries of the people I learn that no such occurrence took place.

There was, however, the barbarity of hook-swinging at the last Charak festival, in village Salehpore, 5 miles south of Jehanabad. A man was found swinging round a Charak tree with a cloth tied round his waist. The cloth covered two iron hooks, about 3 inches long, piercing the back of the man. The wound was slight and it did not shew that the man was a hardened *Charaki*. There was a large gathering of people and *Sanyasis*, and religious zeal was high. As soon as the true fact was suspected, the cruel go-round was stopped by authority. Further investigation shewed that the 2 hooks were sacred from long use and were kept by 2 Gowalas (milkmen) of the village, and that every year, for the last 20 years, 3 persons from the three villages of Salehpore, Moharakpore and Ramnagar were pierced with these 'sacred hooks.' They have got the temple of Kedarnath Siva in the village, as also a brickbuilt house close by for 'Jhap' or jumps. I don't know how far these are allowed nowadays. There is, however, a feeling in the country that such practices have been prohibited. But there has been no prosecution and next year the cruel swinging may be repeated. Believing that it is a thing of the past, I made enquiries. Everybody said that Government had stopped it, but none could quote chapter or verse—law or order. I asked some old Pleaders and they told me that some order was promulgated by Government by notification published in accordance with the present section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. If so, any one infringing the order and practising hook-swinging, makes himself liable to a prosecution under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code for disobeying Government order duly promulgated. This seems to be reasonable—and very probable. But no body can tell when this order was issued and where it is to be found. Have you any information on the subject?"

There is no law. The practice has been stopped in Bengal by a Resolution of the Local Government in the Judicial Department, dated Fort William, the 15th March, 1865. It seems that, notwithstanding the prohibition, hook-swinging, excepting for a year or two, has continued in the particular village in the Division of the Commissioner of Burdwan. We reproduce the Resolution :—

"Resolution.—The practice of Hook-swinging and other self-torture, such as Bauphora and the like, in public at the Charak festival,

which has been either voluntarily discontinued or authoritatively suppressed in most parts of India, still prevails in many districts of the Lower Provinces of Bengal.

2. These practices are cruel to those who suffer hurt from them, whether of their own will or otherwise, and revolting to humanity. They also present a demoralizing public spectacle and tend to keep alive among the people a feeling of indifference to the sufferings of their fellow creatures and to the value of human life. They have long been discountenanced and discouraged by the Government and its officers, as well as by the more enlightened, intelligent, and respectable Hindus. An influential body of Hindu gentlemen has lately recommended that they should be suppressed, and one of the Hindu Members of the Council of the Lieutenant Governor has still more recently brought forward a project of law for that purpose.

3. The measures which have hitherto been taken to discourage Hook-swinging, though partially successful, have in many places failed to produce any perceptible diminution of it, and it accords therefore with the instructions given in the despatch of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated the 24th February 1859, that more decided steps should be taken. In now adopting such a step the Lieutenant-Governor is supported, not only by a sense of what is due to the feelings of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, but by a decided expression of enlightened opinion on the part of the leading members of the Hindu community.

4. All Magistrates of Districts in the Lower Provinces are accordingly hereby required, under the powers vested in them by law—whenever they shall consider that such direction is necessary to prevent annoyance to persons lawfully employed, or danger to human life, health, or safety—to direct any person to abstain from the act of Hook-swinging, or other self-torture, in public, and from the abetment thereof, or to take such order with property in his possession or under his management as may serve to prevent the commission of the act. Persons who disobey any such injunction should be prosecuted and punished according to law.

5. All Commissioners of Divisions and Magistrates of Districts in which Hook-swinging prevails, are further required to make known to the public that the Government regards the practice with abhorrence; to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of influential landholders and other members of the Native community in its prevention; and to warn all who are concerned, or are likely to be concerned, in it, that if they persevere they will make themselves liable to legal punishment.

6. It is to be understood that this order is not intended to authorize or justify any interference with the religious observances of the Charak festival, or with the popular amusements, other than Hook-swinging and its attendant cruelties, usual on that occasion."

Of the many benefits of British rule in India, not the least are the abolition of suttee or burning of wives in the funeral pyre of their husband, infanticide, the sitting in *dharna*, and the suppression of hook-swinging. It is an anachronism that hook-swinging should still be found in any village of Bengal.

AKIN to hook-swinging, is the boring of the nose and ears. It too requires suppression. Boring of the ears of boys in Bengal, is, we believe, at a discount, if it has not entirely ceased. Girls are still subjected to the cruelty and disfigurement. When will that cease? Social reformers cannot have a better subject for their operations.

We are glad to find that our article in the last number—"Competitive Examination not a sound Test"—has struck a responsive chord in a valued quarter. An old member of the Service bears his testimony thus :—

"I was really in ecstasies when I read the article. It echoed all that I often thought on the subject. There are at this time a few among the Mahomedan officers in the Executive or Judicial line with whom a man of principle would care to associate. To speak the truth, the highest Mahomedan judicial officer in the country does not enjoy such respect as the old Principal Sudder Amm was commanded. They were not very learned in the law, but they generally did substantial justice, and, if they erred, the public never questioned their good faith. They would do nothing against their conscience to please the executive."

We have not sounded the alarm too early. There is corruption in the air. The Subordinate Judge of Gonda, Moulvi Ikbal Ali, is being prosecuted on charges of bribery and corruption. The Subordinate Judge of Bahraich, Syed Hyder Mehdi, is under suspension. There is also a case in Bombay and another in Madras. Bengal has had its share when a member of the subordinate judicial service was

removed. It is now the turn of the other branch of the service, hitherto free of all stain. Two of its members are under suspicion. A departmental enquiry, we believe, in one instance has just been concluded.

WE give some more particulars about the famous Jamaluddin.

His own version was that he was an Afghan as was his father, whose name was Feroze. His mother was of Arabia and so he claimed Arabic as his mother tongue. He was taught Persian by his father, a good scholar. His native place was Sadabad (not Saidabad) and he belonged to a respectable family of Sayyids there. Sadabad is not near Hamadan, but it is a place in the hilly district of Konar in Afghanistan. He became Vizier when Muhammed Azam was enthroned Amir of Cabul and had much influence with him. When the Amir was defeated by Sher Ali and obliged to take to exile, the Sheikh was at Cabul. As he was a Sayyid, there was risk of his being killed, as they were contriving means to get rid of him. Amir Sher Ali's Vizier, Muhammad Rafik, advised him to leave the country as it was not safe for him to continue there. So he left Cabul and came to India. This was some time before the mutiny of 1857. He was not allowed to mix with the Ulema, yet he spent his time usefully. From India he went to the Hedjaz where he studied the history of the country and the peculiar customs and manners of the Arabs. His next trip was to Constantinople, where the Sheikh-ul-Islam stood in his way. He made much of a paragraph in Jamaluddin's lecture and charged him with the belief that the Koran was not of divine origin but a production of art.

Jamaluddin did not go to Bhopal when he left Hyderabad, nor did he receive any money present there. Sir Salar Jung gave him no doubt three thousand rupees, as he was found to be a deserving scholar by the report of men like Mahsin-ul-Mulk Moulvi Mahd Ali, Moulvi Nazir Ahmad, and other scholars who had invited him to a grand dinner with the special object of testing his merits.

He did not leave Egypt, as it is stated, one year after Tewfik came to the throne. They did not allow him such a long time. He was expelled just 17 days after the event brought about by his efforts, as he used to say openly. Arabi Pacha was a mere Colonel then, a man of no significance, nobody caring two pence for him. The Sheikh knew him only by sight. He left Egypt before there was any sign of the mutiny. He left it some three years before that memorable event. His European adventures are well known.

The much maligned Afghan is no friend to the British. He is an open foe to them. He makes no secret of his hate. Determined to weaken English influence in every Islamic country, he loses no opportunity to compass his end. Many trace his hand in Turkey's attitude in the Armenian question.

LAST week the deaths in Calcutta numbered 231, against 235 and 257 in the two preceding weeks, which was higher than the corresponding week of last year by 56. There was a rise in the mortality from cholera, that is, 48 deaths against 33 and 44 in the two preceding weeks; the number is also higher than the average of the past quinquennium by 34. There was no death, however, from small-pox, there was one in the previous week.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, June 20, 1896.

### ASANITATION CESS FOR RURAL BENGAL.

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL *redivivus*.

SIR Alexander Mackenzie came to Belvedere, in succession to the restless Sir Charles Elliott, with an assurance of rest. He commenced his reign in Bengal in popularity which was increasing day by day. He was attentive to every particular calculated to please his people. He never did an act or expressed an opinion which might run counter to popular wishes. The popular agitators had had their day and were fattening more and more. Every question in Council, however unreasonable, met with a sympathetic response. Everybody was welcome to him and he had a good word for everybody. He shewed himself in every public place and passed hours in

Evening and Garden parties. Private Native receptions in a season of public mourning were enlivened by him with snatches of old songs. There was hardly a Lieutenant-Governor who was more beloved. But that love was not destined to last long. The country was surprised by the earnestness shewn by his Government in enquiring into the threatened scarcity of water on an ordinary outcry. The District Officers wondered what could have moved the Government to such unusual activity. The reports, submitted weekly, shewed that there was nothing unusual in the state of the country. They disclosed the nakedness of the land—the absence of a perennial water supply. Moved by the distress, the Lieutenant-Governor is anxious to remedy the evil.

How to do it? Aye, there's the rub! He is for a cess for water, and the country which had hoped that the Governor would give it water for the asking, finds that he is willing to do so, but not as a free gift. It is not, however, prepared to receive the benefit on that term. The agitators are in a fix. They can clamour for redress of all kinds of grievances, fancied or real, if not called upon to pay for any improvement or removal of any want or wrong. They have put their heads together and are endeavouring to find an escape, either by making the Government pay or leaving the country to its present state. Unless the Bengal Government modifies its proposal, it will, we are sure, be not long before meetings are held all over the country to discourage Sir Alexander out of his course. Their credit would have been great if the Governor had contented himself with the district reports which gave no cause for general alarm and made no case for any exceptional measure. The Magistrates had enough funds under their control to meet the scarcity such as it was. The patriots cannot sit idle when a new tax is imposed. Sir A. Mackenzie has shewn no obstinacy in the matter, and he may retire from the present business and take up another for a memorial of his rule. We are sure he has not the persistency or pertinacity of Sir George Campbell. That model ruler, who had studied India in all its tenses, as ruler of the Lower Provinces, prepared, in 1872, a model Bengal Municipalities law, as a corollary to the Road Cess law, on which he had set his heart, which municipal law, while providing for local self-government, laid down the rates and taxes for all time. He repealed all previous Acts and framed one law, whole and complete in itself, which would require no tinkering or further consolidation. That law passed by the Bengal Legislative Council included all possible modes of taxation and defined all possible purposes of a municipal fund. The comprehensiveness of the plan was staggering. It convulsed the whole country, and the Supreme Government found it necessary to veto the Bill. The author, however, was so much enamoured of it that he smarted under the castigation, and, by way of protest, left all his labours over the Bill bound in a volume as a treasure or store house for his successors to draw their inspiration from. We reproduce the objections of Lord Northbrook to the Bill. They may serve many useful purposes at the present moment, when there are propositions for fresh municipal taxation and expansion of the objects to which municipal or local funds are to be applied.

The Bill has received His Excellency's most careful consideration. He has postponed his decision for some time, in order that he might make himself thoroughly acquainted both with the provisions of the existing law and with the proposed changes, and



I am directed to express his regret that he feels it to be his duty to withhold his assent from the Bill. In accordance with the 40th section of the Indian Councils' Act, 1861, I am directed to signify, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the reasons which have determined His Excellency to take this course.

The Bill consolidates and amends the Acts relating to municipalities in Bengal, and contains, in addition, new provisions of which the following are the most important :—

Power is given to the Lieutenant-Governor to make regulations under which in all municipalities members may be elected to form a portion of the governing body.

Taxes upon trades and callings,—processions,—articles,—ferries, roads, and navigable channels—and boats moored, are made legal in first and second-class municipalities, subject to the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Provision for elementary education out of municipal funds may be made obligatory upon first and second-class municipalities.

The purposes to which municipal taxation may be applied, in first and second-class municipalities, are extended to include the support or relief of the poor in times of exceptional distress and scarcity.

A revised code of conservancy regulations is enacted which, with the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor, may be brought into operation in first and second-class municipalities.

In first and second-class municipalities the management of the police is vested in the Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners, subject to the general control and direction of the Magistrate of the district; and the action of the Municipal police is confined to the area of the municipality.

Provision is made for the creation of third-class municipalities in the rural districts; the tax to be levied in these third-class municipalities is made applicable to conservancy purposes and to education; and the arrangement made in 1870 with respect to chakran lands is altered.

His Excellency is of opinion that there are valid objections to several of these provisions.

His Excellency cannot give his assent to those portions of the Bill which allow the provision of elementary education to be made obligatory upon first and second class municipalities. It appears to him that the proposed alteration of the law relating to the police requires careful consideration by the Government of India before it can with propriety be introduced into Bengal. He does not concur in the proposal to apply municipal funds to the relief of the poor even in exceptional cases, for he considers that such cases should be met by a contribution from the provincial or imperial revenues. In consequence of reports which have recently been received of the operation of Act VI of 1870, he entertains great doubts as to the suitability of the powers given to punchayets under that Act; he thinks, therefore, that further experience is required before the functions of such punchayets are increased, or municipal institutions further extended to the rural population.

But apart from these objections to particular portions of the Bill, His Excellency can only regard the whole measure as calculated to increase municipal taxation in Bengal, and he believes that such an increase is unnecessary and inexpedient at the present time. The reports which the Government of India have received from local officers in Bengal since the passing of the Bill, and which were not before the Lieutenant-Governor when the Bill received His Honor's assent, support the opinion which His Excellency entertains upon this subject.

It is true that many of the provisions of the Bill to which His Excellency objects are permissive, and depend for their introduction upon the exercise of the powers committed to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The present Lieutenant-Governor has expressed his intention to use with great caution and reserve the powers which would be placed in his hands; and His Excellency cordially agrees with the sentiments expressed by His Honor that it is unwise "to push too far sanitary and other regulations which may effect some future good at the cost of great individual vexation." And that in introducing such regulations we must recollect "not only that our knowledge of these subjects is yet imperfect, but also that much regard must be had to the habits and feelings of the people which, even in Europe and still more in this country, are opposed to great innovations in matters affecting their daily lives in their homes and neighbourhoods;" but, while entirely concurring in these views, His Excellency must, in dealing with the Bill, look rather to the powers which it confers than to the extent to which for the present it is proposed to make use of those powers. If he objects to any material provisions contained in a proposed law, for which his assent is required under the Indian Councils' Act of 1861, it is not sufficient for His Excellency to be informed that the officer in whose discretion their introduction is vested considers that action should be suspended or deferred. No feeling of confidence in the discretion of any one man in whose power the administration of a law may for the time being be placed, would, in His Excellency's

opinion justify him in assenting to a measure, to any essential provisions of which, if fully brought into operation, he entertains such serious objections as he does to some of those which are contained in the Bengal Municipalities Bill.

While, however, His Excellency has felt it to be his duty, for the above reasons, to withhold his assent from the Bill, he fully recognizes the fact that it contains many useful amendments of the existing law with respect to municipalities in Bengal; and the discussions which have taken place in the Legislative Council of Bengal have satisfied him that some changes in that law might be made with advantage.

His Excellency cordially concurs with the opinion expressed by the Lieutenant-Governor that "he had rather see a little done voluntarily by the people themselves through their representatives than a great deal done under pressure from above," and that "his view is to prefer a little done voluntarily to a great deal done unwillingly and in a discontented spirit." His Excellency believes that, under Act VI of 1868 and the District Road Cess Act of 1870, sufficient powers now exist for the introduction into Bengal of a system under which municipal and local affairs may gradually come to be administered by bodies in which the people are represented, and any proposal which the Legislative Council of Bengal may make to amend Act III of 1864 in the same direction would command His Excellency's favourable consideration.

It might also, in His Excellency's opinion, be desirable to amend the present law so as to enable municipalities under Acts III of 1864 and VI of 1868 voluntarily to contribute in aid of education within their districts.

While His Excellency regrets that the great labor which has been bestowed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and the Legislative Council of Bengal upon the preparation of this Bill will not produce any immediate results, it is not his desire to interpose an obstacle to improvements in the municipal law of Bengal, provided that such improvements are not accompanied by any material increase of taxation, or by changes so extensive as those which are embodied in the present Bill.

Sir George Campbell was "specially anxious so to mould the present Bill that it may, as it were, meet and fit into the Road Cess Bill, so that the two should form together a complete, and, as far as may be, final scheme of local taxation." The Road Cess Act has, from time to time, been improved upon to include objects foreign to it. Its scope has been considerably enlarged. The fund raised under it, is now so controlled by Government that it may be applied to any purposes. The present Lieutenant-Governor is willing that no further great diversion be made from the objects of the original law, while he is anxious that new sources of income must be found to promote village sanitation and water supply. Sir George Campbell was for a finality in local taxation, if certain permissive rates were sanctioned, which it would be in his power to introduce as occasion required. Lord Northbrook was never so wise as when he refused to assent to a law which gave vast discretionary powers to a lieutenant to introduce new taxes of sorts. It is the bane of modern legislation to reserve large powers, including the authority to legislate, to Local Governments. We have had painful experience of the misuse of those powers. Sir Charles Elliott exercised such reserved authority in a manner which caused amazement in India and England and almost ruined his career as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Sir George Campbell justified his Bill on the grounds, among others, that his "object has been throughout not an increase of taxation but the introduction of a system of self-government" and that "if the Bill had been carried out *bona fide*, and in the spirit of its provisions, it would not have led to increase in the rate of taxation. The little burden which may have been imposed for education would have been met by the relief that would be given in the cost of maintaining the police." "Low as our local taxation is, my own wish was not to speedily increase the rate of taxation, but to present to the people of Bengal a system of voluntary taxation, which they

might eventually have extended over a greater area and to new objects really acceptable to them." He also gave his reason why he made certain taxes compulsory. Because, he said, "you would not find the people too ready to tax themselves."

The Bill was not allowed to be made law. But it exists in all its glory, and succeeding Governors have not been slow to profit by it. Another of Sir George's explanations is:

Act VI of 1870, while providing for villages a full municipal constitution and a uniform mode of taxation similar to that adopted in towns, confined the expenditure to the maintenance of watchmen only. The Lieutenant-Governor is very unwilling to do anything that may savour of forcing taxation on these rural communities, and he has proposed no compulsory taxation whatever beyond the old obligation to maintain a watchman. But he has been repeatedly struck by the great want of drinking water in many Bengal villages, and by the efforts of the people to obtain it, and by their not unfrequently expressed readiness to contribute to the cost, if some arrangement could be made. He has also thought, as above explained, that many villages may be willing to co-operate with Government to re-establish that ancient indigenous institution of Hindu villages, the guru or village schoolmaster. Knowing how native to the soil of India are village municipal institutions, and how much these rural communities are in the habit of doing for themselves in many parts of the country, the Lieutenant-Governor thought that he could hardly be wrong in recommending to the Council the arrangement which they have accepted, viz., to permit rural municipalities to spend their money, if so inclined, for the supply of drinking water, the support of village schools, and petty conservancy purposes, and for these purposes to raise their taxation to a point not more than 25 per cent. in excess of that hitherto prescribed for the payment of watchmen only.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie makes a similar proposition.

#### OUR LONDON LETTER.

May 29.

*Great Britain.*—The Whitsuntide recess has afforded us a relief from Parliamentary proceedings, but when the House of Commons meets again on Monday, the 1st June, we shall be thrown into the mighty vortex of the Government Education Bill. The quarrel between the Irish party and the "political monstrosities" (to use the Emperor William's words) such as Guinness, Rogers and H. P. Hughes grows in virulence, and Home Rule is a thing of the past never to be revived in the time of the present generation. Sir W. Harcourt has taken advantage of his Whitsuntide retreat at Malwood to write an insolently offensive letter about Mr. Balfour. Let us grant the closure of debate on any first class Bill is an anachronism, but who first set the example? Mr. Gladstone himself, who by virtue of his slavish majority closed debate on the Irish Home Rule Bill. To him belongs the disgrace of closing by compartments, as it is called, and if Mr. Balfour adopts the same tactics on the Education Bill, he will be following the example set by Mr. Gladstone and Sir W. Harcourt himself. When you have to deal with an unscrupulous minority led by such men as Harcourt and Labouchere, the closure must be enforced if Parliamentary Government is not to be reduced to a sham and a fraud.

On the 9th proximo the four outstanding criminals, Mrs. Dyer, Peaman, Fowler and Wilson are to expiate their crimes on the scaffold.

The General Assemblies of the Church of Scotland and of the Free Church are holding their annual revels in Edinburgh. The interest to India of the Free Church Assembly lies in the fact that the moderator is Dr. Miller, Principal of the Mission College, Madras. It is very difficult to know what Dr. Miller's beliefs are. According to the Rev. Dr. Denny, a leading clergyman of the Free Church, Dr. Miller treats Jesus Christ as little better than Mahomed. I have never seen any refutation of Dr. Denny's scathing attack in the "British Weekly," and to have such a man as Dr. Miller presiding over the General Assembly of the Free Church is enough to torture the soul of the great Chalmers and the other leaders who, in 1843, sacrificed all for a firm belief in the divinity of Christ.

How far the present leaders of the Free Church have departed from the gospel views of Gordon, Welsh, Caudlish, Cunningham and others, it is difficult to realise, and twenty years hence, or in a shorter period of time the manhood of Scotland will refuse to follow men who, having signed the Confession of Faith to secure their ordination, treat their adhesion with a mental reservation of denial, only equalled by the Jesuit Fathers of the Church of Rome.

*France.*—The new ministry is not likely to last long and the Government will soon be in the throes of financial difficulties.

French Rentes are equivalent to our consols but very differently held. Owing to the thrift of the French people, vast sums are held by the peasantry, and for years past every successive Government has pledged itself in the strongest way that the Rentes would not be taxed. It is now proposed to tax the Rentes, and if it does not lead to a social revolution it would certainly lead to a financial one.

*Russia.*—I need say nothing about the wonderful ceremonies at Moscow in connection with the crowning of the Emperor, as the fullest details will be found in all the newspapers.

*Turkey.*—A much more serious difficulty for the Sultan arises out of the present position of things in Crete. In the case of the Armenian massacres the country was inaccessible to the Powers of Europe, but in the case of Crete every Power has already sent a war vessel to protect the Christians against the fanaticism of the Muhammadans. The question of the future of Crete will be one of great perplexity to the Governments of Europe. Russia would no doubt like to possess it so as to yield her a *point d'appui* in the Mediterranean which she does not, at present, possess. But inasmuch as Greece has a prior claim, owing to the great majority of the inhabitants being Greeks, the probability is that the Governments of Europe, with or without the sanction of Russia, will make it over to Greece under a guarantee.

*Spain and Cuba.*—Spain is still in the midst of tremendous difficulties with regard to the state of things in Cuba and the question of her relations with America is not yet by any means settled.

*Africa.*—Affairs connected with the Transvaal are still surrounded with the greatest difficulty. At the dinner given to Mr. Chamberlain by the Constitutional Club, when he made use of the expression that Great Britain would allow no Power to interfere with her suzerainty over the Transvaal, the whole company rose to their feet, cheered enthusiastically and waved their handkerchiefs. Should German intrigues lead us to active hostilities in the Transvaal, no doubt we will look to our loyal native soldiery in India to take the brunt of the work.

#### THE LEATHER INDUSTRY OF THE PUNJAB.

By Mr. Arthur J. Grant, Junior Secretary to Financial Commissioners, Punjab.

(From the "Journal of Indian Art and Industry.")

##### I.—LEATHER-WORKING CLASSES.

The profession of working in leather, always unsavoury, is considered in India to be particularly unclean, and the persons engaged in this occupation have at all times in its history been looked down upon as a degraded class, in some cases actually outcast and excluded from participating with others in the rites of their nominal religion, and in other cases only admitted on sufferance to do so. Although it is impossible to trace with any certainty the origin and history of the class of leather-workers, still we can find out something as to their state and position in old times. At the period of the Institutes of Manu the rigidly exclusive principles of caste, as it became later on, were not yet established. There were, however, the divisions of the people into Brahman, Kshattriya and Vaisya (all pure Aryans), and the fourth class of Sudras which included aboriginal tribes and descendants of mixed marriages between the Aryans and the aborigines. In this four-fold division undoubtedly no one above the rank of a Sudra would have followed such a dirty and unpleasant occupation as working in leather. It is probable that the persons who actually undertook this kind of work belonged partly to the lowest class of descendants from mixed marriages. In the Institutes of Manu an attempt is made to trace the class of workers in each industry back to some particular hereditary origin. The class of 'Karavaras' or leather workers was held to be the issue of the mixed marriages of 'nishadas' with 'vaidikas,' thus representing a mixture of Brahman, Vaisya and Sudra. This derivation is of course merely fictitious, but it serves to shew that leather-workers then, as now, belonged to a despised section of the community. Their humble descent and the degrading nature of their occupation combined to bring the 'Karavaras' down to a very low position on the list of castes given in the Institutes of Manu, the only classes considered inferior to them being 'halalkhors,' 'chandals,' sweepers, executioners, and 'cannibals.' In spite of their low rank, however, it is interesting to note that the annals of mediæval Hinduism afford an instance of a member of this class being singled out for individual distinction in the faith. This was Rai Das, Chamar, who was chosen as one of the twelve disciples of Ramanand and is revered as such by the Ramanandi sect of the Vaishnavas, while the Raidasis called after him are still the principal division of the Chamar caste.

After the time of Manu, the caste system became rigid and the leather-workers were stereotyped into a despised and outcast section of the community bound by blood and descent to a hereditary profession which was regarded as degraded and impure. Since then, however, caste organisation has again undergone great changes, and at the present time, though leather-workers continue

to be looked upon as a low and menial class, still they share in common with all other ranks, in consequence of the relaxation of the rigidity of the old caste system, the possibility of raising themselves either individually or as a class to a higher position in the social scale. Caste was based at first upon the principle of community of blood. Then the principle of common occupation was recognised. Thus certain persons come to form a certain caste because they were engaged in the same occupation, not because they were of the same real or nominal descent. But there still remained the notion of the hereditary nature of occupation, and until this was done away with, and while it was thought that the son of a tanner must necessarily be also himself a tanner, the bounds fixed to castes were as rigid and immutable as under the old fictitious theory of common descent. Eventually this last idea of the heredity of occupation also became relaxed, and now it is possible within certain limits for individuals or whole castes by changing their occupation and manner of life to remove themselves gradually from one rank to another and improve their position in the community. In the case of leather-workers, however, there are other obstacles which stand in the way of any attempt to rise in social rank, and which are the more difficult to be overcome as they are connected with religious prejudices which are so powerful in the East. Chamars are impure in the sight of Hindus because they eat the flesh of cows and dead animals and work in leather, which is unclean; and the Sikhs, who are even stricter in their reverence for the cow than the Hindus, exclude them on the same grounds. But in spite of these difficulties the modern principle of the mutability of caste has extended even to the case of these classes. In the Punjab Census Report for 1881, Mr. Ibbetson says: "Among the artisan and menial tribes, the process (of changing occupation and with it caste) is common. One Chamar takes to weaving instead of leather-working and becomes a Chamar-Julaha; presently he will be a Julaha pure and simple; another does the same and becomes a Rangreta or a Bunia." The religious difficulty does not stand in the way nearly so much in the Western Punjab, and especially the North-West Frontier, where the population is Mussalman, as it does in the East and South-East Punjab, where the people are nearly all Hindus. And it may be noticed that in some parts of the Frontier, as Dera Ismail Khan leather-workers from down-country who have settled there have taken tone from their surroundings, and though they were originally Hindus have now nearly all become Mussalmans. Changes in caste among Mussalmans represent little more than changes in social position, and are not accentuated by religious considerations. On this point Mr. Ibbetson writes: "In fact the difference between a Pathan who took to weaving on the frontier and a Rajput who took to weaving in the Delhi country would be precisely that between caste in India and social standing in Europe. The degradation would not in the case of the former be ceremonial or religious, nor would it be hereditary, save in the sense that the children would be born in a lower condition of life; but the immediate and individual loss of position would be as real as among the strictest castes of the Hindus. Thus we find men on the frontier of all castes engaging from poverty or other necessity in all occupations except those of an actually degrading nature." It is, however, noticed in a report now received from the Kohat district that Pathans who have taken to leather-working, though they retain the name of Pathan, are not able to intermarry with other Pathans who have not been connected with a menial occupation of this kind. In all parts of the Punjab there is undoubtedly growing up the modern feeling of toleration which recognises prosperity and allows respect to wealth wherever it may be found, and in Lahore and other places the heads of native firms of saddlers or shoe-makers, who are in a good way of business, enjoy a considerable degree of social position. A native Extra Assistant Commissioner gives a fancy picture of the rise in the social scale of a Mochi's family in the Punjab. He becomes well-to-do and calls himself a Khoja: his son gets on well at school: so the father, besides leather articles, keeps in his shop other small things such as pens, paper, knives, &c., and the boy is called "son of a merchant:" the son passes his examination and becomes a "sheikh:" now the father drops shoes altogether and sells a better class of article or turns contractor: and the son finally gets himself called "Khan Sahib" and soon blossoms out into a "Sayyid," whose ancestors came from Afghanistan with Mahmud of Ghazni.

## II.—LEATHER—PREPARATION AND MANUFACTURE.

The skins ordinarily used for tanning in the Punjab are those of the buffalo, bull or cow, sheep and goat. Besides these the skins of horses, asses and camels are sometimes worked up; and in special parts the skins of other animals also, such as the wild cat, fox, snow leopard, grey and brown squirrel, jackal, bear, karth, gural and barking deer, are occasionally made use of.

Buffalo hide is most esteemed for its strength. It is very durable, but it is too thick and stiff to be suitable for all kinds of work. It is most used for the thick soles of country-made shoes, and together with ox hide is also employed in harness-making and

saddlery, in the manufacture of hugas, khopas, naras, tobras, charasahs, petis, bokas, &c. Buffalo hides raw cost between Rs. 4 and Rs. 6, and when dressed they are worth Rs. 5 to Rs. 7. When sold by weight the raw hide fetches from Rs. 10 to Rs. 18 per maund, the price being less in the hot than in the cold weather, as the tanning is not then so certain. The following passage is extracted from a note on the Cawnpore Government Tannery:—

"Buffalo is the only available hide that will produce leather thick enough for harness work in this country; but there is no doubt that much of the inferiority of country leather arises from the pooriness of the skin of that beast. It is poorly fed, not generally cared for, and usually killed when too old to breed or give milk. The hide of the male buffalo is too coarse and it gets such bad treatment in the plough or cart that it is generally full of sores and goad marks. In large towns there is a market for buffalo beef for the low caste and poorer Mussalman population, and also for grease, but the younger and better cattle are rarely slaughtered; it is from these slaughtered animals that the local tanners select their hides for the finer uses of harness, saddlery, and accoutrements. Many good hides are ruined by butchers in slaying from inefficient arrangements in the slaughter houses and from injudicious use of their tools."

The skins of bulls and cows are called "goka." The leather made from them is not quite so strong as buffalo hide leather, but is stout enough for most purposes. Raw skins of this kind fetch from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5, being on the whole slightly less valuable than buffalo skins. Dressed they are worth from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6 each. There is sometimes a distinction made between the skins of bulls and cows, the former being considered tougher and rather more valuable. This class of hides is much exported to England and extensively used there for boot and shoe upper leather, for which it is much esteemed. Much damage is done to the hides by branding on the butts and shoulders.

Sheep skins are called 'mesha' and goat skins 'khal,' or together they go under the generic term of 'nari.' The leather made from them is much finer and more supple than that from buffaloes' and bulls' hide, and is used for such purposes as making uppers of shoes, covering boxes and wicker work baskets, making bellows, stockings, gaiters, and book binding. Goat leather is esteemed much the more highly of the two, as it is stronger and more durable. Sheep and goat skins are bought up largely from village butchers and sweepers by the Khatiks who, as already noticed, are a special class whose occupation consists in the tanning of these kinds of skins. They are also sold in considerable quantities by butchers to merchants from Delhi, who purchase them for the home market. The value of a raw sheep skin is from 6 annas to 12 annas, and when tanned they fetch only from 8 annas to Re. 1 each. Goat skins are worth from 10 annas to Rs. 1½ raw, and from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 when dressed. In Lahaul, where sheep are very plentiful, a prepared sheep skin is worth only 4 annas.

Of the other skins which are less commonly used: camel skins are employed principally for making 'kuppas,' stout leathern jars, or for patching up holes and weak spots in other kinds of hides. For this purpose they are not regularly tanned. The skins are worth from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 3 only. They are also exported from some districts of the Punjab to Lahore and Amritsar, where they are said to be used for packing tea exported for the Central Asian market. Horses' skins are said to yield a very thin and weak leather and are very seldom worth the trouble of tanning. They are worth from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 only in their raw state. Asses' skins fetch from 8 annas to Re. 1 when raw. They are seldom tanned locally, but are sometimes sent to Delhi and Peshawar, where they are made into shagreen. Deer skins are worth from 6 to 8 annas; leopard and bear skins from Kulu and Kangra about Rs. 2-8 and Rs. 1-8 respectively, barking deer about Rs. 2; gural Rs. 2; and karth Rs. 3. These latter all come from Kulu. In Peshawar are to be had wild-cat skins (known as 'Soghar' and 'samor'), and fox skins (shahzade), many of which come from Russia. Here also snow leopard skins and skins of the grey and brown squirrel are sometimes brought in from Kabul. Foxes' and jackals' skins are sent in some quantities from Rawalpindi to Peshawar to be dressed there. Scented "Russia leather" is also to be obtained at Peshawar at a price of Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per skin, but it is not a local product.

The skinning of animals is generally performed by the butcher if they are slaughtered for food, and by the sweeper if they die a natural death. The method of skinning practised in the Punjab is as follows in the case of buffaloes or oxen. The carcass is first laid on the ground on its back; its legs are then held up and the hocks and hoofs are removed. A slit is then made in the skin along the full length, from the mouth to the tail; the skin on the inside of the hind-legs is also slit down to the root of the tail, and the skin of the fore-legs to the chest. The skin is then removed with a knife. When it has all been taken off one side the carcass is turned over and the skin of the other side is removed. The hide is then spread out on the ground and rubbed with salt, wood ashes or 'kalar' (saline effluence),



It is then left to dry for a couple of days, being put in the sun in the cold weather and in the shade in the hot weather. The dried skins are then rolled up in bundles and put away in that state for sale or for future tanning. Sometimes, when the salt has been rubbed in, the skin is laid out flat on the ground, and a board ('chaukat') placed upon it so that the edges of the skin project all round. In these projecting portions of the hide holes are made and a leather rope being passed through them, the skin is laced up tight on to the board. The board with the skin on it is then put up against a wall or some such place to dry.

In the case of sheep and goat skins, the method of skinning is first to remove the head and hang up by the hind legs to a convenient tree or a prepared tripod; slit open the skin on the inside of the hind-legs to the root of the tail; then draw the skin off whole, the hand alone (not a knife) being used to separate the skin from the flesh. A distinction is sometimes made between skins which have been removed by butchers and those taken off by village sweepers or Chamars, the former being called "qasibi" and the latter 'ganwari.'

The process of tanning the different kinds of skins varies considerably, and a separate description of the methods employed in each case is necessary. The general features of the system of tanning bull and buffalo hide are similar all over the Province, but slight variations of treatment occur in some districts, mostly owing either to the presence locally of some particular product which has been found useful for tanning purposes and which is not available elsewhere, or else to the difficulty of procuring some of the ordinary materials for tanning as used in other districts. There are a large number of distinct processes in tanning a skin of this class.

The first process is to steep the skin in water (generally in a village pond or 'chappar') for about twelve hours to soften the skin. This helps also to remove the salt if the skin is one which has been dried and salted, and is not taken 'green' from the slaughter house. It is then soaked in a vat [called 'baingar' (Sialkot), 'vegar' (Rawalpindi), 'nand' (Rohtak)] containing generally a solution of lime and 'sajji' (carbonate of soda). For 'sajji,' 'reh' or saline efflorescence is sometimes substituted. It remains in this solution some days to loosen the hair and to soften the surface of the skin, and should not be taken out until the skin becomes 'plumped up' and begins to be covered with a white fungoid growth, or as the natives say, until it becomes 'khamir' or ferments.

It is then taken out of this solution, and the third process is to remove with a 'fleshing knife' ('rambi,' 'ranpi,' 'kharpi'), the fat and inner skin ('jhilli,' 'gadud,' 'chichra'). The outer hair is also taken off either with the same scraper or with a potsherd ('tikri') or piece of nitrified brick ('jhanwa'). The inner skin and fat which is removed is generally wasted, though it is sometimes employed as manure. It is never made use of in the Punjab for glue, as is done in England. Some dexterity is needed in removing the inner flesh, as the knife used has a sharpened edge, and a slip may shave too deep and cut into the hide.

The fourth process is to steep the skin, after being cleaned and scraped, in another vat ('nand,' 'malni,' 'kun') containing the bark of the 'kikar' or 'babul' tree (Acacia arabica). In the Hazara district the bark of the 'chir' (Pinus longifolia) is substituted for 'kikar' bark. Another variation also practised in the Hazara district is to substitute the leaves of the 'amla' (Embolia officinalis) or the root of the "ber" Zizyphus jujuba). The skin remains in this solution for three or four days. In the Gujranwala district, between the third and fourth processes as just described, there is an intermediate process which consists of steeping the skin in water mixed with leaves of the 'madar' (Callotropis gigantea) and 'pharwan' tree in order to remove all traces of the 'sajji' and lime. The fourth process is repeated three times, the skin being wrung thoroughly dry between each steeping and then placed in a fresh solution. The usual method of wringing a skin dry is to place it round a thick forked branch firmly embedded in the ground called ('kasn'), and then twist it tightly with a stick so as to squeeze out all the moisture. These operations, which are gone through in order to remove all traces of lime from the skin, correspond to the English process of 'bating.' The use of lime in tanning is generally considered to be an evil, but a necessary one; it is not good for leather, but the hair and flesh must be removed, and there is no safer way of doing so. The plan of sweating the hides and producing partial decomposition, which is adopted in some places, would be too dangerous in a climate like that of India. After time has done its work all traces of it in the texture of the hide have to be rapidly obliterated, and the process whereby this is effected in the English method is called 'bating,' "the hides being thrown into a 'grainer' in which bran and water have fermented. The various mixtures described above as used for this fourth process take the place of the 'grainer.'

The skin after the third bath as above is washed, and then comes the fifth process. The skin is sewn up with 'munj' string in the shape of a sack and hung up on a tripod ('chara,' 'trikali')

head downwards over a vat. The interior is then filled with the bark of the 'kikar' tree chopped fine, and water is poured on both inside and outside the skin. The mixture of water and bark is sometimes known as "atura" or 'tarsa.' After some time (generally a period of about twelve hours), during which the skin has been kept constantly wetted, fresh water being poured in from the top as the old water trickles through the pores into the vat below, the skin is reversed in position, the opening which was at the top being sewn up, and a fresh small opening made in what is now the upper part of the skin-sack. The same process as before is now repeated, and this goes on for two or more days till the tannin has thoroughly penetrated the skin all over. During this watering process the same water is used over and over again, being taken up from the vat below as it drops into it. By this treatment the tannin goes right through the hide, but it has not time to make the chemical combination which, according to English ideas, is considered so essential for the leather. Tanning done in India on the English methods takes nine months to a year for a buffalo hide, four to six months for cow hides, and one to two months for sheep and goat skins. The above is a description of this process as generally practised, but there are many local variations and modifications of it in particular districts.

#### WHAT BATES WANTED TO KNOW.

"I shall be obliged if you can answer me one question," said my friend Bates, as he lay on the couch one day in my room nursing his aching leg. "Why does exposure to wet or cold bring on an attack of rheumatism at one time, when a like exposure for a score of times leads to no such result?"

Before I set down in writing the answer I gave him I wish you would read the following letters, as no doubt the authors of them will be interested in the same point.

"In November, 1892," says the one, "I had an attack of rheumatic fever, and was confined to my bed for four weeks, during which time I suffered fearfully. I had awful pains all over me; my joints swelled up, and I was so helpless I could not raise my hand to my mouth. After the fever left me I was extremely weak, and so emaciated I was little more than skin and bone. A large lump, the size of an egg, formed on my elbow, and my fingers were almost drawn out of joint. I cannot describe the suffering I had to bear. The doctor ordered me various medicines, and cod liver oil, but they had no effect. In February, 1893, I read in a small book about the remarkable success which had followed the use of Mother Seigel's Syrup in cases of rheumatism, and got a bottle from Messrs. Leverett and Fry, High Street. After taking it two weeks I was better, and in about a month more all rheumatic pains had left me, and I was strong and well as ever. You may publish what I have said. (Signed) John H. Kent, 9, Randall Street, Maidstone, Kent, January 30th, 1895."

"For many years," says the other, "I had been subject to liver complaint and indigestion. I was habitually heavy, weak, and weary. My appetite was poor, and all food gave me pain and fullness at the chest and around the sides. I had so much pain and tightness of the chest that I could not endure the pressure of my clothing upon it. Although not laid up, I was seldom free from pain or a sense of discomfort. In the summer of 1893 I began to suffer with rheumatism, which affected my arms and shoulders until I had not the power to lift my hand to my head. I tried all sorts of liniments, embrocations, and rubbing oils, but got no benefit from any of them."

In August, 1893, my friend, Mrs. Owen, told me how much good Mother Seigel's Syrup had done her for rheumatism, and I got a bottle from the Drug Stores in St. Ann's Road. In a few days I was much better, and in less than a month afterwards all pain had left me; and I am happy to say I have never had any return of the rheumatism since, but have enjoyed the best of health in every respect. In common thankfulness for my speedy and wonderful deliverance, I willingly consent to the publication of this hurried statement should you wish to make that use of it. (Signed) (Mrs.) L. S. Cole, 6, Albert Road, South Tottenham, London, August 16th, 1895."

Before answering the question of my friend Bates (who was a chronic rheumatic) I asked him one: "Why does a lighted match, dropped into the road, die out harmlessly, but when dropped into a haystack, set up a conflagration?"

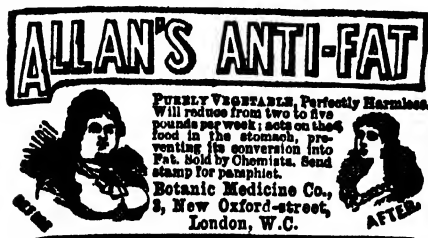
"Any fool can answer that," he said. "Because in the one case there is nothing for the fire to catch hold of, while in the other there is."

"Exactly," I responded. "Now see. Indigestion and liver complaint (the second consequent on the first) continue to produce a virulent poison in the blood called uric acid, practically insoluble in water. This acid, which is a solid, enters the tissues, and sets going a hot inflammatory fire. That is rheumatism. It does what a silver would—only the acid is a *poison* silver."

"When the indigestion and the liver trouble are not very bad, and the kidneys and sweat glands of the skin are acting fairly well, this acid is carried out of the body about as fast as it is formed. Exposure then brings on no rheumatism. But, *per contra*, when the stomach and liver are in bad condition, the acid forms faster than the kidneys and skin can carry it off. Then expose yourself, get cold or wet, hamper the skin and kidneys still more, and the poison acid spreads through your muscles and joints like the fire in the dry hay. You understand? Very well. The longer the cause persists the more frequent the rheumatic attacks. That is why chronic dyspeptics are apt also to be chronic rheumatics. Fend off dyspepsia, or cure it by the use of Mother Seigel's Syrup, and you and the rheumatism will have no dealings. Neglect it, and suffer every time you catch cold."

That was my answer to Bates, and he said there seemed to be sense in it.





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Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer,  
and there is a breezy freshness and originality  
about his correspondence which make it  
very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corfi,  
K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,  
26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing  
official duties an English Civilian can find  
either time or opportunity to pay so graceful  
a tribute to the memory of a native personality  
as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of  
the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the  
well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta :  
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who are more worthy of being thus honoured  
than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr.  
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It is rarely that the life of an Indian jour-  
nalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more  
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being written by an Englishman.—*The*  
*Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30,  
1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a  
profound student and an accomplished writer,  
who has left his mark on Indian journalism.  
In that he has found a Civilian like Mr.  
Skrine to record the story of his life he is  
more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal  
himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2,  
1895.

For much of the biographical matter that  
issues so freely from the press an apology is  
needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee,  
the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an  
explanation would have been looked for. A man  
of his remarkable personality, who was easily  
first among native Indian journalists, and in  
many respects occupied a higher plane than  
they did, and looked at public affairs from a  
different point of view from theirs, could not  
be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 731.

## JOHN HUGGINS AT THE EPPING HUNT.

With Monday's sun John Huggins rose,  
And slapped his leather thigh,  
And sang the burden of the song,  
'This day a stag must die.'

A'as! there was no warning voice  
To whisper in his ear,  
'Thou art a fool for leaving *Chepe*,  
To go and hunt the *deer*.'

Then slowly on through Leytonstone,  
Past many a Quaker's box—  
No friends to hunters after deer,  
Though followers of a *Fox*.

And many a score behind—before—  
The self-same rout inclined ;  
And, minded all to march one way,  
Made one great march of mind.

\* \* \* \*

Now Huggins from his saddle rose,  
And in his stirrups stood ;  
And lo! a little cart that came  
Hard by a little wood,

In shape like half a hearse—though not  
For corpses in the least ;  
For this contained the *deer alive*,  
And not the *deer deceased* !

Now Huggins, standing far aloof,  
Had never seen the deer,  
Till all at once he saw the beast  
Come charging in his rear.

Away he went, and many a score  
Of riders did the same,  
On horse and ass—like High and Low  
And Jack pursuing Game.

A score were sprawling on the grass,  
And beavers fell in showers ;  
There was another *Floorer* there,  
Beside the Queen of Flowers.

\* \* \* \*

Away, away he scudded, like  
A ship before the gale ;  
Now flew to 'Hills we know not of,'  
Now, nun-like, took the vale.

'Hold hard! hold hard! you'll lame the dogs,'  
Quoth Huggins. 'So I do ;  
I've got the saddle well in hand,  
And hold as hard as you !'

But soon the horse was well avenged  
For cruel smart of spurs,  
For riding through a moor, he pitched  
His master in the furze !

Now seeing Huggins' nag adrift,  
A famer, shrewd and sage,  
Resolved, by changing horses here,  
To hunt another stage.

So up on Huggins' horse he got,  
And swiftly rode away ;  
While Huggins mounted on a mare,  
Done brown upon a bay.

And off they set in double chase,  
For such was fortune's whim,  
The famer rode to hunt the stag,  
And Huggins hunted him !

And lo! the dim and distant hunt  
Diminished in a trice ;  
The steeds, like Cinderella's team,  
Seemed dwindling into mice.

\* \* \* \*

Now many a sign at Woodford town,  
Its Inn—vitation tells ;  
But Huggins, full of ills, of course  
Betook him to the Wells.

When thus forlorn a merry horn  
Struck up without the door—  
The mounted mob were all returned ;  
The Epping hunt was o'er !

And many a horse was taken out  
Of saddle and of shaft ;  
And men, by dint of drink, became  
The only '*beasts of draught*.'

For now begun a harder run  
On wine, and gin, and beer ;  
And overtaken men discussed  
The overtaken deer—

And how the hunters stood aloof,  
Regardful of their lives,  
And shunned a beast whose very horns  
They knew could *handle knives*.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

And one how he had found a horse  
Adrift—a goodly gray !  
And kindly rode the nag, for fear  
The nag should go astray.

Now Huggins, when he heard the tale,  
Jumped up with sudden glee ;  
'A goodly gray ! why, then, I say,  
That gray belongs to me !'

And let the chase again take place  
For many a long, long year—  
John Huggins will not ride again  
To hunt the Epping deer !

#### MORAL.

Thus pleasure oft eludes our grasp  
Just when we think to grip her ;  
And hunting after happiness,  
We only hunt a slipper.

#### WEEKLYANA.

DESCARTES' tercentenary will be celebrated in France by the publication of a complete edition of his works.

THE French Government will continue the pension of twenty-five thousand francs a year to Louis Pasteur's widow.

"PEDALEURS" and "pedaleuses" are the terms employed by Parisians for he and she cyclists.

MISS Annie Weldon, of New Cross, was knocked by a van and killed at Nunhead, while cycling. Mr. Ritchie, President of the Board of Trade, sprained his ankle while amusing himself on his bicycle during the Whitsuntide recess at Welders, his seat in Buckinghamshire.

AN Englishman named Jefferson has started on a bicycle ride to Irkutsk, Siberia. His machine and baggage weigh sixty pounds.

FRANCE has imposed a tax on cycle. Curiously the dealers in the machine have not to pay it. Government messengers are also exempted. It is time, we think, that the cycle should be taxed in Calcutta.

DR. Hammond, of Baltimore, cut short convulsions of children by turning them upon the left side. In a case of continuous convulsions, more or less severe, for twenty-four hours, the change brought immediate relief. Epileptics too receive much benefit from the same movement cure.

THE East Wing of the new building of the London Homœopathic Hospital, opened by the Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck, has been named the Princess Mary Wing.

LORD Beaumont, who, while out shooting and climbing a field gate, died of his own gun exploding, left no male heir. The Queen has been pleased to confirm the late Peer's title to his elder daughter, the Hon. Mona Josephine Tempest Stapleton, an infant born in August 1894. She, as Baroness Beaumont, swells to nine the number of ladies who are Peeresses in their own right.

THE subject of the essay of the Le Bas Prize of 1897 is : "The Probable Future Effect of the Religious Forces now at Work in India."

THE Rev. Hugh Price Hughes writes to the *Daily Chronicle* :—

"It is quite evident now that both Mr. Gladstone's Bills are as dead as Queen Anne. We have had a decisive object lesson, which proves that the Irish Romanist party is incapable of justice to English Non-conformists, and therefore much more incapable of justice to Ulster. It may safely be predicted that no Liberal Party in England will ever again propose a Home Rule Bill which does not give far more ample security for religious justice in Ulster, as well as absolute guarantee

for the exclusion of Irish intervention in purely English business. Henceforth Ireland has no claim to special treatment."

THE Conservative German organ, the *Kreuz Zeitung*, regards the annexation of Madagascar by France as a new diplomatic defeat for England. "It considers M. Hanotaux's change of front to be mainly due to his desire to treat English interests in Madagascar in the same way as England treated French interests in Burma, but adds that the annexation of Madagascar may possibly be intended by France as a reprisal for the despatch of Indian troops to Suakin. Were England less incorrigible, concludes the journal, she might, perhaps, grow wiser by dint of misfortune, but, as it is, her arrogance and self-conceit render it quite likely that she will attempt to indemnify herself in some other part of the world for her defeat in Madagascar."

DR. Weill has presented to the French Academy of Medicine a rare anatomical curiosity in the person of a Roumanian Jew, aged thirty. "He is the only one of his kindred who has ever been afflicted with myostis or progressive ossification. The first symptoms were presented twelve years ago ; on the right side of the dorsal region the ossification was ascendant, and the consequent lesions on the left side of the spine were descendant. Four years ago the malady ceased to extend, but it had reached the nape of the neck, and caused such stiffness that the sufferer looked like a statue. He walked with extreme difficulty. It was not easier for him to move his arms than his legs. The muscles were attacked at the points of insertion in the bones. Ossified ramifications of the bones advance far into the muscles. The head is turned leftwards, and held by muscular ossification in that attitude. The jaws are ankylosed. The whole muscular system of the posterior portion of the trunk is hard and bony as the shell of a crab or lobster. The doctors do not know what to think of this strange malady."

AS in the previous, in this week the mail could not be delivered here on Tuesday.

THE rate of exchange for compensation allowance for the second quarter of 1896-97 has been fixed at Rs. 2-3/32d., the percentage of salary admissible on that account being Rs. 13-13-9 approximately.

THE Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by the Hon'ble C. W. Bolton, Chief Secretary, Mr. A. H. Gayer, Private Secretary, and Captain G. C. Ross, Aid-de-Camp, will be on tour the whole of next month and half of the month following, starting from Darjeeling on Wednesday, the 1st day of July. After a stay of 2 days at Calcutta, he goes, starting from Howrah, on Sunday the 5th, at 20-57 railway time, to Gaya on the 6th, thence to Bankipore, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. On the 16th, embarking at Semaria Ghat on yacht *Rhotas*, he makes a river tour to Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Berhampore, Rampur Bonha, Pabna, Faridpur and Dacca. Thence by rail and river to Mymensing, Narainganj, Chandpur, Comilla and Chittagong. On his return trip he takes in Barisal, Khulna and Jessore, reaching Calcutta on Friday, the 14th day of August at 5-0 railway time. The departure from Darjeeling, the arrival and departure from Calcutta and arrival at Calcutta will be private.

SIR Alexander Mackenzie has called a meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council for the 11th July at Calcutta, to which he has summoned the several members. According to the published programme of his tour, the Lieutenant-Governor will leave Bankipore and arrive at Muzaffarpur on that day and halt there the next day. It is not expected therefore that he himself will be present at the Council meeting.

AT the next Criminal Sessions, commencing on Wednesday, the 1st day of July, the Chief Justice, Sir Comer Petheram, will preside.

THE *Calcutta Gazette* of June 24 publishes the Draft Rules for grant of certificates to Compounders. The draft will be taken into consideration on or after the 1st August 1896, when any objections or suggestions which may be made by any person and received before that date will also be considered. The rules are made by the Lieutenant-Governor in exercise of the powers conferred by section 252 of the Bengal Municipal Act (III of 1884) and section 368 of the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act (II of 1888), respectively.



Is this announcement a notice for enforcement of the sections of the Acts? The Calcutta law requires that every shop or place kept for the retail sale of drugs not being also articles of ordinary domestic consumption, shall be registered; that the license granted shall be displayed in a conspicuous part of the premises; and that no person shall compound, mix, prepare, dispense, or sell any drug in any registered shop or place unless he be duly certified as a fit person to be entrusted with such duties under rules made for that purpose by the local Government.

A keeper of an unlicensed shop is liable to a fine of Rs. 100. Any uncertificated compounder, mixer, preparer or seller of any drugs in a registered shop is punishable with a fine of Rs. 50 for each offence, and any owner, occupier or keeper of any such shop who employs an uncertificated person for such duties, renders himself open to a fine of Rs. 200 and forfeiture of his license. The restrictions do not apply to the sale of drugs used by practitioners of indigenous medicines when such drugs are not sold in a shop or place where medicines are dispensed upon prescription.

The mofussil law is substantially the same. In fact, it is taken *verbatim* from the Calcutta Act. Under the Bengal Municipal Act, the drugs are explained to be those recognized by the British Pharmacopœia. Do homœopathic dispensaries come under the law? They dispense drugs recognized by the British Pharmacopœia but their preparations are not according to its directions.

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A GERMAN doctor has found that apple is a cure for drunkenness. That is hardly a discovery. Spirituous drinks create a taste for all kinds of acids. With a distaste for all other food, a toper is fond of acids only. It is nearly 20 years that another German doctor started the theory that all food should be eaten raw, which would drive away all diseases and end the curse of civilized communities—intemperance. He also thought clothing a mistake.

..

"WHISKY ROOT" is an American plant of the cactus (*mansa*) family. Like the drink of its namesake, it can produce intoxication. The Indians of the southern Texas cut the "buttons" into small pieces and chew them. The juice thus extracted and taken in cheers and inebriates the American Indians, who, under its influence, sit for hours enjoying the beautiful visions of colour and other manifestations.

..

IN his last (May) number of the *Calcutta Journal of Medicine*, Dr. Sircar remarks:—

"My persuasion is, that when not strictly appropriate, homœopathic medicines do produce pathogenetic effects and produce the very morbid conditions for which they are truly homœopathic, but which not really existing are brought about by them in patients whose constitutions have been rendered sensitive by disease. In the treatment of all diseases, and of cholera in particular, routine practice is most disastrous. I look upon the recent unfavourable results of the homœopathic treatment of cholera in Calcutta and elsewhere, as due to this cause. Every case requires the strictest individualization, or bungling and failure must be the result. Every epidemic, if scrutinizingly studied, would be found to differ in some essential characters from previous epidemics. This is the reason why in one epidemic Camphor, in another Arsenic, in a third Veratrum, in a fourth Sulphur, &c., is found to succeed, and no other. It is absolutely necessary that the character of an epidemic, the genius epidemicus, as it is called, should be studied with care, in order that the work of prescribing may be both accurate and comparatively light. Of course it must be remembered, that this should not dispense with the study of each individual case in order to determine its own peculiarities, but the genius epidemicus having been ascertained, such study would be easier than it could otherwise be."

How few practitioners wait to study the disease of their patients! They run and prescribe.

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AT a Meeting of the Vienna Medical Society, Professor Exner read a paper on the Function of Hair, in which he remarked:—

"There is a group, such as the eyelashes and eyebrows, for instance, which are sensorial organs, possessing tactile functions, and moreover serve as a protection to the eyes. In places where two integumentary surfaces are in contact such as in the axillary region, &c., they act as rollers and facilitate the gliding of the integumentary surfaces on each other. A third function of the hairs consists in the equalization of surface temperature. The hair of the scalp protects the head against external cold, and also prevents the loss of heat through the very low thermal conductivity of the hair cylinders and of the cushion of air intermingled with them."

Hair is not only a protection and a guard in the two instances first and last mentioned, but an ornament as well. In the third, it has its uses, but the experience of all countries and nations and even individuals does not agree.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

#### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

DR. Leyds has telegraphed to Mr. Chamberlain, strongly pressing for prosecution of Messrs. Rhodes, Beit and Harris, directors of the Chartered Company, and greatly regretting the delay about the enquiry into the Jameson raid. He also urges the complete transfer of the Chartered Company's territory to Imperial rule. Will that be a change for the better?

A further despatch from the Transvaal Government affirms that the recent despatches were animated by no hostile spirit, the Transvaal Government merely desiring to co-operate with Great Britain in promoting peace and confidence in Africa.

LI-HUNG-CHANG has engaged two officers of the German army to establish a military school in China on the German model. He had a two hours' conference with the German Foreign Secretary at Berlin, and discussed fully the interests of Germany and China. It is stated that the bases were agreed upon for a future international policy. He was entertained at a public banquet at Stettin, whence he proceeded to Kiel, where he had an official reception. Splendid festivities awaited him at Hamburg but he was confined to his house with a bad cold. He was able, on June 25, to pay a two hours' visit to Prince Bismarck at Friedrichsruh. It is stated that he has given extensive orders to Krupp works at Essen, and Vulcan works at Stettin.

THE rebellion in Mashonaland is spreading, and the natives are massacring the whites in outlying farms in Salisbury and Mazoe districts. There was a severe fighting between the rebels and a party escorting women and children. All outlying whites have been ordered into laager at Salisbury, where there is scarcity of men. Colonel Carrington is sending Beal's and Spreckley's columns to Salisbury, and has summoned 200 Mounted Infantry from the Cape. He has also ordered the 7th Hussars and Mounted Infantry at Mafeking to Mafeking. The Resident at Fort Victoria reported that the natives there were wavering, and that he hoped to overawe them by a display of force. The Natal Contingent routed two thousand Mashonas after severe fighting on Monday near Hartley. There is a strong feeling at Capetown owing to the massacre of several well-known families by the rebels, and the Cape Assembly have petitioned the Government for aid to the Volunteers who are accustomed to active warfare for the suppression of rebellion. The latest news is that the rebels have surrounded Fort Charter and looted Marindella, where they seized 25,000 cartridges. During the fighting, Lieutenant Bremner 20th Hussars, who was serving as a Volunteer, was killed.

ADVICES from Syria state that a rising has taken place among the Druses, who have annihilated four companies of Turkish troops and captured several guns. In the Hauran district several Turkish battalions are surrounded by the rebels. The Turkish authorities are despatching troops from Salonica to the scene of the disturbance.

A MEETING of the Cabinet was held, on June 20, to consider afresh the steps to be taken with regard to the Education Bill. Mr. Balfour's proposal to adjourn in August and leave the completion of the Bill until January was found impracticable, and the Government hesitated whether to persist in the whole measure, notwithstanding numberless amendments, or reduce it to a simple aiding of the voluntary schools. The hesitancy of the Government is much criticised by the Unionist press, who blame Mr. Balfour's leadership. In the House of Commons, on June 23, Mr. Balfour announced the withdrawal of the Bill, and in doing so admitted that he had miscalculated the extent of the opposition to the measure. He proposed to reintroduce the Bill at the beginning of January. Sir William Harcourt said he would refrain from exulting over the Government, but observed that the opposition to the Bill also emanated from the Unionist party.

CHOLERA is decreasing in Alexandria and Cairo but increasing in the

provinces. A case of cholera has occurred among the Indian camp followers at Suakin.

THE *World's* telegram about the conflict between the British and Venezuelans is contradicted. The Venezuelans have, however, arrested and conveyed to their territory Mr. Harrison, a Government official who was directing the making of roads on the British side of the Schomburg line. America, at the instance of Sir Julian Pauncefote, is using her good offices to procure the release of Mr. Harrison.

THE French Chamber of Deputies has by a large majority passed the Bill for the annexation of Madagascar.

DEATH of the Emperor of China's mother is announced. This news of our border Empire comes to us from England.

THE Powers have proposed to the Porte that a Christian Governor be appointed in Crete, and that a general amnesty be proclaimed on summoning the Cretan Assembly. They have also recommended the execution of the Halepa Convention of 1878.

THE Lords have read for the second time by a majority of twenty-nine votes the Bill for marriage with a deceased wife's sister. When will they pass it?

A TURKISH outbreak took place at Van on Monday, in which many Armenians were killed, and many took refuge in the British Consulate.

THE Commission appointed to enquire into the financial relations between England and Ireland have reported that Ireland is over-taxed to the extent of two and three-quarter millions sterling annually.

THE treaty between Japan and Belgium has been signed at Brussels.

THE Suakin Expedition is justified. The Sudan refugees, arriving in the Egyptian camp, report that the people are eager for freedom from the Dervish rule. Our Viceroy's despatch regarding the Charges question has reached Lord George Hamilton. It is stated that a number of Ministerialists are prepared to vote against charging India with the cost.

THE Czar is suffering from an attack of jaundice.

WITH a record fall of nine inches of rain in five hours, Darjeeling has just passed through a fearful visitation. Telegrams of the 26th report: "The Monsoon has broken in Darjeeling with disastrous result. The Sonada Mission has fallen in. The missionaries are supposed to have been buried alive. Particulars are not yet to hand. Dr. Dore's out-offices at West Point have been buried by a landslip, and a sweeper buried alive. Mr. J. Macarthur's house at Glenburn was in extreme danger owing to severe landslips around. Holly Lodge, occupied by Mr. Bruce Manson, Conservator of Forests, was also in great danger. Fifty-two slips occurred along the new Lebong road. Traffic has been suspended. At Singamari a woman drawing water from the Jhora was buried but was extricated and removed to hospital, where she lies in a precarious condition. A portion of the Observatory Hall, above Darjeeling High School for Girls, fell during the night with a loud crash on to the Mall below. There was also a heavy fall in Birch Hill Road below the abovementioned school. The Mall and Birch Hill are blocked. Below Saint Paul's School on the Calcutta Road a huge slip took place, 1,000 feet of water-piping being carried away.

There was also a bad slip on the hill on which stands Vernon Lodge. Two nights of rain will decide its fate. There is extreme scarcity of drinking water in the station. A house called Dun's Location was buried last night. The inhabitants, Native Christians, were extricated this morning and sent to hospital. The owner of the house was found dead. Seven enormous slips have occurred between Darjeeling and Ghoom. The rails were carried away in some instances. The mail train was despatched daily from Ghoom, there being no train from Darjeeling. Dun's Location was sold four days previously and the money paid in. The wall and billiard room of the

Planters' Club have come down. The monsoon is never known to have burst here with greater violence. The damage is greater than that of five years put together. It is estimated that two hundred landships have taken place, and that twenty inches of rain have fallen in the last three days, of which the ten which fell last night, did all the damage. There is a fancy dress ball to-night but some outside guests are unable to attend owing to roads being impassable. The weather shews signs of clearing.

The Upper Alloobarie Tea Estate has almost been destroyed. The damage to it and Rungaroon is estimated at sixty thousand rupees.

The road is partially blocked. Some residents are cut off from the rest of the town for the present. Eight hundred feet of water pipes are washed away. One mehter Lapcha woman has been crushed to death. There is no down mail to Darjeeling to-day. The up mail runs to-day as far as Ghoom, whence the letters are despatched to Darjeeling by runners."

DURING Tuesday and Wednesday, a small cyclone with heavy rain blew over Karachi, over seven inches of rain being recorded. The Byari river rose in flood, and two persons were drowned. Much damage was done to house property. The steamer Dwarka was caught in the cyclone, and had to remain off the port for twenty hours before she was able to enter the harbour.

WE learn from Manipur that the price of rice has suddenly gone up from Rs. 2 to Rs. 7 and that a famine is apprehended. Cholera is also raging outside the British Reserve, being confined chiefly to the lower classes. One Babu, however, has been lately carried off. The local authorities are reported to be taking all necessary precautions.

ALLAHABAD has scarcely passed through a hotter summer than this year. The heat was terrific and rains have held off for months. There is no rain yet, though the prevalence of dust-storms for some days together has slightly reduced the heat.

THERE is great improvement in the state of the crops generally. The number on relief works in the North-West Provinces, including those on village works, has fallen to 112,000 persons; 20,000 persons are still on works in Gwalior and Bundelkand and 11,000 in Rajputana.

ANOTHER turn of the screw and another reduction in the interest of Government loans! The success of the present  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cents. has emboldened the Finance Minister to attempt another permanent source of income. The Viceroyalty of Lord Elgin will be remarkable for its financial policy. "His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council," so runs the notification, "has resolved to borrow four hundred lakhs of rupees for the public service in the following manner:

Promissory Notes will be issued for the said amount, bearing interest at the rate of three per centum per annum, payable half-yearly on the 30th day of June and the 31st day of December. The notes will be in the Form annexed to this Notification and they will not be discharged before December 31st, 1916, nor until the expiration of three months after notice of payment to be published in the Government Gazette," when, we are sure, the present  $3\frac{1}{2}$  will be discharged or converted into 3 per cents.

Tenders for the new loan for the whole or any part thereof will be received to noon of Wednesday, the 22nd July, when they will be publicly opened. They must be for sums of Rs. 500 or multiples of Rs. 500. Each tender must be accompanied by a deposit of not less than one-hundredth, or, if the tender be for less than five lakhs of rupees, then for not less than one-fiftieth part of the tender.

The recorded minimum rate at which tenders will be accepted will, before the tenders are opened, be placed upon the table in a sealed envelope, but will not be declared unless some tender is rejected only because it is below the recorded minimum.

Tenders at the recorded minimum rate and at rates above the recorded minimum rate will be accepted in the order of the rates tendered, beginning with the highest rate; the amount allotted at the lowest rate at which tenders are accepted will be divided amongst those who have tendered at this rate in proportion, as nearly as may be found convenient, to the amounts of their tenders; provided that

no allotment will be issued if the amount distributable on any tender is less than Rs. 500.

The successful tenderer is required to pay the first instalment, not exceeding 35 per cent., on or before 7th August; the second, not exceeding 35 per cent., on or before 9th September; and the balance on or before 9th October 1896.

DR. E. W. Chambers, Coroner of Calcutta, having obtained leave without pay for six months, has proceeded "home," and the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein is once more Magistrate and Coroner. On Dr. Chambers' applying for leave, the question was raised whether the Coroner was a law officer of Government and, we believe, decided in his favour before he was granted leave. In view of the Nawab's turn for leave after the return of Dr. Chambers, Mr. Mookerjee, who has converted himself into a Roy and delights to call himself Dhuba, has been paying special court to Sir John Lambert, K.C.I.E., with whom practically rests the appointment of Presidency Magistrates, and has earned his confidence. Those, not in his good books, however qualified otherwise, have little chance of being stipendiary magistrates of the town.

AN Honorary Magistrate of the Baranagar Bench is just now under a cloud, being charged, along with a youngster of his age by a Hindustani woman, with forcible confinement and the commission of forcible adultery. The case was instituted in the Court of Mr. S. D. Roy, but subsequently, we understand, an application has been made for its transfer to any other court that the District Magistrate might deem fit, on the ground of Mr. Roy's personal friendship with the chief accused.

#### THE *British Medical Journal* reports:—

"At a meeting of the Edinburgh Royal Society on Monday, April 6th, a communication on bacteria in milk as supplied to the city of Edinburgh, and the relative efficiency of different methods for their removal or destruction, was made by Drs. Hunter Stewart and J. Buchanan Young. The authors stated that the cowhouses of this country were not kept with anything like the care of those in Denmark and Holland. The cows were not groomed, the cowhouses were not flushed with water, the hands and clothing of the milkers were not properly attended to, nor were the cows' teats properly cleaned. Since November 1894, 300 samples of milk had been examined from fifty dairies scattered throughout the city. It was found that at three hours after milking there were in winter on an average 24,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre. In spring and early summer 44,000; in late summer and autumn 173,000. It was found that in dairies supplied with milk from the country the average number of micro-organisms five hours after milking was 41,000 per cubic centimetre, while in dairies supplied with milk from town byres the average was 352,000 per cubic centimetre. The importance of having cowhouses outside the city was strongly emphasised. The various modes of sterilising milk were discussed, and it was pointed out that the great objection to the use of sterilised milk was the change of flavour and the alleged increased indigestibility. The conclusions were that milk kept for one hour at 212° in bottles hermetically sealed remained sterile for more than a month, and was quite sweet and palatable, though it had a boiled taste; that milk heated by means of Dr. Cathcart's apparatus remained quite sterile for forty-eight hours, though the boiled taste was marked; that milk kept for thirty minutes at 158° F. was quite sterile at the end of twenty-four hours, and contained very few microbes at the end of forty-eight hours. In all these three methods the micro-organisms of tubercle and diphtheria were certainly killed. Scalding at 176° F. with every precaution kept the milk sterile for twenty-four hours, but in carrying out this process on a large scale there was considerable risk of postscalding contamination, so that there was no guarantee that the bacillus of tubercle and diphtheria, if present, was destroyed."

How miserable the cowsheds at Calcutta! There is no grooming of the cows, no attempt at cleanliness of any kind. The animals are huddled together in a space not sufficient to contain half of them. The law gives the Municipal Commissioners ample powers, but they find they are powerless, in that they cannot exercise them. The Commissioner of Police has urged the Chairman of the Corporation to look to the matter. Mr. Williams is anxious to improve the sheds. He ordered prosecutions through the Police. The Chief Magistrate ordered heavy fines, but the other stipendiary Magistrate with a kind heart passed lenient orders, while the Honorary Magistrates were incorrigible. The fines ordered by them are scarcely punishments, not to say deterrent. In his despair, Mr. Williams appealed to the Local Government. The correspondence that passed between the Chairman and the Chief Secretary is instructive:—

"From—H. C. Williams, Esq., C. S., Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, To—The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal. I have no doubt that the attention of the Government of Bengal has been at times drawn to paragraphs in the newspapers concerning

the insanitary state of the numerous gowkhanas in Calcutta and its suburbs. The responsibility of the state of affairs mainly rests with the Municipality, whose officers have been very lax in dealing with the disgraceful state of affairs; but the Magistrates are also by no means free from blame. Some Magistrates, it is rue, when cases are proved against offenders under section 336 of Act II of 1888, do give suitable fines; but I find that very many content themselves with inflicting merely nominal fines; and as the business is very profitable, the offenders go on as they did before. The number of unlicensed cowsheds in Calcutta is simply incredible. Comparatively few persons are punished, and when they are convicted the punishment should, in my opinion, be decidedly deterrent. Cases get adjourned on some pretext or another. The owner steadily absents himself, and the law is very much in favour of the offender. When the law is revised as it will be, I imagine, before very long, both sections 335 and 336 will have to be altered. The second clause of 335 has, I am told, been construed to hold that a man may keep an unlicensed shed for April and May, even though he is not an old licensee. I am trying to find a case in which this view of the law has been taken. The second clause of section 336 is also unworkable. The Commissioners have no place where they can store cattle, and their trying to make use of this section has, I believe, led to more than one disturbance. All, however, that I would now ask Government to do is to point out to Magistrates, particularly the Honorary Magistrates, that a fine of annas 8 to Rs. 2 is not a fitting punishment for those whose offences tend to contaminate the public health as much as those found guilty under section 336 of Act II of 1888.

From—C. W. Bolton, Esq., Offg. Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, To—The Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1138, dated the 15th May, 1896, regarding the insanitary condition of the numerous Gowkhanas in Calcutta and its suburbs. You state that the number of unlicensed cowsheds in Calcutta is very great owing largely to the fact that Magistrates content themselves with inflicting merely nominal fines on persons convicted under sections 335 and 336 of the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act II of 1888.

In reply, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with you in considering that exemplary punishments are called for to check this nuisance. You should instruct the subordinates of the Corporation who prosecute cases under section 336 of the Act to bring to the notice of the trying Magistrates, whenever it appears necessary to take this course, the serious mischief, from a sanitary point of view, done by the offenders, and press for severe punishment."

The reply is well conceived. While it ought to spur the Magistrates to their duty, it saves them the humiliation of dictation. This is statesmanship.

THE Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur Justice Subramani Iyer, C.I.E., Judge of the Madras High Court, having been presented with a copy of '*An Indian Journalist*,' not only handsomely acknowledged the gift of the Life of his friend, but followed up his thanks with substantial appreciation by a cheque of Rs. 50, in aid of the object Mr. Skrine has in view. The Indian mind, however enlightened, is not always up to the English standard of thankfulness and appreciation, and we publish the small matter, which may not be agreeable to the Judge, that others may learn.

THE Vice of a neighbouring District Board is at his clean work again. Having got at the top, he cares not for the ladder by which he rose, and, having threatened the terrors of the law to an unsympathetic journal, he himself, in the eve of another election, feels free to forge silver fetters with a rival's love.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, June 27, 1896.

### THE BENGAL CONFERENCE.

THE Indian Congress is necessarily a huge organization, and, by yearly repetition, bids fair to be National. It was a mistake to begin it without the Mahomedans. But we are sure, as years roll on, they will find equal interest in it with the Hindus and other nationalities. It is no Hindu movement for any Hindu Revival. Its aims are political, and it excludes social and religious questions religiously. Notwithstanding, by its sessions in the various Presidencies and chief cities, it has given an impetus to social intercourse between the different parts of the Indian Empire, and that promiscuous intercourse is a great help to religious toleration. If then, of late, there have been religious riots between Hindus and Mahomedans, one reason, we should think, is the exclusion, by themselves or the organizers of the great movement, of the

Mahomedans. Another cause is what is called the present Hindu Revival. We see in it no advancement of the Hindus as a nation. It rather takes them back to what they have long left behind in the march of progress. It cannot live long, if we are not to go backwards. Those who rejoice in it must not be forgetful of its reaction. They are no true patriots who fan this religious flame. The absurdity of the rage is beginning to manifest itself in Hindu ice, Hindu soap and other articles of daily use and consumption. This blind religious zeal and that estrangement between the two most important sections of the Indian community are great impediments to our national progress and the usefulness of the Congress.

The Congress aims at what every educated Indian had striven for in the past and what it will be his duty to try in the future. The platform is common to all. The exclusion from its range of all subjects other than political, is a welcome to all comers. The institution of Provincial Conferences is another attempt to preserve its integrity, and to make it truly national or imperial. In the gradual disappearance, under the progressive British rule, of the old bonds of unity between individuals and clans and sects and communities, the Congress is a great school, in which, if properly managed and maintained, you have the making of a nation. Unless you are prepared to revive the old bonds, you cannot ignore the new.

Whether the Congress is worked on this basis, it is not our present business to see.

Following the Government of the country, the governors of the Congress have divided its government into Imperial and Provincial. Those anxious to maintain the distinction, have taken objection to the Krishnaghar or the second Bengal Conference, in that it discussed what ought to have been reserved for the sittings of all the Presidencies. The chair at the Conference was taken by the Honble Guruprasad Sen, of Bankipore. It was at first offered to Maharaja Jagadindra Naryan Roy, of Nator. He declined the honour on grounds of social etiquette. As descendant of Rani Bhabani, he could not come to Krishnaghar except on the thrice-repeated invitation of the Maharaja of Krishnaghar and with his whole retinue—an expensive business. Nor was the Maharaja of Krishnaghar prepared, for a matter not social, to welcome him on those terms. Maharaja Kshitish Chunder was not himself present at the Conference, though he showed his sympathy by subscribing to the Fund of the Conference and otherwise aiding it. He at first refused the use of his Natmandir, where the sittings were held, unless the Reception Committee guaranteed that there would be no seditious oratory. The guarantee was not enforced and he attended the Evening Party given by Mr. Monomohun Ghose, Chairman of the Reception Committee, at his house to the delegates.

The house of the Pal Chowdhuries of Ranaghat, the second in the Nadia District, was represented by Baboo Ganendranath. There was at first no disposition to recognize his position in the programme of the opening day. The omission was rectified and he was asked to propose Babu Guruprasad to the chair. Another zamindar of the district, who had attended the distant sittings of the Congress, could not be present and was represented, as freely expressed in the Conference Camp, by his carriage and pair. If the remote Assam sent a delegate, the nearer districts of Hugli, Burdwan and Dacca were unrepresented. The Committee had more than the ordinary

difficulties to contend against. For convenience of a chosen few, they changed the days for the sittings to the inconvenience of many, and those few did not turn up. There was objection from the quarter represented by the *Sanjibani* to join the Conference unless the connection of the Secretary, who, with Baboos Baranashi Roy, Bishambhar Roy, Basanta Kumar Chatterjee, Pleaders, and Baboos Prosonno Kumar Chaudry and Phanibhushan Mookerjee (a student), worked hard for the success of the Conference, was severed. The demand could not be acceded to and the Sadharan Brahmos and those who thought with them kept away. It also devolved upon the Committee to arrange a meeting of the two Bengal rival orators, once friends, that they might be friends again.

Krishnaghar was all hospitality to the delegates, who, one and all, are profuse in their admiration for the excellence of the arrangements made for their reception. Babu Surendranath Banerjee was of course the central figure of the Conference, the chief actor in the whole performance, from beginning to end. He, after his wont, monopolized the principal speaking at the Conference, although a day was reserved for him, when the students presented him an address. The Conference concluded, in the after performance, with a reconciliation between the two orators Babu Surendranath Banerjee and Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose.

A significant omission, evidently an oversight of the Committee who proved equal to any emergency, was the absence of a printing press. The delegates and speakers were much inconvenienced for want of printed resolutions to be moved and seconded.

## THE DERBY.

*The Overland Mail* writes:—

"It is not unlikely that for twenty-four hours the Prince of Wales felt more satisfaction from the proud position of being a winner of the Derby than from that of being Prince of Wales. So much is the honour of gaining the 'Blue Ribband of the Turf' coveted that to a Prince deprived by circumstances of the possibility of winning distinction, no less than distraction, on the fields of War and Statesmanship the pride and emotion which come to a Derby winner must be something of a peculiarly exceptional and agreeable character. He has won the honour too like an English sporting gentleman, and not like a speculative financier, with a horse bred on his own estates, and is therefore all the more legitimately entitled to be warmly congratulated on his victory. The public, who have come to look upon the Prince of Wales as one of the most genial of State institutions, showed by their demeanour on Wednesday, not only at Epsom, how thoroughly they like him, how cordially they sympathise with him in his joys, as they have in the past with his sorrows.

"The story of the race is told in another column, but the following bit of graphic description which we take from the *Standard* is well worth reproducing:—

"The scene which followed the victory of the Prince of Wales's horse almost surpasses description. As Persimmon went past the post nearly every silk hat in the Club Enclosure was sent into the air, and thousands of hats from every part of the course followed suit. A roar which swelled into a torrent broke upon the air, and as the number was hoisted a noise, the like of which Epsom Downs has never known, seemed to envelope the course. In an instant the course from Tattenham Corner to the paddock became a mass of blackness, and so dense was the crowd that men were carried off their legs. All seemed drunk with excitement, and when the Prince appeared on the steps, holding his hat, the enthusiasm reached a climax. He descended the steps, and went out on the course, still hat in hand, to meet the winner. So vast was the throng, that it was nearly five minutes before Persimmon got in, each horse having to be preceded by a mounted constable. Two constables in front and one behind protected the hero of the day, led by Marsh, his trainer, whose face was that of a man who is enjoying the supreme moment of his life. All the time Lord Marcus Beresford stood without a hat, biting a cigar as if his life depended upon it. When, at last, the horse arrived,

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he went to speak to Marsh, and the latter gave the rein to the Prince, who, with his hat in his hand, led his first Derby winner into the unsaddling enclosure. The cheers were almost hysterical now, and the spectacle was one which has known no parallel on any racecourse in the world. The Prince shook Marsh's hand a dozen times, and when Watts dismounted he shook his also. Porter, his old trainer, was similarly greeted, and so were many hundreds of others. The cheering had known no break from first to last: but when the 'All right' was called, there was scarcely a man on the course with a hat on his head. The Prince appeared at the top of the steps, and bowed repeatedly to the mass below him—a mass numbering, perhaps, 50,000 people; and he would have been of stone, had he not shown how much he was moved. The whole experience was one of a lifetime."

The Derby is the great national carnival of England, and the Prince of Wales was the hero of the day. He could not have been in touch with his people in a better way.

This is not the first time that a prince of the blood royal has won the Derby. The year of the first Derby is 1780. In 1788, the then Prince of Wales won it with Sir Thomas. His brother the Duke of York won it twice, with Prince Leopold in 1816 and in 1822 with Moses. The first winning horse was Diomed. English horse-racing, we are told, "was established in the reign of James I, with nearly all the rules for training, physicking, carrying weights, and running for prizes, as at present. A silver bell was the annual prize; hence comes the proverb 'to bear the bell.'" The bells have gradually given way to bowls, or cups, or to money. It was Benjamin Disraeli who first called the "Derby" stakes "the Blue Riband of the Turf." "In 1840, her Majesty the Queen with Prince Albert visited Epsom races. In this year the Derby was won by Mr. Robertson's Little Wonder, and the Prince presented Macdonald, the jockey who rode the winner, with a gold-headed riding-whip in honour of the royal visit." Sensation upon sensation, in 1820, the Derby was run during a hurricane, and in 1839 and in 1867, the start was made in a snow-storm. Another memorable year was 1844, when the stakes were adjudged, owing to a fraud, in the Court of Exchequer, when Baron Alderman, who tried the case, remarked that if the perpetrators of the fraud were tried and convicted before him, he would have passed the sentence of transportation for life.

The founder of the present breed of English race-horses was the wonderful Eclipse. He was born during the great eclipse of 1766, and was bred by his royal owner the 'Duke of Cumberland, who, dying shortly after, he, along with his master's stud, was sold. When 4 or 5 years old, Captain Dennis O'Kelly, who was rendered famous in the sporting world as the owner of Eclipse, purchased half of him for 250 guineas and afterwards paid another 750 guineas for the other half. The following epistle from Eclipse to King Fergus is recorded in a book of sporting anecdotes:

"Dear Son,—I set out last week from Epsom, and am safe arrived in my new stables at this place. My situation may serve as a lesson to man: I was once the fleetest horse in the world, but old age has come upon me, and wonder not, King Fergus, when I tell thee I was drawn in a carriage from Epsom to Canons, being unable to walk even so short a journey. Every horse, as well as every dog, has his day; and I have had mine. I have outlived two worthy masters: the late Duke of Cumberland, that bred me, and the Colonel with whom I have spent my best days, but I must not repine; I am now caressed not so much for what I can do, but for what I have done, and with the satisfaction of knowing that my present master will never abandon me, to the fate of the *high-mettled racer*!

"I am glad to hear, my grandson, Honest Tom, performs so well in Ireland, and trust that he, and the rest of my progeny, will do honour to the name of their grandsire,

ECLIPSE.

"Canons, Middlesex.

"P.S. Myself, Dunganon, Volunteer, and Vertumnus, are all here. —Compliments to the Yorkshire horses."

Eclipse could gallop a mile in a minute. His

fleetness was due, as was discovered at the post-mortem on his body, to his heart weighing 13 pounds. One of his hoofs, set in gold, is preserved by the Jockey Club, and is annually run for at Ascot Races, and thus it passes annually from owner to owner of the winning horse. The famous horse lies buried in the park of Canons, near Edgeware. "For many years Eclipse lived in retirement from the turf, but in another way, as a 'sire,' a source of large income to his master at Clay Hill, near Epsom, whither many strangers resorted to see him. They used to learn with surprise—for the practice was not common then, as it is now—that the life of Eclipse was insured for some thousands of pounds."

Charles Greville, Clerk of the Privy Council, author of "Memoirs" that bear his name, and a frequenter of the races, writes in his book under date May 27, 1833:—

"All last week at Epsom, and now, thank God, these races are over. I have had all the trouble and excitement and worry, and have neither won nor lost; nothing but the hope of gain would make me go through the demoralising drudgery, which I am conscious reduces me to the level of all that is most disreputable and discreditable, for my thoughts are eternally absorbed by it. Jockeys, trainers, and blacklegs are my companions; and it is like dram-drinking; having once entered upon it, I cannot leave it off, though I am disgusted with the occupation all the time. Let no man who has no need, who is not in danger of losing all that he has, and is not obliged to grasp at every chance, *make a book* on the Derby. While the fever it excites is raging, and the odds are varying, I can neither read, nor write, nor occupy myself with anything else.....I had considerable hopes of winning the Derby, but was beaten easily."

Racing may have many advantages. But the "plunging?" If that cannot be checked, it is no legitimate sport, however exciting. The concomitant evil, gambling, has extended to India and invaded the Zenana. We do not, like the Puritans and the Evangelicals, class horse-racing with the theatre and the nautches, but, we must confess, we cannot view with equanimity the accessory danger.

#### OUR LONDON LETTER.

June 5.

Great Britain.—The Imperial Parliament reassembled after the short Whitsun recess on Monday. This week is devoted to minor Government Bills, of a more or less non-contentious character. On Tuesday, a vote was taken as to whether the House of Commons should adjourn over the Derby day, and the strange spectacle was witnessed of the Nonconformist conscience supporting the motion. It was not because these ultra-straight-laced bigots wished to see the great race run, but simply to try and defeat what is called the "Church Benefices Bill." The principal object of the Bill is to strengthen the hands of the Bishops in dealing with clergy who may have misconducted themselves. The Bill is in charge of Lord Salisbury's eldest son, Viscount Cranborne. It has already been before a grand Committee, and has been thoroughly threshed out. The only chance of its becoming law, was to have it pushed forward on Wednesday, and the only objection on the part of the Nonconformists was that it was calculated to do the Church of England a signal service. This miserable dog-in-the-manger policy was happily defeated. I am sorry to say some representatives of the Low Church party of the Church of England aided and abetted the Nonconformists. Sir Edward Clarke did yeoman's service. Three members have put down ninety amendments out of a total of one hundred and twenty. The first clause contains forty-nine lines, and in a four hours' discussion only ten lines had been considered.

The loss of two Unionist seats as Frome and Wick do not count for much. The Radical who got in for the former, made a ridiculous statement about Mr. Chamberlain, who, on his attention being called to it, wired, "No one but a knave would make such a statement, and no one but an idiot would believe it."

On Monday the stern work of the session will commence, when the House goes into Committee on the Education Bill. You will remember the second reading was carried by the record majority of 267. This was due to the entire Irish party supporting the Government, and, as I said in a recent letter, it has sounded the death knell of Home Rule.

The cleavage between the Irish party and the Radicals is now complete. The Nonconformists had a great gathering at the

Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, the other evening when Guinness Rogers, Clifford, and Hugh Price Hughes came well to the front. Clifford thought it seemly and becoming to call the Bill "damnable." A fine exemplar he must be of the teaching of the meek and lowly Nazarene. And yet I am told his church is thronged every Sunday, his poor hearers believing he has a divine message.

The same with Rogers and Hughes. How true was Carlyle's estimate of his countrymen---"mostly fools." But the outstanding event of the meeting was that Mr. Gladstone's name was hissed and hooted at. He has written a marvellous letter, *more so*, on the question of the validity of English Church orders. His old friends of the Nonconformists see in this letter an underhand attempt to promote Roman Catholicism in England. Hence the wailing and gnashing of teeth. Poor old man, what a pity for his fame he did not join the majority before the fatal 1886!

The papers will show you what an enthusiastic ovation the Prince of Wales received yesterday on his horse---Persimmon---winning the blue ribbon of the turf at Epsom.

Mr. Fletcher of the "New Age" will no doubt have some very caustic remarks to make about the Prince and Lord Rosebery, but Mr. Fletcher might just as well try to remove Mont Blanc, as to abolish the inherent love of horse-racing among all classes of society here.

*France.*---The most interesting event to you in India is Lord Dufferin's farewell speech at the dinner of the British Chamber of Commerce. He is retired under the superannuation rules, 70 being the age applicable to ambassadors. The speech was one of great brilliancy, and has afforded immense satisfaction not only to the British colony in Paris, but to all ranks of French society from President Faure and his ministers downwards. He is to be succeeded by Sir Phillip Currie, who has had such a thankless office, as our ambassador at Constantinople.

*Russia.*---I need not dwell on the frightful catastrophe that cost over 3,000 peasants their lives. It forms a most melancholy episode in a series of great fetes connected with the coronation.

*Spain and Cuba.*---A most instructive article on the state of affairs in Cuba appeared in the "Times" of the 3rd instant from its "special correspondent" at Havanna. It is the record of a melancholy history of misgovernment. Spain of today is evidently no colonizer, and under her rule or rather misrule the fairest of the West India islands is going --if indeed it has not already gone---to wreck and ruin.

*Cret.*---A very few days should bring matters to a final crisis, and this time the Porte will be made to feel that the combined Powers of Europe will not allow the Sultan to play fast and loose

with his Christian subjects. Russia itself has notified its intention of protecting the Greek Christians against the Turkish soldiery. Seeing the Czar is Head of the Greek Church he could do no less.

*Africa.*---After a wearisome suspense Oom Paul has liberated nearly all the prisoners. He is thwarted in his generous feelings by Dr. Leyds and others of the executive, but the country is with him and he must triumph in the end.

We are having real Bengal hot season weather at present, and the long continued drought is telling on the hay harvest and the fruit cultivation. During the first four months of this year, we have had only 5 inches of rain against 10 of last year. On Wednesday evening---the Derby day---we had half an hour's heavy downpour, and in that half hour more rain fell than in April and May together.

It will interest your readers to know that the Indian Institute at Oxford is now completed. His Highness the Thakur Sahib of Gondal gave a munificent subscription of £4,500. It is to be opened on the 1st of July by the Secretary of State for India. Sir Monier Williams may well be congratulated on the completion of what cannot fail to give a wonderful impetus to Oriental studies at Oxford.

In the "Indian Magazine" for this month is a very interesting list of natives of India in this country for the purposes of study. I notice there are 16 Hindus studying Law, 10 preparing for the Indian Civil Service, 6 for Medicine, and of these 27 reside in London, 7 in Edinburgh, 12 at Cambridge and only one at Oxford. I was not prepared to learn that there are 23 Mussulmans---mostly from Behar---all residing in London and preparing for the Bar. Of Parsis there are 35, mostly in London. Madras, as usual, makes a very poor show with only 12. The Punjab shows 41, two of them, I am glad to see youngsters at Harrow. Burmah actually sends 9, all given over to the Law. A very interesting information is that "The number of Indian ladies in England increases year by year. At present several are here for the education of their children; others have come for medical or literary study, while several accompany their husbands simply for a visit to this country."

## Public Paper.

### THE BENGAL MUNICIPAL VADE-MECUM.

Bengal Municipalities Bill 1872,

passed by the Bengal Council

but not assented to by the Governor-General.

### THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S EXPLANATION OF THE MEASURE.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal with the Lieutenant-Governor on Tour, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter No. 138 of 30th September, with enclosed petitions (herewith returned) regarding the Bengal Municipalities Bill, and to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor's observations on the subject, together with a reprinted and corrected copy of the Bill, in the final printing of which the typographical errors pointed out by you had unfortunately occurred owing to the illness and departure of the Secretary to the Bengal Council immediately subsequent to the passing of the Bill.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that of the three petitions forwarded by you, the first is of a general character objecting to the whole Act, and it may almost be said to all municipal taxation; the second deals to some extent with general provisions of the Bill, but more especially with the provisions respecting *chakran* or service lands in connection with third class, or village municipalities; and the third is confined to this latter subject. It will therefore be most convenient to observe, first, on the general character and provisions of the Bill, and second on the village municipalities and the *chakran* lands.

3. One of the petitions contains a charge of hasty legislation. To this objection at least the proceedings of the Bengal Council in regard to the Municipalities Bill are not properly open. There probably never was a Bill submitted to the Council which was more thoroughly subjected to public criticism, in respect of which the native public more fully and intelligently availed themselves of the opportunity thus given, and in dealing with which more regard was had to the criticisms, objections, and suggestions contained in very numerous petitions addressed to the Council as the outcome of much discussion and agitation. The main and essential provisions of the Bill as it now stands were presented to the public at the very earliest period of the session, and the modifications subsequently introduced, which were not mere matters of drafting, were to a very great degree made in deference to the views of the native public as set forth in the petitions and repre-

### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

(Session 1896-97.)

The new Session of the Association commences from July next, and will be opened, on Friday, the 3rd July, by the Honorary Secretary, with an Introductory Lecture with special reference to the New Photography.

Lectures during the Session will be delivered in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology.

The Association has been affiliated to the Calcutta University up to the First Examination in Arts. This step has been taken purely for the benefit of the students, who are to appear at that examination. The attendance at its lectures will now count, and students will have no excuse to neglect to avail themselves of these lectures, which, from their thoroughly experimental character, will enable them not only to understand their text books, but to acquire such a mastery over methods and principles as to prepare them for making independent investigation.

It is needless to say that though the Institution for the present has been affiliated up to the F. A. standard only, the lectures will be such as to be fully useful to those who are preparing for the B. A. examinations.

An examination, written and practical, in the subjects of Physics, Chemistry and Biology lectured upon at the Association, will be held after the session is over. Anyone, who has attended the lectures of the Association, will be admitted to this examination.

The Jorindra Chandra book prize of Rs. 20, founded by the Hon'ble Justice Gooroo Dass Banerjee, and a silver medal by the Chaitanya Library, will be awarded to candidates who will stand first and second, respectively, at the examinations in Physics and Chemistry, provided that the number of marks obtained by each of them does not fall short of one-third of the full marks.

Dr. Nilratan Sircar has very generously offered to give a microscope to the candidate who passes first in the examinations in Biology. The Association will give a silver medal to the candidate who is second in these examinations.

To render the lectures accessible to students of the humblest means, small (almost nominal) fees will be charged for each subject. Thus Rs. 4 only for Physics; Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 6 for Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,  
Honorary Secretary.

June, 1896.

ventations above alluded to. The whole Bill and all the petitions on the subject were very carefully dealt with by a very strong committee in which the native element in the Council was in very large proportion. The session was protracted to a very unusual length in order to deal fully and thoroughly with the Bill. It would be impossible that every modification in detail should be re-submitted for a very lengthened period to the criticisms of the public at large; but in the various stages of the Bill the Lieutenant-Governor was most careful (as he always thinks it his duty to be) that the rules framed to secure due deliberation were fully carried out,--he in no degree suspended or curtailed them,--on the contrary, after all the amendments had been duly considered, the Bill was postponed to another sitting, with special leave to members of the Council to bring forward fresh amendments--a permission of which one of the native members fully availed himself. Several of his final suggestions were accepted by the Council, as had been many which he and others had before made, and many proposed by the Government to meet the wishes of the petitioners and others.

4. The result of this very careful handling of the matter has been, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes, to render the measure as acceptable to the people of Bengal as any measure of the kind could well be. It has been fully admitted by those who most opposed the measure that it has been greatly improved by the modifications made between the introduction of the Bill and its final passing by the Council. Since the Bill reached this latter stage there has been a very marked subsidence of agitation on the subject, so much so as to have almost surprised the Lieutenant-Governor. In fact, in the three months which have since elapsed, he is not aware of a single public meeting or public petition or remonstrance of any kind, and till the receipt of the petitions now sent he did not know that there were any. The Lieutenant-Governor cannot hope that everyone can be entirely content with any measure involving taxation, but he really sees reason to hope that the attention which has been paid to popular remonstrances, and the care which has been taken to render the measure as little as possible vexatious or capable of undue tension for the purposes of excessive taxation, have gone very far to disarm opposition. He is inclined to think that in fact there has sprung up in Bengal a considerable class whom education and enlightenment and civilized habits have rendered capable of appreciating the advantages of good municipal administration, and who give the Government some credit for really intending to carry out its promises with a view to introduce local self-government as far as possible. He hopes that such men are not disinclined to give the measure a fair trial, while many others feel that it is at any rate not more exacting or more vexatious than the existing Acts.

5. In one of the petitions it is said that the Bill was unnecessary, inasmuch as the existing Acts are amply sufficient. The list of twelve Acts wholly and two more partially repealed by schedule A of the present Bill will sufficiently show how much consolidation of the great variety of Municipal Acts in force in Bengal was necessary. Something more than consolidation was necessary, because all these Acts were drawn by different hands on different principles, and generally without the least relation to one another. Besides various local and special Acts, the two old Acts of general character, XXVI of 1850 and XX of 1856 are very different in their scope and provisions, both from one another and from the subsequent Acts; while of the principal of the later Municipal Acts, viz., III of 1864 and VI of 1868, it may be said that if they had been drawn by men from different planets, they could hardly have been more differently framed. Yet each of the Acts might be introduced into any town at the discretion of the Government of the day, and in fact in some places one and in other places another had been introduced all over the country. There was the most extreme variety of municipal constitutions. While the attempt has now been made to weld the whole of these discordant Acts together, with provisions taken from the Madras and other Municipal Acts, into one harmonious whole, the opportunity has at the same time been taken to review and regulate the whole subject of municipal administration and taxation according to our latest lights.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor has been specially anxious so to mould the present Bill that it may, as it were, meet and fit into the Road Cess Bill, so that the two should form together a complete, and, as far as may be, final scheme of local taxation. In this scheme he has tried to adjust the much vexed and much discussed questions of cesses for roads and education, so as to apportion the minimum of necessary burden fairly on all classes, and to leave scope for voluntary expansion hereafter in such way as to avoid, if it be possible, the imposition of any further local cesses.

7. Perhaps it may be necessary in some degree to apologize for the length of the present Act. Not only is it a great measure of consolidation, embracing a great variety of subjects and various grades of municipalities, but also the Lieutenant-Governor may say that much of the length is due to the strictly legal habit which

prevails in Bengal, and to almost jealous way in which the powers of the executive are limited and hedged in with a view to quiet the susceptibilities of a critical native public. As representing the executive, the Lieutenant-Governor would have been well content with a much shorter and rougher Bill which would have left much more to his discretion, as in the Municipal Acts for some other provinces. But he has no doubt that under the circumstances of Bengal it is better that everything should have been regulated in the fullest detail.

8. The plan adopted of detailing the various taxes which may be imposed at the option of the municipalities, and making separate provisions for each in all particulars, necessitates a succession of special provisions which occupy a great part of the Bill, but all or most of which will not be in force in any one municipality.

9. Again, a very large portion of the Bill (Parts X and XI) is taken up with municipal regulations, in respect of which the plan followed in former Acts has been adopted; that is to say, none of these regulations take effect of their own force in any municipality, but such portion of them as may be fitted for the requirements of and may be desired by any town municipality may from time to time be introduced by the Government, and may be similarly withdrawn if found inconvenient or inapplicable. Village municipalities are wholly exempted from all these regulations. In respect of them no discretion is left with the Government. With reference to these regulations, the Lieutenant-Governor takes the opportunity to say for himself that he is very far indeed from desiring to push too far sanitary or other regulations which may effect some public good at the cost of great individual vexation. On the contrary, he is inclined to introduce any regulations of this kind with great caution and reserve, feeling not only that our knowledge of these subjects is yet imperfect, but also that much regard must be had to the habits and feelings of the people, which, even in Europe and still more in this country, are opposed to great innovations in matters affecting their daily lives in their homes and neighbourhoods. The Lieutenant-Governor has pledged himself to the greatest moderation and the fullest regard for the wishes of the inhabitants in respect of these regulations, and he has no doubt that if the Bill becomes law, they will not be abused by his successors.

10. Allowing for the space occupied by the details of what may be called alternative taxes and optional regulations, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the Bill is not longer than was under the circumstances really necessary, and he trusts that in skilful hands it has been arranged in so methodical a manner that the provisions for different places and different subjects are clearly and easily distinguishable, and the parts applicable to any municipality or class of municipalities may be very easily taken out and separated from the rest.

11. Attempts have been made to throw doubt on the reality of the desire to give a liberal measure of self-government to Bengal municipalities by suggesting that there is no sufficiently definite provision for the election of municipal Commissioners, and by asserting that all real power will be monopolized by the Magistrate as Chairman. As respects election, the Lieutenant-Governor has very fully explained in the Council that he has not thought it possible, while the matter is in so experimental a stage, to regulate elections by exact provisions of law, but he has in the clearest terms pledged himself that, so far as it may rest with him, the system shall have the fairest possible trial under the most liberal rules that can be applied to any municipality fitted for and willing to receive elective institutions. As respects the power of the Magistrate, who is ex-officio Chairman, it may be admitted that at present that power is generally great,--in some cases too great or too much exercised, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks; but at the Lieutenant-Governor's personal instance a very important change has been introduced in the present Bill, enabling the elected Vice-Chairman to exercise the powers of Chairman in the absence of the Chairman, which will practically make the Vice-Chairman the real head of all municipalities except those at the head-quarters of the Magistrates. Another provision enables the Chairman to delegate all or any of his powers to the Vice-Chairman even at places where he is himself resident, a provision which the Lieutenant-Governor hopes will be largely used.

As respects then the whole question of freedom of self-government, nothing can be more positive than the assurances which the Lieutenant-Governor has given that, so far as lies in his power, no effort shall be wanting to render the municipalities self-governing bodies. He has nothing more at heart, believing as he does that municipal government is the shape in which a measure of freedom may best be given to and exercised by the people of this country in the present stage of their national existence. He has said, and he repeats it, that he had rather see a little done voluntarily by the people themselves through their representatives, than a great deal done under pressure from above.

12. After all, however, it is as a question of taxation that a measure of this kind will be most immediately judged, and the Lieutenant-Governor now turns to that part of the subject. He would specially call attention to this, that, differing from the Acts.



in force in or proposed for some other provinces, as strict maximum limit of taxation is laid down for each class of municipality. The Lieutenant-Governor will first explain the considerations with regard to which these maxima were fixed.

13. As the Bill stands, there are certain subjects for which it is compulsory on municipalities to provide by taxation, and there are other subjects for which it is optional with them to raise and spend money.

14. It always has been compulsory on all municipalities, under all the Acts, to maintain a sufficient police for their protection and for the maintenance of order. This obligation is maintained subject to the understanding that the superior officers of police will be provided by Government, the municipalities being by the provisions of the Bill only bound to maintain a force sufficient to keep the peace, keep watch and ward, and perform the duties of inferior officers of police.

15. All town municipalities are wholly exempt from the provisions of the Road Cess Acts, and pay nothing whatever in that shape for the maintenance of roads, canals, and other communications. It is manifest that they must have their fair share of this burden, and after much consideration the Lieutenant-Governor came to the conclusion that the best and most convenient plan was to adopt the system which he knows to have been followed in some European countries, *viz.*, simply to place on municipalities the obligation to make and maintain the portions of district roads passing through their boundaries.

This arrangement was accepted by the Council. The arterial provincial roads will be maintained from provincial funds, in country and town alike; but when a district road approved by Government and paid for from district funds passes through a town, the town will be bound to maintain the communication within its limits. This does not apply to village municipalities, since they contribute to the District Road Fund.

16. The only remaining obligatory provision is in respect of education, and the compulsory obligation in this respect will be, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, very light. From this provision also village municipalities are wholly exempt. It has not been thought desirable to force them to pay for education. It is rather hoped that by offering them some contribution on the part of Government they may be induced voluntarily to contribute very small sums towards providing the simplest education. With respect to towns, the Bill enacts that, if elementary education is not available to the children of the residents at a fair cost, the Government may compel the municipality to provide it. It is, however, the Lieutenant-Governor's strong belief that there are scarcely any towns of the character to which this provision can be applied in which primary instruction of an indigenous character is not available, and he thinks that this obligation will hardly be felt. It is also provided that the Lieutenant-Governor may direct town municipalities to contribute towards the expense of elementary vernacular schools where the lowest rate of fee is charged; but such contributions shall in no case exceed one-sixth of the available balance of the municipal fund which remains after providing for the police, so that no heavy burden can be imposed under this provision.

17. It will thus be seen that the Bill goes but a very little way in the direction of forcing expenditure for education upon towns. The Lieutenant-Governor's hope and belief is that the rest will come voluntarily in due time. There is among the people of most towns in Bengal a real and earnest desire for education, and for education of a kind beyond that afforded by the primary vernacular schools. The people have shown a disposition to make considerable efforts to help themselves in this respect, and the grant-in-aid system has been in such cases extremely successful, enabling them to establish, with Government assistance, many very well managed and effective schools. It is believed that very many municipalities will gladly avail themselves of the optional clauses of the Bill to establish superior schools partly supported by municipal funds, and that provision may thus be made for meeting a demand every way worthy of encouragement, without putting on Government a too heavy and increasing burden which, with its other obligations, it can hardly undertake. It may not unfrequently happen that a municipal school, with some Government aid, may with great economy and no loss of efficiency take the place of an expensive Government school.

18. If then under the arrangement above described the towns provide superior schools, and aid primary schools within their limits so far as may be necessary, while the Government is able to give such assistance towards village schools as will induce the people of very many villages to establish primary schools, we may make a great step towards the solution of this great educational problem.

19. Comparing the obligations of the municipalities under the compulsory provisions of the present Bill with those heretofore existing, we find that in villages they remain the same, without any change whatever, being still confined to police only. In towns a further obligation is now imposed to maintain district roads passing through their limits, that being the necessary complement to the Road Cess Act. But since already they generally maintain the principal roads, the additional burden thus thrown on them will

not in practice be heavy. The obligations in respect of education above explained are also new, but the compulsory provisions on this subject, as has been shown, will in no case involve any very heavy burden.

On the other hand, it is the Lieutenant-Governor's decided hope that under the new Act some reduction may be effected in the cost of the municipal police, which has hitherto been by far the heaviest burden. He is inclined to think that hitherto the officers of the regular police may have imposed on towns a force of a character somewhat too high and expensive. The present Bill will give the municipalities a much greater voice in the appointment of, and a much more effective control over, the police for whom they pay than they have hitherto had, and they may be able by utilising them to save considerably in other ways. The total cost of municipal police is also strictly limited to a very moderate maximum.

On the whole, then, if some expense be incurred for roads and education, while some saving is effected in police, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that there will in practice be very little addition to the obligatory burdens on the municipalities.

[To be continued.]

### WHAT BATES WANTED TO KNOW.

"I shall be obliged if you can answer me one question," said my friend Bates, as he lay on the couch one day in my room nursing his aching leg. "Why does exposure to wet or cold bring on an attack of rheumatism at one time, when a like exposure for a score of times leads to no such result?"

Before I set down in writing the answer I gave him I wish you would read the following letters, as no doubt the authors of them will be interested in the same point.

"In November, 1892," says the one, "I had an attack of rheumatic fever, and was confined to my bed for four weeks, during which time I suffered fearfully. I had awful pains all over me; my joints swelled up, and I was so helpless I could not raise my hand to my mouth. After the fever left me I was extremely weak, and so emaciated I was little more than skin and bone. A large lump, the size of an egg, formed on my elbow, and my fingers were almost drawn out of joint. I cannot describe the suffering I had to bear. The doctor ordered me various medicines, and cod liver oil, but they had no effect. In February, 1893, I read in a small book about the remarkable success which had followed the use of Mother Seigel's Syrup in cases of rheumatism, and got a bottle from Messrs. Leverett and Fry, High Street. After taking it two weeks I was better, and in about a month more all rheumatic pains had left me, and I was strong and well as ever. You may publish what I have said. (Signed) John H. Kent, 9, Randall Street, Midstone, Kent, January 30th, 1895."

"For many years," says the other, "I had been subject to liver complaint and indigestion. I was habitually heavy, weak, and weary. My appetite was poor, and all food gave me pain and fullness at the chest and around the sides. I had so much pain and tightness of the chest that I could not endure the pressure of my clothing upon it. Although not laid up, I was seldom free from pain or a sense of discomfort. In the summer of 1893 I began to suffer with rheumatism, which affected my arms and shoulders until I had not the power to lift my hand to my head. I tried all sorts of liniments, embrocations, and rubbing oils, but got no benefit from any of them."

In August, 1893, my friend, Mrs. Owen, told me how much good Mother Seigel's Syrup had done her for rheumatism, and I got a bottle from the Drug Stores in St. Ann's Road. In a few days I was much better, and in less than a month afterwards all pain had left me; and I am happy to say I have never had any return of the rheumatism since, but have enjoyed the best of health in every respect. In common thankfulness for my speedy and wonderful deliverance, I willingly consent to the publication of this hurried statement should you wish to make that use of it. (Signed) (Mrs.) L. S. Cole, 6, Albert Road, South Tottenham, London, August 16th, 1895."

Before answering the question of my friend Bates (who was a chronic rheumatic) I asked him one: "Why does a lighted match, dropped into the road, die out harmlessly, but when dropped into a haystack, set up a conflagration?"

"Any fool can answer that," he said. "Because in the one case there is nothing for the fire to catch hold of, while in the other there is."

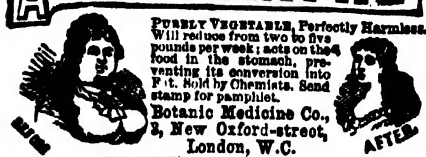
"Exactly," I responded. "Now see. Indigestion and liver complaint (the second consequent on the first) continue to produce a virulent poison in the blood called uric acid, practically insoluble in water. This acid, which is a solid, enters the tissues, and sets going a hot inflammatory fire. That is rheumatism. It does what a silver would—only the acid is a *poison* silver."

"When the indigestion and the liver trouble are not very bad, and the kidneys and sweat glands of the skin are acting fairly well, this acid is carried out of the body about as fast as it is formed. Exposure then brings on no rheumatism. But, *per contra*, when the stomach and liver are in bad condition, the acid forms faster than the kidneys and skin can carry it off. Then expose yourself, get cold or wet, hamper the skin and kidneys still more, and the poison acid spreads through your muscles and joints like the fire in the dry hay. You understand? Very well. The longer the cause persists the more frequent the rheumatic attacks. That is why chronic dyspeptics are apt also to be chronic rheumatics. Fend off dyspepsia, or cure it by the use of Mother Seigel's Syrup, and you and the rheumatism will have no dealings. Neglect it, and suffer every time you catch cold."

That was my answer to Bates, and he said there seemed to be sense in it.



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Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters on record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race, elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

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complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 732.

PARIS.

BY MRS. D. OGILVY.

Oh, giddy world of idleness !  
Oh, clear and sunny Seine !  
No landmarks are there of distress  
In all thy wide domain ;  
The under-current of thy waves  
Is hidden from the eye,  
And the " Memento mori " graves  
Beyond the barrier lie.

Religion here is gay withal  
In many a gilded weed ;  
Her mimic flowers, her tapers tall,  
Are emblems of her creed.  
False blossoms and deceptive lights,  
The censor and the shrine,  
The pageantry of heathen rites,  
Befit a Roman line.

Bright city ! in thy towering piles  
Such wondrous beauty gleams ;  
Proud London, heiress of the Isles,  
By thee insipid seems ;  
As Asia-like, thou dost appeal  
To soul and sense as well,  
Both what we see and what we feel  
Exaggerate thy spell.

Thy gardens and thy palaces,  
Thy pictures and thy choirs,  
Thy fountains and thy chestnut-trees,  
Thy butterfly attires—  
Oh, Paris ! if this world were all,  
What better fate could be,  
From pleasant morn till evening's fall,  
Than thou dost offer me ?

But yet I know thy fantasies  
With overpowering charm  
Too soon the careless spirit please,  
And stun the soul's alarm ;  
Duty, with all its stern demands,  
In popped sleep is laid,  
And life flits by our folded hands  
A vision's empty shade.

**DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED !** Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

Pleasure may not be man's chief good,  
Though transient joys it give ;  
As sap is bound in healthy wood,  
Care flows in all who live,  
Nourishing them for realms above,  
High hope and glorious aim,  
More perfect knowledge, purer love,  
And a new holy name.

So be it, city of the gay !  
No more in thee I'll drown  
Remembrance of a darkened day,  
Or of the warning frown.  
The funeral cup, O house of grief !  
Brims with a nobler wine ;  
The laughter of the fool is brief :  
Let not his mirth be mine !

—Fraser's Magazine.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE great Indian question for Parliamentary debate is the payment of the Indian troops told off for the Sudan expedition, that is, their daily pay of 10s. 6d. per man, and the Government of India consider that "except in the event of a general war, the Government of India are not justified in continuing to pay the Indian troops at the rate of 10s. 6d. per man, but that they are entitled to be paid at the rate of 7s. 6d. per man." The university of the sudden urgent necessity, the revenues of India are an exploration of the consent of both Houses of Parliament be applicable to any military operations carried on beyond the external frontier of such possessions by her Majesty's forces charged upon such revenues." The matter has been fully discussed in India and in England in all its bearings. The Government of India have said their say. It now remains for the final word to be passed whether poor India is to be saddled with any, however insignificant, part of the cost of the expedition. We will not be surprised if the decision goes against her. Precedents or arguments may not be waiting to justify the imposition. For the moment, however, public feeling, both in India and England, is against it. Our London correspondent refers to the article on the subject by the writer in the *Times* on Indian Affairs, who with his usual ability summarises the whole question and makes his own pronouncement in these words :

"The Indian Press acknowledges the patriotic interest which India, in common with the other colonies and dependencies of Great Britain, has in the stability of our position in Egypt. But it points out that, while Great Britain has a still larger interest in the stability of our position in India, she contributes not a penny to the military maintenance of our position in India. The loss of the Sudan is nothing to India compared with what the loss of India would be to Great Britain, yet India is to be charged with the daily pay of the Indian regiments sent to recover the Sudan, while Great Britain charges to India the uttermost farthing for the British troops sent to India. The request of India is that the joint interest of the colonies and dependencies in our position in Egypt shall be fairly appraised and apportioned, and not be thrust upon India alone: Ceylon, Hong-kong, the great Australian colonies, and the other dependencies and settlements of Great Britain in the East have with India a common interest in the protection of the Suez Canal. On India falls the costly permanent burden of securing for Great Britain the Asiatic approach to the Canal at

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Aden. That might be fairly taken as a discharge in full of India's liability arising out of her joint interest, and any extra troops required for Egypt might be charged to the other colonies and dependencies, or defrayed by Great Britain if she feared to do so. Yet, as the Indian newspapers point out, the other colonies and dependencies 'have not been asked to send a single regiment to the Sudan.'

We have tried to eliminate any violent expressions of feeling. Such violent expressions tend to obscure the real issue. But it would be wrong to conceal the fact that the question 'has evoked the strongest indignation amongst Europeans and natives alike.' It must be remembered, however, that Lord George Hamilton merely follows a precedent which it would be difficult for any Ministry to disregard, unless supported by a strong expression of public opinion. Each occasion on which Indian troops have been borrowed by Great Britain seemed at the moment entirely exceptional, and in most cases India was made to defray their daily pay. In certain cases Great Britain refunded the cost in whole or part; as by a grant of five millions sterling to India for the 1878 expedition (Afghanistan), of £500,000 for that of 1882 (Egypt), or by payment of the whole cost as in the China expedition of 1859-60, and for the Indian troops sent to Malta in 1878. The intensity of feeling and the grave apprehension with which the action of the British Government is now being watched in India arise from the conviction that the present occasion cannot be regarded as accidental, and that it must form the precedent for regulating subsequent cases. If the Government should insist on establishing that precedent, it will harden an occasional injustice into a permanent wrong. The issue has been placed before Parliament in the clearest terms by Lord George Hamilton's proposed resolution and by the amendments of Mr. John Morley and others thereto.

It is not in reality a question for the Government, but for the nation. The British nation has the power to saddle the Indian taxpayer with this inequitable charge. Has the British nation the public virtue to abstain from doing so? It is always possible to find precedents for the ignominious course. In the present case it is particularly easy to do so. It is equally easy to obscure the real question by diverging into side issues, as was done by a correspondent in our columns last week. The question was not whether India should lend troops for Egyptian service 'precisely on the same terms, pecuniary and otherwise,' as she allows post-office clerks or railway labourers to go to tropical Africa. It was whether the British Government could justly take troops from India without paying their daily wages, while in every other branch of administrative or industrial employment payment has to be made. Nor will the plea avail that the troops are not needed in India, and may therefore be employed at India's cost in Africa. That plea would do us more harm in India than if we were forcibly to take the money and to say nothing. For the standing complaint in India is that the Indian military expenditure is inflated and kept up at an undue height to suit the exigencies of British policy rather than to meet the needs of India herself. The list of occasions on which troops have thus been taken from India is already a long one, and suffices to give some colour to this complaint. If it were now to authoritatively go forth that the Indian Army is maintained at a standard which permanently suffices for British emergencies as well as for Indian defence, it would falsify the statements made by successive Viceroys and successive Commanders-in-Chief in India during the past 25 years.

Unless Lord Salisbury's words in 1867 have been misrepresented, it is little likely that any such plan had then to deal with a real emergency. *Madras* Oct. Rs. 20. x had then to partition Indian troops in seven years the risk of which should regulate such transactions. When, as *the Times* reported, he supported Mr. Fawcett against charging the pay of the troops to India, he said:—

"I do not like India to be looked upon as an English barrack in the Oriental seas from which we may draw any number of troops without paying for them. It is bad for England, because it is always bad for us not to have that check upon the temptation to engage in little wars which can only be controlled by the necessity of paying for them. If this garrison which we keep in India is, as all Indian authorities assure us necessary for maintaining that country in security and peace, that garrison ought not to be rashly diminished. If, on the other hand, it is too large, and India can for any length of time conveniently spare these troops, then the Indian population ought not to be so unnecessarily taxed."

It is sincerely to be hoped, since the question has ceased to be an accidental one, and the decision of Parliament at the present must become the precedent for the future, that the principles which Lord Cranborne laid down in 1867 will weigh with Lord Salisbury in 1896. Many things have changed since then. But the temptation to shift burdens unfairly to the shoulders of the Indian taxpayer has not changed, and the difficulty of securing justice for India is almost as great as ever. It will form one of the historical triumphs of the Conservative party if, after having given to India the Queen's proclamation, which is the charter of the Indian races, and the recent Councils' Law which serves as the basis of Indian legislation by representation, they now join with all other parties in securing this great act of financial justice to India. But it will be a still greater national triumph. For it will be the victory of the nation's sense of what is right over its power to do wrong."

The military expenditure of India is growing every year. The Army Services in 1877-78 amounted to Rs. 17,300,484. For 1894-95, the figures, including the cost of special defence works, are 23,912,000. In the two years 1879-80 and 1880-81, during the campaigns in Afghanistan, the expenditure went up as high as 22,580,715 and 28,932,497. It gradually fell in 1884-85 to 16,963,803 and, next year, the year of Russian scare, it again rose to 20,097,779. Since 1886-87, it is steadily increasing. The revenue of the Government of India for 1894-95 is put

down at Rs. 92,024,900, which is about four times the military expenditure. Indeed, the Indian Empire is growing to be military.

THE Sahara is not a complete barren desert. In the Algerian portion, in 1892, there were 9,000,000 sheep, 2,000,000 goats and 260,000 camels. The oases had 1,500,000 date palms.

THE newest article "made in Germany" is the mirror that will not break, made of celluloid tissues instead of glass. The front and the back both are made of the same material. Practically, they are durable double mirrors. Do they reflect as clearly as the *Indian Mirror*?

AMERICA, like Europe, has its cremation associations. The number of incinerations in the former from 1876 to 1894 is given at 3,670 against 19,700 in the latter.

THE late war has stirred China to activity. In Chinese Manchuria, a railway line has been completed from Tientsin to Shanhaikuan, a distance of about two hundred miles.

LANCASHIRE has launched upon a new industry—the manufacture of silk from wood pulp. It was originally devised in France, in 1893, by Count Hilaire de Chardounet, at Besancon. The Lancashire manufacturers have made arrangements with the Count to produce the wooden silk in England. Will the new silk be any food for the wood-fetter?

"DON QUIXOTE" was first published in 1605. It has since run through 1,324 editions; namely, 528 in Spanish, 304 in English, 179 in French, 99 in Italian, 84 in Portuguese, 45 German, 18 Swedish, 9 Polish, 8 Danish, 6 Russian, 5 Greek, 3 Roumanian, 4 Catalanian, 1 Basque, and 1 in Latin.

THE supply of codliver oil from Norway is gradually diminishing both in quantity and in quality, from the decrease in the number of the fish and the inferiority of the liver. Thus, in 1893, the yield was 26,813 barrels; in 1894, 18,500; 1895, 1,2630. Generally the oil is used to replace the loss of fat, for which purpose Indian Kavirajas prescribe *anurilapras*. Simple fat in any form, as ghee, butter, or lard, serves the same end. Dr. Gulkin, of St. Petersburg, after experimenting on healthy young men, has come to the conclusion that the average assimilation of butter amounts to 97.3 per cent. of the quantity ingested; that of lipanin 97.21; and that of cod liver oil 97.12. 2. Therefore, butter is assimilated the best, the second best is lipanin and third codliver oil. 3. Codliver oil has no peculiar assimilability. 4. Therefore butter is the best, being, again, cheaper and more savoury. 5. Lipanin being expensive has no especial advantage over butter. 6. The admixture of free fatty acids with neutral fats does not increase the assimilability of the latter.

Ghee does not differ essentially from butter. It is, however, said that codliver oil contains an infinitesimal quantity of iodine, for which it is sometimes preferred.

IN the 22 public days of June, 41,651 persons, namely, 414 male and 144 female Europeans, and 31,379 male and 9,714 female Natives of India, visited the Indian Museum, the average daily attendance being 1,601.

THE *Sunday Times*—no religious journal—is once more in Court, on the old familiar charge of defamation. Sensation upon sensation, the Reverend F. Moyle-Stewart of the Union Chapel before closing with the boy Culloden had his attention turned to the veteran Gasper. On Tuesday an application was made to the Chief Magistrate who is still enquiring into the charge of highway robbery against Culloden, for a summons against Mr. D. M. Gasper, printer and publisher of the *Sunday Times*. There was also an application for a warrant to search Mr. Gasper's premises for the manuscript of the subject matter of the charge. The Magistrate took time till next morning for making his order, when

"His worship said: A summons may be served under sections 500 and 501, but in regard to section 502, I understood you to say that you did not buy the paper from the office.

Mr. Leslie: I am advised that it is quite enough.



The Magistrate: From whom did you buy it?

Mr. Leslie: From a vendor in Bow Bazar Street; but I may be able to get direct evidence from the office.

The Magistrate: That would be too late, as it would be after the summons was served. You can take a summons under sections 500 and 501.

Mr. Leslie: I will not make the application for a search-warrant, as it would be too late now.

The Magistrate: It would be better not.

A summons was issued under section 500, that on or about the 12th June 1896, in Calcutta, the accused made and published in the *Sunday Times* certain imputations that the complainant 'was not a novice in the art of fabrication,' and 'an expert at such games as signing other peoples' names,' meaning thereby that the complainant was a forger and an habitual forger; and under section 501 that on the same day, the defendant published such defamatory matter in the *Sunday Times*, knowing and having good reason to believe the same to be defamatory. Section 502, which was refused, was in regard to offering for sale the number of the *Sunday Times* containing the defamatory matter."

The anxiety of Mr. Leslie to get at the manuscript reminds us that in comparatively olden days, no person could be proceeded against for defamation without that evidence of offence. At least it was thought so. The modern law and its administration in more recent years have much simplified matters. Anybody and everybody, however distantly connected with a newspaper, may be hauled up in even the most distant corner of the empire, farthest from the place of publication, and punished for what may be complained of as defamatory to an individual, living or dead, or a community of many. The contagion has spread to newspapers and to Government also. Prosecutions for defamatory statements in private or unpublished official or demi-official communications, both written and verbal, are increasing in numbers, and the Courts issue processes for the mere asking.

#### NOTES & LEADERETTES,

#### OUR OWN NEWS

&

#### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

At a meeting of the Chartered South African Company a resolution of the Board was adopted accepting the resignations of Messrs. Cecil Rhodes, Beit and Harris. The Board warmly eulogizes Mr. Rhodes, and regrets deeply that the events of December last, of which the Company were ignorant, enforce the acceptance of his resignation. Mr. Rhodes will continue in Rhodesia and aid the Company in the administration of the country.

THE *Times* Paris correspondent states that Russia is about to propose the settlement of the Egyptian question by the neutralization of Egypt under the guardianship of concerted European Powers.

MR. Harrison has been released by the Venezuelan Government.

THE Tiflis paper reports that an attempt has been made to murder the Shah at Teheran, but it was frustrated, and the assailant arrested.

THE Italian Government has decided to recall a number of troops from Africa. The Duke of Sermoneta, speaking in the Chamber of Deputies, said the Triple Alliance, close friendship with Great Britain, and good relations with all the Powers were the cardinal points of Italian policy, the object of which was to maintain the *status quo* and preserve peace. The Chamber has by a large majority passed a vote of confidence in the Cabinet. Marquis Rudini, who spoke on the same lines as the Duke of Sermoneta, said it was necessary to retain Kassala as a safeguard to Italy's rightful interest in the Egyptian question.

THE Deceased Wife's Sister Bill has passed through Committee in the House of Lords. The Land Rating Bill passed through the report stage in the House of Commons after an all-night sitting, owing to the obstructive tactics of the Opposition. It was read a third time by a majority of 150 votes.

A PAPAL encyclical has been issued on the unity of the church which

tends to show by implication that it is not possible to recognise Anglican orders.

ADVICES from Crete state that Georgi Pacha, Prince of Samos, the new Governor, has arrived at Canea, and that the Christian Deputies refuse to attend the Assembly. Fighting still continues in Western Crete. The Ambassadors of the Powers consider the nomination of a Christian Governor is nullified by the retention of Abdullah Pacha as Military Commander of the Island with a superior rank.

THE death is announced of Mrs. Harriet Beecher-Stowe. She had passed her 84th year and had retired from her active life into a pretty house in one of the secluded and beautiful parts of Hartford, Connecticut. She will live in literature as the authoress of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

UMRA KHAN of Jandoul who was permitted to pass through India on his pilgrimage to Mecca, is not allowed, on return to India, to leave it. His brother Hussain Khan, is, however, free to return home under police guard.

THE Lieutenant-Governor returned to Calcutta on Thursday. Sir Alexander Mackenzie will not be able to preside at the Bengal Legislative Council summoned by him for next Saturday. It is necessary that the amendments proposed for the Municipal law should be made immediately for revision of the rules under it for the next election at the end of the year.

HERE is another appreciation of our article "Competitive Examination not a Sound Test" (*R. & R.*, June 13, 1896). Our correspondent is a Zemindar and holds a service under Government:—

"I was really delighted to read your article 'Competitive Examination not a Sound test' in your issue of the 13th June. It said the very thing we have been thinking on the subject since sometime. You have taken it up just at the proper time. We cannot but be too grateful to you for it and we eagerly expect to see the existing system changed and the old one re-introduced as soon as possible."

IN America the Oriental languages are largely studied. Prof. Whitney gave a special impetus to Sanskrit. The Semitic, especially Hebrew and Assyrian, are now in favour. Edward Robinson's studies of Syriac, Palestine and the devotion of Drs. Peter and Hilprecht to Assyrian, are destined to bear important results.

In the summer of 1895 the university of the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, organised an exploration of the ruins of Nippur, now called Nuffar, in the northern part of Babylonia under the direction of the two doctors. Mr. G. H. Haynes, known for his labours at the American excavation of Assas, was the business manager, steward and photographer. Mr. Field, an architect, and Dr. Harper, another Assyriologist, also accompanied the expedition. Materially helped by the Turkish authorities, though seriously thwarted by the Affedj Arabs, they made a good harvest.

In the following year Haynes alone conducted the exploration. The terraces of the temple of Belus were gradually cleared of the accumulations of thousands of years. The platform of the first king of Ur, built about 2800 B.C., was reached. Bricks made for the great Sargon, about 3800 B. C., who extended his mighty empire to the Mediterranean, were unearthed. The stone bearing, in cuneiform characters, the curse of the king, 'whoever carries away this inscribed stone shall be exterminated root and branch and his seeds for ever by the gods Bel, Schamasch and Ninna,' on the threshold of the temple, was taken away. The exploration has cost nearly seventy-one thousand dollars.

The classification and publication of the results have been entrusted to Dr. Hilprecht, who intends to issue the report in four series, each consisting of from ten to fifteen volumes. He will be assisted by other students of the Semitic language. Two volumes prepared by Hilprecht have already appeared, three are in the press, and seven in course of preparation which will include a history of the expedition.

Thirty thousand tablets have been found, belonging to the first dynasty of Ur (about 2800 B.C.) and the Cossean period (1725-2800 B. C.). Many names of unknown or little known kings have also

been discovered, including a great number of seals and seal cylinders, used by kings and governors. The tablets bear two hundred closely written Aramaic, Hebrew and Mandaic characters which will give an insight into the biblical Jewish literature. Thousands of enamelled and plain clay vases, playthings, weapons, weights, articles of gold, silver, stone, iron, bronze and a collection of human skulls forming a unique and rich collection will find their way into the series.

The study of Assyriology as that of a complete dead language and nation, is more difficult than that of the Indian languages. The Sanskrit is not entirely without any modern representative in the country in which it once flourished. Assyria is dead, but India lives. The expedition made a hazardous journey of thirty days along the Euphrates and across the Arabian desert before reaching Bagdad. The castle built by Kungabzu, about 1300 B.C., containing the ruins of Akarkuf and the quays of Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 B.C.) on the right bank of the Tigris were first examined. The labours ended in the swamps of Nuffar.

We read in an Anglo-Indian paper—the *Statesman*—that “Of the five Marwarees who were charged by Inspector Forsyth with overstaying the prescribed hour of their pass for a marriage procession, one man was fined Rs. 50, and the others were discharged.” The *Englishman's* account, equally short, gives more information, though not all to fully understand the matter: “In the case in which Inspector Forsyth charged five Marwaris with continuing to parade a musical procession through the streets of Burra Bazar after the expiration of the period for which a license had been granted, four of the accused were discharged. The fifth, Mohan Lall, was fined Rs. 50.” Another accused had been discharged at an early stage of the prosecution. We believe the license was granted to Mohan Lall and the others were prosecuted as abettors. The maximum fine is Rs. 100, and the details of the case, which are not given, must have been too bad for even the Northern Division Magistrate to order such a heavy punishment.

We do not notice the case for the conviction and the punishment, which might have been deserved. We mean to draw attention to the arbitrary system of granting passes for native musical processions. The Marwaris were defended by Counsel assisted by an experienced Magistrate-Attorney, and we had hoped they would lay bare the rottenness. It does not appear that the defence was directed to any attack of the kind. But how do they do business in the Police office? It is optional with the Commissioner of Police to allow such a procession or not. That option, however, is made to act on a demand for payment for Police, for which claim, <sup>Rs. 20. x</sup> justification, there is no legal sanction, unless the constantly <sup>department s.</sup> seven year action during the last 20 years has converted it into a customary. <sup>Rs.</sup> We do not know what was the fee paid for the license on which the Marwari has been convicted and fined. If it was more than Rs. 2, it was an illegal permit and we are not sure that the conviction on an illegal document is good. Over the statutory Rs. 2, the Commissioner of Police levies two higher fees of Rs. 5 and Rs. 10, at his own will, besides an extra charge for police, according to the recommendation of the Divisional Superintendent and probably the length of the applicant's purse.

We have seen (*R. & R.*, May 16, 1896) that the Commissioner of Police, who has constituted himself the Dictator of Calcutta, is authorized by law for every license granted by him to levy a fee of Rs. 2 only, and that he may, “subject to the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, make rules for the conduct of all assemblies and processions in the public roads, streets, or thoroughfares, prescribing the routes by which, the times at which, such processions may pass; and may give licenses for the use of music in the streets on the occasion of native festivals and ceremonies” (sec. 62, Calcutta Police Act,) and that there are no orders by Government nor regulations under the section. Under the penalty clause of the section, “every person violating the condition of such license, shall be liable, on summary conviction before a Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees.” The law itself lays down no conditions but has delegated that power to the Local Government, which has not, as we have said, exercised it. Is it then competent to the Commissioner of Police to fix the hours for a license and is a Magistrate justified in punishing a man for breach of such a condition?

The attention of Government having been drawn, sometime back, to the two unsanctioned higher fees of Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 charged for native musical processions, the Commissioner of Police had explained

that they were necessary to cover the cost of Police accompanying the processions. What is the explanation for the fresh every-day-increasing demand for the same purpose? The Northern Division Magistrate has let slip an opportunity for righting a wrong. With his stretch of authority, the Commissioner of Police levied a fee of Rs. 16 for permission to break horses on the maidan. Three or four years back, a horse-trainer, refusing to pay, was prosecuted. But the Magistrate, finding no law for the charge, dismissed the case, and since then the fee has not been demanded from any trainer.

It may not be generally known that Babu Preo Lal Dey, son of Rai Bahadur Kanye Lal Dey, enjoys a little monopoly in even these days of keen competition in trade. The monopoly is about the supply of non-alcoholic lime-juice to emigrant vessels sailing from the port of Calcutta. The history of the manufacture of this drink is not without interest. In October 1881, owing to an outbreak of scurvy among them, the Asiatic crew of the ship “Plassey” refused to take lime-juice fortified with spirit. The suppliers, Messrs. Ahmuty and Co., Harton and Co., Shama Charan Dutt and Co., and Mr. Preo Lal Dey, were asked by the Government of Bengal, at the instance of the Shipping Master, whether they could turn out an antiscorbutic without the aid of spirit or alcohol. The first three of the firms confessed their inability to do so. Only Mr. Preo Lal Dey, who, it is believed, had got the recipe from an American chemical journal, offered his services. Accordingly, under the Merchant Shipping Act, his manufacture was gazetted as fit for use on board passenger vessels of every description. Sometime after, Messrs. Shama Charan Dutt and Co. were declared as authorized suppliers. Having entered into competition with the Rai Bahadur's son, Dutt and Co. continued to supply the non-alcoholic lime-juice till 1894, when they complained to Government of unequal treatment at the hands of a subordinate Custom House officer, the Inspector of Antiscorbutics. Reports were called for, with the result that the complaining firm, instead of obtaining a remedy, lost the privilege of supplying the article. After this, there was a change in the constitution of the firm, in consequence of which two junior partners took up this particular business. They have applied to Government for the privilege, submitting a sample of their manufacture. The application was referred to the Customs Collector for enquiry and report. The matter, we think, is now pending before the Government of Bengal in the Marine Department. The following passages from a supplementary petition addressed by the parties to Government, disclose a state of things which ought not to exist:—

“We regret to state that the present Inspector of Antiscorbutics, to whom our petition has been referred for report, showed undisguised symptoms of hostility towards us. On a previous occasion he had made an attempt to discover the secret of our manufacture. He was then plainly told that his questions could not possibly be answered. This time also he made a similar attempt. We were obliged to tell him that we would not answer his questions. Indeed, he is a very subordinate officer of Government. Having discovered our secret he may set up a manufactory himself, or assist some friend or relative of his to do so. Supposing him, however, to be the very pink of honour, he cannot expect us to lay before him what it cost us both money and trouble to discover, and what is as yet known to only one person besides us, *viz.*, Babu Preo Lal Dey. Finding himself baffled in his endeavours to penetrate our secret, he resolved to throw every difficulty in our way. From the remarks he made in our presence it seemed to us that he doubted our knowledge of analysing our own outturn. He even went so far as to doubt the knowledge of chemistry possessed by Babu Satish Chunder De, under whose close supervision our article is manufactured, although the Babu is an M.A. of the Presidency College in Chemistry and an M.B. of the Medical College, Calcutta.

We are surprised at the treatment we received from the Inspector of Antiscorbutics. He himself is no chemist. He is perfectly unable to analyse a sample of our manufacture. At least, the Government has no confidence in his knowledge of chemistry and analysis. Non-alcoholic lime-juice, by whatsoever person supplied, under the present regulations, requires to be analysed by the Government Chemical Analyser before it can be regarded as possessed of the standard virtues.

We beg humbly to submit that no question regarding our own knowledge of chemistry or analysis can be relevant in a matter of this kind. Our manufacture is supervised by a respectable chemist, a graduate of high merit in chemistry, whose educational qualifications are very much superior to those of Babu Preo Lal Dey who is not a graduate of any University. If the article turned out by our manufactory be pronounced by the Government Chemical Analyser to be of the standard quality, that should settle the question, regardless of the fact that those who find the money for such manufacture are not themselves as good chemists and analysers as the Inspector of Antiscorbutics desires to harp upon.

We beg further to submit that even if the privilege be accorded to us by our name being gazetted under the Act, that does not settle

the matter finally; each time that we manufacture the article and offer it to companies owning vessels, it will have to be examined by the Government Chemical Analyser before acceptance by those companies. The interests, therefore, of passengers proceeding by vessels are protected as jealously as anybody can wish. If the sample we have submitted with our petition be pronounced by the Government Chemical Analyser to be of the standard quality, the Government cannot very well refuse to gazette our name under the Act. If at any subsequent time the Government Analyser pronounces any particular output of our manufactory to be below the standard it is we that lose the costs of manufacture."

THE Secretary of State opened the Indian Institute at Oxford University. He eulogised the Indian Civilian, and said the Institute, by encouraging the study of Indian subjects, would deepen Great Britain's hold on the affections of the Indians. The *Times* eulogises the speech of Lord George Hamilton which, it says, however, may be contrasted in India with acts showing how regardless England is of the Indian interest when clashing with political expediency at home. It adds that it is understood that Government, notwithstanding the protest of the Government of India, still intends to charge the Indian Exchequer with the pay of the Snakin Contingent.

Yesterday, the Government of India published the decision of Her Majesty's Government as communicated by cable on the 1st instant by the Secretary of State for India. It runs in these words:

"Your despatch of the 2nd of June regarding the expenses of the Snakin force. After full consideration by Her Majesty's Government and in Council we have decided to adhere to the decision already communicated. A despatch goes by the next mail to the following effect:—It lays down the principle that military aid will be freely given between Great Britain and India as circumstances permit, and that if the Government lending troops has special interest in the object of the operations it should in one way or another bear a portion of the burden. It argues that the Government of India has special interest in transit by the shortest route to and from the United Kingdom; that this involves the maintenance of an orderly and settled Government in Egypt, and that this is among the principal objects of the present operations. It points out that no additional expenditure is thrown on India, and that arrangements have been made for a strict limit as to time. If the troops are needed beyond the 31st of December the whole question will be again carefully considered. It expresses regret that I am unable after full consideration to concur in your views. Owing to parliamentary considerations the Blue-book containing your letter and my reply must be published forthwith before it is possible for a full text of my reply to reach you. I have, therefore, telegraphed the summary as above."

On the 2nd, the papers were laid on the table of the House of Commons. The *Times*, commenting on them, "regrets the overruling of the protest of the Viceroy and the Council, and charges Lord George Hamilton with inconsistency in applying the principles urged by the Treasury. India's interest in the Sudan affairs is only contingent and remote, and India adequately contributes in respect thereof by lending her troops."

The *Englishman* is indignant:—

"A strange fatality appears to follow the present Secretary of State in all his relations with India. One would imagine that he had deliberately set himself to do everything in his power to render himself unpopular. Of course if he goes on long enough in this way he will by and bye crush all opposition. People will see, as we are beginning to see, that it is no use talking, and Lord George Hamilton will congratulate himself upon the spirit with which he has carried out his high-handed policy. But he will have done an extremely foolish thing if he convinces the Indian public that it has nothing to expect from his justice. The wound may be borne in silence, but it will sink deep, and it may show again long after the noble Lord and his colleagues have forgotten it."

There is feeble hope that the final authority will rule otherwise.

THE Maharaja of Cooh Behar, accompanied by his European Private Secretary and his Native Physician, has started for European waters for a cruise in search of health shattered by shooting in the Assam jungles.

THE session of the Science Association opened last night with an Introductory Lecture by the Secretary with special reference to the New Photography. Dr. Sircar shewed photographs taken by himself by the X rays and took two towards the conclusion of the lecture. He regretted that the audience was not larger and said how a prominent member of society and the Association, whom he had asked to be present, excused himself on this plea and that to be absent from a lecture, with experiments, on the newest discovery which has thrown all former light into darkness. Another gentleman whom he wanted to honour, along with Dr. Bannerjee, with photograph, by the mysterious light, of his name in the lecturer's own hand by white lead on black wood, unaccountably kept himself away.

Next Friday, at 7 P. M., Dr. Sircar will take up the subject of Hent. On Wednesday, the 8th, at 5 P. M., Baboo Rajendra Nath Chatterjee will begin his subject with Properties of Matter.

THE following is the list of cases on the calendar of the third criminal sessions of the High Court which commenced on Wednesday under the presidency of the Chief Justice:—

"Empress vs. Sheikh Abdool, committed by Mr. T. A. Pearson, for theft; Empress vs. Runglall Shah, committed by Niwab Syed Ameer Hossein, for attempt to murder and voluntarily causing grievous hurt by a dangerous weapon; Empress vs. Abdool Ghani, Mahomed Ebrahim, and Sheikh Wazir, committed by Mr. T. A. Pearson, for kidnapping or abducting a woman and abetment of the same; Empress vs. Mahomed, Ghasssee, and Chotka Madrasee, committed by Mr. T. A. Pearson, for murder, culpable homicide, and voluntarily causing grievous hurt by a dangerous weapon; and Empress, on the prosecution of Messrs. Rilli Brothers, vs. Dwarkanath Gupta, committed by Mr. T. A. Pearson for abetment of forgery, for abetment of dishonestly using as genuine forged documents, and for cheating and thereby dishonestly inducing delivery of property."

In the first case, the prisoner, who was undefended, pleaded not guilty, and was, on the unanimous verdict of guilty by the jury, sentenced to six years' rigorous imprisonment. The offence consisted in the clandestine removal of an umbrella and a chapkan from the dogcart of a European named Harris, who having driven to his office had sent his dogcart home in charge of the syce. The syce, while leading it, roused by the cry of another syce, turned round and saw the prisoner running away with the articles from the dogcart. But how came the chapkan, not a European article of clothing, in Mr. Harris' possession seems not to have been explained.

The second prisoner Runglall was charged with attacking with a knife a public woman on her refusing to live with him, hacking her on the back of the head, knocking her down, sitting on her chest and trying to draw the knife across her throat. The prisoner pleaded not guilty to all the charges. The jury were of opinion that he was guilty of causing hurt and the Judge sentenced him to 18 months' hard labour.

The trial of the three Mahomedans on charges of kidnapping or abducting a married Hindu girl was taken up the same day and concluded yesterday. They all claimed to be tried and were ably defended by Mr. Woodroffe, Jr., a chip of the old block. The girl not answering to her name when called as a witness, a contempt warrant was ordered. She did not turn up and the trial closed without her. Mr. J. G. Woodroffe would not call any witness for the defence, and, without giving the prosecution the opportunity for the last word, addressed the Jury. The Judge then charged the Jury, who, after a short deliberation, found the first prisoner guilty of kidnapping a minor, and the second and third of abetment of the same offence. Sir Comer Petheram deferred passing sentence till Monday.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, July 4, 1896.

### THE AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF INDIA.

TWO CHAPTERS OF THE STATISTICAL ATLAS.

INDIA is essentially an agricultural country. It has been estimated that the total annual crops of British India are drawn from an area of nearly 250 million acres, which crops, again, support some 221 millions of people.

The agricultural products of India are, indeed, varied. But the startling fact is that "some 50 or 60 of our most generally grown plants came to us, within historic times almost, from other parts of Asia, or from Africa and Europe. Of this nature may be mentioned the onion, leek, rape-seed, cabbage, cauliflower, turnip, pomelo, water-melon, coffee, loquat, soy-bean, ochro, lettuce, flax, linseed, litchi, poppy, field-pea, apricot, plum, peach, apple, betel-pepper, chena, and Italian millet, etc., etc. So, again, within still more recent times America has furnished India with many cultivated plants, such as the aloe, pine-apple, custard-apple, earth-nut, arnotto, capsicum and chillies, papaya, cinchona, pumpkin, sweet-potato, tomato, arrow-root, tobacco, prickly-pear, guava, Cape-gooseberry, potato, Indian corn, etc., etc. Turning from our fields and orchards to the avenues and hedgerows, to the jungles and even forests, we find an equally high percentage of exotics,

Indeed, it might be almost said that from Calcutta to Lahore, 50 per cent. of the *prevalent* cultivated and wild vegetation has been imported by India within historic times." These facts lead to the undoubted conclusion that considerable change and improvement have taken place in almost every aspect of Indian agriculture and horticulture. The possibilities of the future are, again, very great, for it is said "there are few crops in any part of the world which cannot be produced in this country."

The agricultural products of India may be grouped as follows:—

- (a) Food crops (wheat, rice, barley, millets, pulses, sugar, spices, etc.)
- (b) Oilseeds (linseed, rape and mustard, castor, sesamum, ground-nut, etc.)
- (c) Fibres (cotton, jute, hemp, reha, silk, wool, etc.)
- (d) Dyeing and tanning materials (indigo, safflower, *Al*, etc.)
- (e) Drugs and narcotics, etc., (opium, tea, coffee, tobacco, cinchona, Indian hemp, vines and other sources of alcohol, etc.)
- (f) Miscellaneous products (cutch, lac, wild silk-worms, India-rubber, palm-sugar, cocoanut [fibre and oil,] myrobalans, musk, etc.)

The articles last mentioned can hardly be regarded as agricultural crops, but they hold very important positions as a source of wealth. The wild and semi-wild products assume a proportion and an importance in India rare in any other part of the world.

The fabulous "wealth of Ind" has never been obtained to any considerable extent from mineral resources. Mining and manufacturing industries have always played a subordinate part in the history of Aryan civilization. It is true that many famous precious and ornamental stones trace their origin to India. But the mineral resources of a country are not to be measured by any valuable fitful yield at long intervals. We do not ~~mean~~ <sup>mean</sup> that India is deficient in minerals. The point is, "India's possibilities in this direction have not been fully ascertained;" and the supplies hitherto obtained are insignificant compared with its agricultural products and its vast area. India has not been surveyed satisfactorily enough to warrant us to speak with confidence as to the exact nature and distribution of its minerals. Speaking broadly, they are confined to certain well-defined areas of particular rock-formations. Of these the *Metamorphic* series of *gneissose* rocks cover a large area in Peninsular India, containing iron, corundum and gold. Gold is nowhere considerable except in Mysore, though it is found in widely separated areas in the N.-W. P., the Punjab, Kashmir, Hyderabad and Burma. Corundum has a unique importance, and is abundant in Southern India. Attempts are being made to treat it as a source of *aluminium*, and if successful, corundum has quite a brilliant future before it. The metal aluminium is remarkably light (sp. gr. 2.6). It is of a silver-white colour, and takes a good polish. Its durability, lightness and high metallic lustre are matters of much importance. It does not rust like iron and, if available in a sufficient quantity, it may very well replace that metal in the building of bridges, &c. The *Transition* formation may

be called the metalliferous series of India, yielding gold, iron, and the associated manganese and copper in the Dharwars of Mysore, Bellary and the Raichur Doab of Southern India; iron with manganese, copper, lead and some gold in the Bijawars of the Central Provinces; iron, copper, lead, gold and some tin in Western Bengal; and copper, lead, iron and inferior gems in the Aravalis of Central India.

Diamonds are found in the Kristna valley side of the Deccan; in the districts of Anantapur, Cuddapah, Karnul; and at Ellore in the Madras Presidency; in Chota Nagpur and the Central Provinces and in Bundelkhand. The *Vindhyan* formations are the chief repository of this valuable mineral. It may be noticed here that the far-famed Golconda has never been known to yield any diamond. It was only the most renowned diamond mart in former times, where gems of distant places found their way for sale.

Copper is a metal of somewhat wide distribution in India and one which has been smelted in many parts of the country. The outturn, however, is very trifling, practically all the copper which is consumed in India being imported from abroad. The ore most commonly met with is *copper pyrites*, often with carbonates, etc., near the surface.

Lead ore is also widely distributed, and in certain parts it would appear to exist in considerable abundance. Some Indian *galena* (the most important lead ore) contains a high percentage of silver.

The *Gondwanas* in the Peninsula contain the principal coal-beds. They radiate from Mohpani in the Central Provinces eastwards to Bengal, south-eastwards to Orissa, and south-south-eastwards to Pranhita-Godavery valley. While the coal of Peninsular India is almost exclusively Lower Gondwana, the coal of extra-peninsular India (chiefly in Assam, Burma, the Punjab and Beluchistan) is almost exclusively Cretaceous and Tertiary. In the relative importance of the different coals, the Lower Gondwana takes undisputed pre-eminence. In it alone have mines on any considerable scale been sunk as yet; and excluding foreign coal, it alone supplies Indian railways and mills with mineral fuel. Next in importance comes some of the Tertiary coal, which occurs in beds of immense thickness in Upper Assam, but which owing to its remote position has not been systematically worked as yet. Some of the Cretaceous coal fields contain large quantities of fuel, but like the Tertiary they have not yet been opened out.

Coal, Iron, Tin, Mineral Oil and Salt form the most important minerals of India. Strictly speaking, India is not rich in tin. But the Malay Peninsula is one of the most important tin-producing regions in the world.

The most notable oil-bearing regions are Burma and Assam. Beluchistan and the Punjab also have just begun to yield mineral oil. In all these provinces, petroleum is found in the older Tertiary rocks.

India is supplied with Salt mainly from four sources, namely, salt imported from abroad, rock-salt yielded by mines in the Punjab, salt manufactured from the salt lakes in Rajputana, and that produced by evaporation of sea water. It is also obtained by evaporating water from salt wells by lixiviating saline earth and as a by-product in the manufacture of salt-petre. Of the various species, the enormous deposits of rock-salt in the Salt Range are the most remark-

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able. The quantity in this Range alone is so considerable that it can supply the whole world, if necessary, for a long time. At the Mayo mines, there are five great beds with an aggregate thickness of 275 feet.

Iron ores are very widely distributed over India, and in many districts enormous deposits, often of great thickness and purity, occur. "Some portions of India, indeed, can well bear comparison with any part of the world in respect to the abundance and quality of their resources in this respect." In former times, the Indians were familiar with several methods of manufacturing iron from the ores. The method even now employed in Madras of manufacturing steel in "wootz" yields a result which is quite astonishing to Europeans. In fact, the Madras steel, produced by the crude native art is in no way inferior to the best made steel in the world. Indigenous iron-manufacture with European skill and experience once resulted in failure, through the selfishness of European iron-manufacturers. "Since the opening of railway communications, the competition of English iron has done much to curtail and in many cases to entirely extinguish the native outturn."

#### OUR LONDON LETTER.

June 12.

*Great Britain. Imperial Parliament.*—I was in error when I wrote last week that the House would go into Committee on the Education Bill on the 9th instant. The 9th and 10th have been devoted to the Irish Land Bill, and yesterday the debate on the Education Bill in Committee was begun and is to be continued *de die in diem*. There can be no doubt the Government has attempted too much, hence the frequent impasse. One or at the most two first class Bills are the utmost any Government, however strong, should attempt to pass in a single session. The only good point in favour of the present Government is the very forward state of Supply. When Mr. Balfour introduced the new rules for dealing with Supply, it was on the understanding the session should come to an end as near as possible to the 12th of August. Hence any proposal to run into September, or still worse to have an autumn sitting in November is scouted not only by the Opposition, but by a large number of members who owe and are willing to pay, a loyal allegiance to the present Government.

Some weeks ago I drew your attention to the epidemic of terrible crimes with which London had been afflicted. On the morning of the 9th, the three men, Fowler, Milsom and Seaman, were executed at Newgate, and on the following morning Mrs. Dyer expiated her fearful crimes. No one knows how many poor little infants she did away with, but the police think fifty is within the mark.

As an illustration of popular feeling, I annex an extract from the "Westminster Gazette":

"Last night some disgraceful scenes were witnessed in the neighbourhood of Clerkenwell, Islington, and Cannonbury. Shortly after dusk a band of roughs, about two dozen strong, commenced parading the streets carrying with them effigies of Seaman, Fowler, Milsom, and Dyer, and a large piece of wood shaped like an old fashioned gibbet. Their appearance attracted a large crowd, and they soon formed a procession of some hundreds strong. When they had found a suitable pitch, generally outside a large public-house, they formed in a circle round the gibbet, from which the four dummies were suspended, and commenced singing, or rather shouting:—

Fowler, Fowler, Fowler,  
Wasn't he a howler;  
He'll never try another dodge  
Like he did up at the Lodge.

Seaman, Seaman, Seaman,  
Wasn't he a demon  
When he took his final leap,  
Where he stepped must have been  
a treat.

Milsom, Milsom, Milsom,  
He says he never killed some,  
We know he's very tricky,  
So we gave his neck a twichy.

Dyer, Dyer, Dyer,  
Stick her up higher.  
We hope she soon is going to swing,  
And joy to all our hearts 'twill bring.

While this was going on one of the men went round to collect money, and in a good many instances considerable sums were received. The men expressed the intention of renewing the performance to-night, and burning the four effigies in Canonbury-square.

The Murderer's 'Pal.' A gentleman, who on his way to business yesterday happened to stand for a moment in the street outside Newgate Prison before the black flag was hoisted, remarked to his neighbour that the hangman's rope never encircled a more

villainous throat than Fowler's. Thereupon a big fellow in the crowd tapped him on the shoulder and remarked, 'Look here, mister, another word like that and your life will be as short as Fowler's.'

*Employment of Indian troops in the Sudan.*—You will see this question has come into great prominence, and will have to be met by the Government as one of first class importance. The debate in the House of Commons has been postponed at the urgent request of the Government of India, whose despatch is now on its way home. The point in dispute is, shall the troops that have been sent to Suakin, be charged to the Imperial Treasury, or shall their ordinary pay be still debited to the Indian Exchequer? There is no question at all as to the expenditure, once they leave India, being charged to the Home Government. But is Great Britain or India to bear the charge of their daily pay? Every true friend of India will have no difficulty in saying that the moment Indian troops are drafted for Imperial service, the whole cost and charge, including the ordinary daily pay, should be charged to the Imperial Treasury.

The eminent Anglo-Indian who contributes a weekly article to the "Times" on "Indian Affairs," came out in the issue of the 8th instant with no uncertain sound. The article is one of such vast importance to India that I enclose it, so that you may have the opportunity of placing it before your readers.

In its leading article the "Times" says, "It must not be forgotten that India makes no contribution to the cost of the British Navy, which nevertheless constitutes the main defence of our Eastern possessions against foreign aggression. It cannot be contended, therefore, that the policy of this country tends, on the whole, to deal hardly with India in regard to such questions. Nevertheless, we adhere to our opinion that, whatever may be the technical rights as between the Imperial and Indian Exchequers, it would be most inexpedient to create a precedent for throwing upon the tax-payers of India the whole or the greater part of the cost of protecting external interests in which England and other portions of the Empire are at least as directly implicated. Many years ago, when the present Prime Minister was in the House of Commons, he protested, during the Abyssinian expedition, against treating India 'as an English barrack in the oriental seas, from which we may draw any number of troops without paying for them.'"

The trend of public opinion here is all in favour of India, and I make no doubt the Government of India will carry the day.

I wrote the above before seeing this week's "Punch." The leading cartoon represents India in the person of a pretty dusky maiden, and she says to big burly John Bull: "I have found the men, Sahib! Why should I find the money too?" *John Bull*: "Pon my word, my dear, I really don't see why you should."

This fully corroborates my suggestion as to the trend of public opinion.

Mr. Chamberlain as Honorary President of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce with representatives from all parts of the Empire, delivered a remarkable speech on the 9th instant, by way of welcome. He is an earnest advocate of Federation, of the colonies and the mother country, and he feels strongly this can be brought about, certainly expedited, by the establishment of a commercial union, somewhat on the model of the German Zollverein. He sees many impediments in the way of its realisation owing to the majority of the colonies being strongly protective and Great Britain the champion of Free Trade.

Party feeling runs so keenly here that unfortunately there is little prospect of the question being discussed with calmness. Even the "Westminster Gazette," one of the ablest Radical papers, smells protection in the proposal. Now I would just as soon believe Mr. Gladstone had joined the Baptist Communion, Lord Rosebery had become a sabbath schoolteacher, Mr. Lobouche chairman of the Congregational Union, Sir Charles Dilke president of the Society for the Suppression of Vice—as for one moment think that Mr. Chamberlain would prove false to his Free Trade convictions.

But Mr. Chamberlain is an Imperial statesman, and he sees how in the future the British Empire may have to struggle for its very existence. Hence his consuming desire to see all parts of this great Empire welded into one great Confederacy! He is alive to all the difficulties that beset his proposal. But he has started the question for full and free discussion, and he has laid his countrymen under a debt of obligation for having had the courage and statesmanlike foresight to broach the subject.

*The Education Bill.*—In my last I drew attention to the language of that screeching Higgins, Dr. Clifford. His language has roused the righteous indignation of Canon MacColl. So another Nonconformist writes to the "Times," "I should like to assure Canon MacColl that the language used by certain Nonconformist ministers in the controversy over the Education Bill is as painful to many of their quieter brethren as it is to his own fair and kindly spirit. To fling about such epithets as 'infamous,' 'damnable' and the like, is to forsake the methods of honourable and decent discussion for that of throwing brickbats. That ministers of religion, when engaging in political controversy, should so often compare

unfavourably as regards manner and temper with the average man of the world is to myself and many others matter of humiliation." Well may the Emperor William designate such men as Clifford as "monstrosities." The beauty of the thing is, his Billingsgate language may much more accurately be applied to his own sermons when a school board election, a county council election, or a general Parliamentary election is going on.

After the fearful pother made over this Bill, it was allowed to glide quietly into Committee last night.

Before leaving the Chair, the Speaker ruled a number of instructions out of order, as they could be moved in the shape of amendments of which there are already 1,335 on the paper. The first division took place on clause 1, Sir J. Gorst declaring the Government considered it the most important part of the Bill. The numbers were, for the Government 262, against 121. The second amendment was rejected by 298 to 125. The Government accepting an amendment of Sir A. Rollic, it was carried by 332 to 83. So far, a good beginning indeed! Doubtless, Dr. Clifford was in the gallery to see what effect his Billingsgate had produced. He must have gone home a woefully disappointed man. Like the famous jackdaw of Rheims, under the anathemas and curses of the Bishops, "no one seemed a penny the worse" for the vituperation of this foul-mouthed dissenting cleric. May it teach him a lesson to be more suave and mannerly, when he again essays to lead his Nonconformist brethren in opposition to the present Government.

*Cricket.*---I do not pay much attention to sport, but yesterday's was a record match at Lord's, an all England eleven *versus* the Australians. The latter were disposed of for 18 runs, a result due to the splendid bowling of Hearne and another. When stumps were drawn, they were last, in the second innings---for of course they had to follow on---with 176 to make to avert a single winnings defeat. Today they may do better, but it seems almost impossible they should succeed in making 176 runs, with two wickets already lost.

*France.*---"By the death of M. Jules Simon," says the "Times," "France loses the most cultivated of her public men. He was perhaps the most remarkable of the many examples which the recent history of that country has shown of the professor and literary man in politics." He certainly was a most remarkable man. Born 82 years ago, of humble and obscure parents, he raised himself by virtue of commanding ability, and a character of the strictest veracity, to be Prime Minister of France. The celebrated Victor Cousin early discovered his sterling worth, and made him his assistant in the chair of philosophy at the Sorbonne, and Simon repaid the great philosopher's early kindness, by becoming his most famous disciple, and the ablest exponent of his system of eclecticism. And what redounds to Simon's immortal credit, is, that after having held the great office of Prime Minister of France, he retired from public life, as poor a man as he entered it.

I know of only one great Frenchman of whom the same may be said---the illustrious Guizot.

Troublous times are again, I fear, in store for France, and no more startling news has come out of the blue than the *rapprochement* between the Bourbons and the Bonapartes. Next August, a great gathering is to be held at Brussels, when the ex-Empress Eugenie will be present to endeavour to arrange a matrimonial alliance between a son of the House of Bourbons and a daughter of the Napoleonic dynasty. All events are pointing to a restoration of monarchy, so as to hold in check the vagaries of the ultra Radicals and Socialists.

*Egypt.*---To the gratification of all loyal citizens of this great Empire---save only the "little Englishers" headed by Mr. Labouchere---the Dervishes were severely chastised on the morning of the 7th instant at Firket. Our victory was complete and redounds to the credit of the Egyptian and Soudanese troops, under the skilful command of the Sirdar---Sir H. Kitchener. The great gain of the victory lies not so much in the number of the killed and the prisoners made,---nor in the loot not inconsiderable---but in the defeat of some of the leading Emirs. 45 out of 50 have been either killed or made prisoners and the Khalifa has received a blow from which he will not easily rally. After the victory at Firket, Major Burn Murdoch pursued with his cavalry and took possession of another important post, Suarda. This is reported to be the strongest Dervish post north of Dongola, and the "pursuit of the Dervishes has for the moment been stopped as their entire force north of Suarda has been either killed or captured, with the exception of about 200 men."

I have left myself no space to write of America, but by the 19th we should see the issue of the great caucus gathering at St. Louis. At the present moment, all is confusion, and no one can say for certain who is likely to get the nomination to the next Presidency. The real question at bottom is the currency, silver *versus* gold, and none of the reputed candidates has the courage to say straight out what his views are. It is believed Mr. McKinley himself is for a gold basis, but he is afraid to commit himself as the silver vote is nearly as powerful as the gold. However, by this day week we shall know all about it.

The chief party speech of any importance, since my last, was delivered by Sir Campbell Bannerman to the Cambridge Eighty Club, on the evening of the 6th. You may remember he was the author of the celebrated phrase in 1886, "I have found salvation," and it had such an influence on Mr. Mundella, who was wavering on the Home Rule question, he too found salvation, and casting to the winds all their former conscientious convictions, servilely followed the great Dictator, Mr. Gladstone, whither-soever he might be pleased to lead them.

An ample fortune makes Sir Campbell Bannerman a great political authority in his own estimation, but were I a Non-conformist, which, thank God, I am not, I should treat as a piece of gross impertinence the advice he tendered to be done with upbraiding the Irish members for their vote on the second reading of the Education Bill. Men like the Rogers, Cliffords, and Hughes are quite able to protect themselves from the supercilious advice of men like the late Secretary for War.

## Public Paper.

### THE BENGAL MUNICIPAL VADE-MECUM.

Bengal Municipalities Bill 1872,

passed by the Bengal Council

but not assented to by the Governor-General.

### THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S EXPLANATION OF THE MEASURE.

[Concluded from page 310.]

20. There remain the voluntary objects of expenditure as laid down in sections 132 and 254 of the Bill, which are a good deal wider in their scope, but still confined by very strict limits of maximum expenditure. As the Lieutenant-Governor has already said, he believes that in many places in these provinces the people will be found to be really inclined to raise and spend money on some of the objects enumerated in the above sections for their own comfort and advantage. But he must here again very earnestly disclaim any intention to force them, or to induce them, by any undue pressure to do so. He repeats once more that his view is to prefer a little done voluntarily to a great deal done unwillingly and in a discontented spirit.

21. The maximum of total taxation in the different classes of municipalities has been fixed with reference to the above considerations. On the one hand it has been sought to obviate alarm and the apprehension of unlimited taxation by restricting it within a very moderate maximum; it being thought better to quiet people's minds in this respect even at the risk of checking large improvements in some instances. And on the other hand such a reasonable margin has been left between the minimum or compulsory expenditure and the maximum, as to leave room for a fair development of voluntary expenditure, sufficient to test that part of the system.

In respect of village municipalities, the Council has thought it right to proceed with extreme caution, and has fixed the maximum total at more than 25 per cent. in excess of the rate hitherto allowed for the watchman alone.

In larger towns this maximum (fixed by section 38) has been raised about 50 per cent. as compared to the maximum prescribed by Act VI of 1868. But it must not for a moment be supposed that the Bill contemplates that the maximum shall in all or most cases be taken. On the contrary, the probability is that it will very seldom be so. The compulsory taxation being generally little, if at all, increased, the raising of the maximum will only enable those municipalities which wish to improve to embark on a certain additional expenditure, if they choose to do so, and so far as they choose to do so, under the strictly and *bonâ fide* voluntary system which the Lieutenant-Governor hopes to see maintained.

It should also be explained in connection with this part of this subject, that under the present laws considerable tracts of country, and many rural villages, have been frequently included in town municipalities, thus giving townships a fictitious area and population; whereas by the present Bill (section 6) town municipalities are strictly confined to real town areas with a defined aggregate and density of population. It results that the total taxation which can be imposed in real towns is probably not greater than under the former Acts in many or most cases.

22. The Lieutenant-Governor will only further here notice the various taxes from among which each town municipality may choose its own mode of taxation. Village municipalities are, as under the existing law, restricted to one tax only, except when they elect or follow their old customs. The taxes are set forth in section 38 of the Bill, and the provisions regarding them are detailed in sections 39 to 116.

23. The first form of tax is what is called a tax on persons, that is, on all persons residing in or owning property within the municipality according to their means and property---provided that no per-

son who does not reside within the limits is to be taxed on any other means than his property within the limits. This tax is to be assessed by the municipal Commissioners, poor persons unable to pay being exempted by them. It is said that this is a rough local income and property tax. In the Lieutenant-Governor's personal opinion, a local tax of the kind is perhaps the least objectionable form of income tax; but be that as it may, he does not seek to justify it on that ground, but solely on the ground that it is the oldest, most used, and in some sense favourite (so far as any tax can be favourite) form of municipal taxation in these provinces. It appears in the early regulations; it is one of the alternative forms of taxation under Act XX of 1856, and it is the sole mode of taxation under the more recent Acts, VI of 1868 and VI of 1870. The Lieutenant-Governor has inquired a good deal on the subject, and he is assured that whenever there is the option between this tax on persons and a house tax, the former is almost invariably preferred. He is told that even in some municipalities where the assessment is nominally on houses under Act III of 1864, it is practically levied according to the means of the occupant. The Lieutenant-Governor could therefore hardly do otherwise than propose this as one of the forms of taxation.

24. The tax on holdings is in fact an assessment on houses, &c., of an annual value of not less than Rs. 6, and at a rate not exceeding 7½ per cent. on the letting value. This tax is taken from Act III of 1864 and some of the local Acts, and does not require explanation.

25. The tax on carriages, carts, and animals, kept within the town, is taken from several of the existing Acts, and is evidently a fair means of supplying a fund, one of the objects of which is the maintenance of roads.

26. The tax on trades and callings is taken from one or two of the existing Acts, and can only be imposed when the tax on persons is not imposed. There are mercantile and business places where most of the people of substance are engaged in trades and callings, and in such cases it will be competent to the municipality, instead of inquiring into people's general means, to impose a license tax as scheduled according to the trade or occupation followed.

27. The suggestion of a tax on processions, such as is now levied in Calcutta and Patna, created much remonstrance from people who feared an undue interference with their social customs. It has therefore been restricted to very narrow limits, and to the case of large and noisy processions which require police regulation, such as may fairly be charged for. Funerals and religious ceremonies other than marriages are exempt, and the tax can only be demanded when more than four musicians, or when elephants, fireworks, or guns, are used. It will probably only be applied in very large and thickly populated towns, such as those above mentioned, where it has worked very well, and where unregulated processions with the accessories mentioned would be most dangerous to the peace.

28. The duties on articles brought into the town or into markets, and the tolls on roads and ferries and on boats, are all in substance different forms of what are called octroi or town duties,—a very old form of local tax, which was and is legal under Act XXVI of 1850. This subject has been so frequently before the Government of India that it is not necessary that the Lieutenant-Governor should discuss it at length. There is no doubt that the system may be much abused if great care is not taken. On the other hand, there is equally little doubt that when properly regulated, under the ample powers reserved to the Government in this respect, it has been found in practice in most parts of India to be the most popular form of municipal taxation. It has not hitherto been tried in Bengal in modern times (though something similar is too often illegally levied by private Zemindars), and Bengal officers seem to be somewhat averse to it. Still, seeing that in Behar and Chota Nagpore we have nearly twenty millions of the Hindustani population, of manners and habits precisely similar to those of the people among whom the system is liked, and that in Bengal proper also it may be found suitable to some places, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that His Excellency the Viceroy will deem that he was right in recommending, and the Council in accepting, this form of taxation as one which considerable municipalities may try if they prefer it. If the Act is sanctioned, His Excellency may depend on it that the Lieutenant-Governor will be very fully on the watch to guard against the abuses of the system, of which he has already seen a good deal. It is said that most Bengal towns are very straggling and that a customs line round them would be very inconvenient. It is therefore made optional to tax goods only when brought to the established markets, according to the old fashioned system. Ferry tolls are a very old and general institution in Bengal, and a moderate toll on vehicles and animals entering by land, by any road or bridge may sometimes be an easy substitute for regular town duties. In this land of rivers a tax on boats, that is, on vehicles entering by water roads, is a necessary complement to the above system. Some great commercial marts, such for instance as Serajgunge, are almost all boats with very few houses, and yet wharves, roads and other communications are emi-

nently required. The Lieutenant-Governor has pledged himself most emphatically that, if the Bill is passed, he will make very sure that none of these local dues are allowed to degenerate into transit duties.

29. The Lieutenant-Governor now comes to the village municipalities provided for in part XII of the Bill. It is said by the objectors that Act VI of 1870 on the same subject was only very recently passed. This is true, but it is because that Act is so recent, and has scarcely come into operation, that it has been found convenient to weld it into the new Bill with some emendations which the little experience already had shows to be required. That Act of 1870 was only what may be called a permissive Act, authorizing the Government to put the system which it prescribed in force in any villages at its discretion. The Act was only tried experimentally in a few places. In one district where there are no service lands the magistrate has reported favourably of it; in the other districts where it has been tried in a few villages, very serious objections have been taken to it. And this result, coupled with special objections entertained by the Lieutenant-Governor to the provisions regarding service lands, had induced him to stop its further operation; so that, except in the few places above mentioned, it was practically a dead letter. The opportunity has now been taken to amend it in accordance with the experiences which have been gained, and to adapt it to the general code of municipal law contained in the new Bill, while the greater part of its essential provisions are retained and incorporated.

30. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish it however to be very clearly understood that the effect of Part XII of the present Bill, far from being to impose on rural villages a new and complicated constitution unsuited to them is on the contrary to soften the provisions of Act VI of 1870, and to enable the villages to retain their old constitutions without the too great changes (as the Lieutenant-Governor thinks) which that Act required.

Act VI of 1870 provided one uniform constitution and one mode of taxation for all villages to which it might be applied; it introduced new watchmen and disposed of all the old service lands in one way to be noticed presently. In the present Bill, on the contrary, the Council adopted, at the Lieutenant-Governor's instance, a provision which he thinks of extreme importance (section 263), viz., that any existing usage by which the watchman of any village is remunerated may be retained by the Panchayet with the approval of the magistrate of the district, in stead of introducing a new form of taxation. If the watchman is remunerated by service lands, that form of remuneration also may be maintained. The existing watchmen are to be retained if competent.

31. Act VI of 1870, while providing for villages a full municipal constitution and a uniform mode of taxation similar to that adopted in towns, confined the expenditure to the maintenance of watchmen only. The Lieutenant-Governor is very unwilling to do anything that may savour of forcing taxation on these rural communities, and he has proposed no compulsory taxation whatever beyond the old obligation to maintain a watchman. But he has been repeatedly struck by the great want of drinking water in many Bengal villages, and by the efforts of the people to obtain it, and by their not unfrequently expressed readiness to contribute to the cost, if some arrangement could be made. He has also thought, as above explained, that many villages may be willing to co-operate with Government to re-establish that ancient indigenous institution of Hindu villages, the Guru or village school-master. Knowing how native to the soil of India are village municipal institutions, and how much these rural communes are in the habit of doing for themselves in many parts of the country, the Lieutenant-Governor thought that he could hardly be wrong in recommending to the Council the arrangement which they have accepted, viz., to permit rural municipalities to spend their money, if so inclined, for the supply of drinking water, the support of village schools, and petty conservancy purposes, and for these purposes to raise their taxation to a point not more than 25 per cent. in excess of that hitherto prescribed for the payment of watchmen only.

32. There remains the subject of the service lands applicable to the maintenance of village watchmen.

The general subject of service lands is a very large one in Bengal. In all the western districts very many tenures, great and small, are held for services to be rendered against the great marauders of Central India, against border tribes, or ordinary thieves, and for other purposes. Most of these services have ceased to be required or rendered, and it has been a long and constant struggle on the part of the superior landholders, the Zemindars, to appropriate these service tenures, while the holders maintain their right of possession, and the Government to whom, through various gradations, the greater services were due, also claimed an interest in the matter. The Lieutenant-Governor believes he may say that the general result of the litigation on the subject has been that the Zemindars have failed to establish their right to resume these tenures. The subject is, however, one on which the landlord's interests are always very pressing; and it is there-



fore that two of the petitions representing those interests dwell especially on the question involved in the disposal of the lands appropriated to village services.

33. Act VI of 1870, which deals with this subject, was passed amid much difference of opinions. The majority of a committee which sat upon the matter certainly did recommend that, when the remuneration in land was commuted for a cash wage, the land should be made over to the Zemindar on payment of part of the value; but one of the members of the committee, Mr. Rivers Thompson, lately Secretary to this Government, and one of the most able and experienced officers in Bengal, wholly dissented from this part of the report. Moreover, what is most important is this, the original draft proposed by the committee made the commutation of land for money entirely optional and discretionary in these words:—

"In every village wherein the chowkidar is, at the time of the passing of that Act maintained wholly or in part by an assignment of land, it shall be lawful for the Magistrate to direct that such chowkidar shall in future be paid in money in the manner, &c., &c." "and in every such case such land shall be transferred to the Zemindar, subject," &c.

This provision was radically altered as the Bill passed through the then Bengal Council, in which the Zemindars were very strongly represented, and the other parties, village communities and service holders interested in these service lands, were not represented at all. The transfer of all these lands to the Zemindars was not optional but compulsory. Section 48 of Act VI 1870 provides that in all places to which the Act is applied, "all chowkidari chakran lands before the passing of this Act assigned for the benefit of any village shall be transferred in manner, &c., to the Zemindar of the estate or tenure within which may be situate such lands." It was this necessity of putting an end to the old mode of remuneration and transferring the lands to the Zemindars which went far to induce the present Lieutenant-Governor to withhold his consent to the further operation of the Act. It should be added, that though the Zemindars were to pay half the present value of the lands, that value was to be assessed in perpetuity, and could not be enhanced as values rise.

34. His Excellency the Viceroy will see that this was a very thorny subject, but the Lieutenant-Governor is confident that His Excellency will think that the present settlement is one to which it is impossible to object on any equitable ground. Though somewhat complicated in form, it is in reality simple. The right of the Zemindar to any services which he is by custom entitled to demand from the holder of any service lands is still maintained (section 260, clause 2). But the compulsory provision requiring the transfer of the land in all cases to the Zemindar is done away with; it is permitted in all fit cases simply to retain the old and present state of things and the old mode of remunerating the watchman—a provision which is, the Lieutenant-Governor apprehends, not open to objection.

Another provision on this subject to which the representatives of the Zemindars very much object, is one in which the Government has no interest beyond the general interests of equity and justice. In case it be determined to do away with the old watchmen in any village and to substitute watchmen paid and appointed under the new provisions of the law, the Zemindars wish that the land should in all cases be made over to them by law. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Council thought that this would be in fact prejudging the relative rights of the Zemindars and the tenure-holders, and doing for the former the work of resumption which they have hitherto failed to do in the courts. It is accordingly provided that in such a case a discretion shall be allowed to the Magistrate according to the apparent equity of each case, either to make over the land to the Zemindar, subject to payment of half value and to any right or interest which the previous holder may establish, or to make it over to the present holder, similarly subject to the half value (substituted for watchman's service), and also subject to any other duties which the Zemindar is entitled to demand, and to any settlement of their respective rights which the law may warrant. The result is that the Zemindar may enforce any rights which he has by law in a regular way, but that the rights he claims are not enforced by a summary and as it were *ex-parte* law. The Magistrate may "from time to time" inquire into the letting value of the land on which the half value is to be paid, and provision is made for settling disputed questions regarding these service lands generally. Mr. Rivers Thompson, who had originally dissented from the previous arrangement, was unfortunately compelled to leave the country before the present settlement was completed, but Mr. Dampier, an equally capable Bengal officer, returned and took his place; and the present settlement was, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks he may say, heartily acquiesced in by all members of the Council, official and non-official, with the exception of certain limited reclamations on the part of the native members especially connected with Zemindar interest.

35. The Lieutenant-Governor has thought it well to take this opportunity of explaining in some detail the leading provisions of

this very important measure, passed with a singular degree of unanimity after a most thorough, sifting and exhaustive discussion in the Bengal Council. The Lieutenant-Governor feels that the Government and the country are especially indebted to the gentlemen composing the Council for the pains which they bestowed on the work. The heaviest share of the duty fell to Mr. Bernard, who prepared the Bill in the first instance, and on Mr. Beaufort, assisted by the Secretary, Mr. Cowell, who elaborated and completed it; but all the members who sat on the Committee and the Council generally had a large and active share in the reduction of the measure to its present form.

The Lieutenant-Governor is sanguine that His Excellency the Viceroy will think that the members of the Council have earnestly and honestly endeavoured to provide a code of municipal law suited to the circumstances of the country, and which, while not unduly forcing self-government and improvement, or imposing a too strictly regulated taxation, gives much scope for voluntary advance in the path of progressive self-government, and enables the inhabitants of each municipality to choose the form and the measure of taxation which each may deem most suitable to its requirements.

### WHAT BATES WANTED TO KNOW.

"I shall be obliged if you can answer me one question," said my friend Bates, as he lay on the couch one day in my room nursing his aching leg. "Why does exposure to wet or cold bring on an attack of rheumatism at one time, when a like exposure for a score of times leads to no such result?"

Before I set down in writing the answer I gave him I wish you would read the following letters, as no doubt the authors of them will be interested in the same point.

"In November, 1892," says the one, "I had an attack of rheumatic fever, and was confined to my bed for four weeks, during which time I suffered fearfully. I had awful pains all over me; my joints swelled up, and I was so helpless I could not raise my hand to my mouth. After the fever left me I was extremely weak, and so emaciated I was little more than skin and bone. A large lump, the size of an egg, formed on my elbow, and my fingers were almost drawn out of joint. I cannot describe the suffering I had to bear. The doctor ordered me various medicines, and cod liver oil, but they had no effect. In February, 1893 I read in a small book about the remarkable success which had followed the use of Mother Seigel's Syrup in cases of rheumatism, and got a bottle from Messrs. Leverett and Fry, High Street. After taking it two weeks I was better, and in about a month more all rheumatic pains had left me, and I was strong and well as ever. You may publish what I have said. (Signed) John H. Kent, 9, Randall Street, Maidstone, Kent, January 30th, 1895."

"For many years," says the other, "I had been subject to liver complaint and indigestion. I was habitually heavy, weak, and weary. My appetite was poor, and all food gave me pain and fullness at the chest and around the sides. I had so much pain and tightness of the chest that I could not endure the pressure of my clothing upon it. Although not laid up, I was seldom free from pain or a sense of discomfort. In the summer of 1893 I began to suffer with rheumatism, which affected my arms and shoulders until I had not the power to lift my hand to my head. I tried all sorts of liniments, embrocations, and rubbing oils, but got no benefit from any of them.

In August, 1893, my friend, Mrs. Owen, told me how much good Mother Seigel's Syrup had done her for rheumatism, and I got a bottle from the Drug Stores in St. Ann's Road. In a few days I was much better, and in less than a month afterwards all pain had left me; and I am happy to say I have never had any return of the rheumatism since, but have enjoyed the best of health in every respect. In common thankfulness for my speedy and wonderful deliverance, I willingly consent to the publication of this hurried statement should you wish to make that use of it. (Signed) (Mrs.) L. S. Cole, 6, Albert Road, South Tottenham, London, August 16th, 1895."

Before answering the question of my friend Bates (who was a chronic rheumatic) I asked him one: "Why does a lighted match, dropped into the road, die out harmlessly, but when dropped into a hayrick, set up a conflagration?"

"Any fool can answer that," he said. "Because in the one case there is nothing for the fire to catch hold of, while in the other there is."

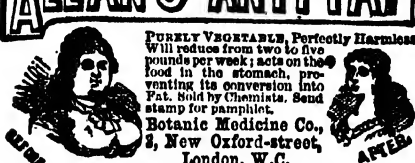
"Exactly," I responded. "Now see. Indigestion and liver complaint (the second consequent on the first) continue to produce a virulent poison in the blood called uric acid, practically insoluble in water. This acid, which is a solid, enters the tissues, and sets going a hot inflammatory fire. That is rheumatism. It does what a silver would—only the acid is a *poison* silver."

"When the indigestion and the liver trouble are not very bad, and the kidneys and sweat glands of the skin are acting fairly well, this acid is carried out of the body about as fast as it is formed. Exposure then brings on no rheumatism. But, *per contra*, when the stomach and liver are in bad condition, the acid forms faster than the kidneys and skin can carry it off. Then expose yourself, get cold or wet, hamper the skin and kidneys still more, and the poison acid spreads through your muscles and joints like the fire in the dry hay. You understand? Very well. The longer the cause persists the more frequent the rheumatic attacks. That is why chronic dyspeptics are apt also to be chronic rheumatics. Fend off dyspepsia, or cure it by the use of Mother Seigel's Syrup, and you and the rheumatism will have no dealings. Neglect it, and suffer every time you catch cold."

That was my answer to Bates, and he said there seemed to be sense in it.



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from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to Banerjee, Babu Sandaprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of,  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
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to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from  
Abdus Subhan, Moulvi A. K. M.  
Ameer Hossein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.  
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
Banerjee, Babu Mannathanath.  
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Shih Chunder.  
Barth, M. A.  
Belchambers, Mr. R.  
Deb, Babu Manahar.  
Dutt, Mr. O. C.  
Dutt, Babu Prosadoss.  
Elgin, Lord.  
Ghose, Babu Narendra K.

Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.  
Graham, Mr. William.  
Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
Haridas Viharidas Desai, the late Dewam  
Iyer, Mr. A. Krishnaswami.  
Lambert, Sir John.  
Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
Mitra, Mr. B. C.  
Mitter, Babu Siddheshur.  
Mookerjee, Raja Pany Mohan.  
Mookerjee, Babu Surendra Nath.  
Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.  
Routledge, Mr. James.  
Roy, Babu E. C.  
Roy, Babu Sirat Chunder.  
Sanyal, Babu Dinabuddho.  
Savitt Library.  
Tippera, the Raja Thakur of.  
Vambéry, Professor Ammonius.  
Vizianagram, the Mahaja of.

POSTSCRIPT.  
After paying the expenses of the publication,  
the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal  
of the family of the deceased man of  
letters.

Orders to be made to the Business Manager,  
"An Indian Journalist," at the Bee  
Press, 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington  
Street, Calcutta.

## OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of  
a remarkable man.—Mr. H. B. Bingham Smith,  
Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October  
1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer,  
and there is a breezy freshness and originality  
about his correspondence which make it  
very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft,  
K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,  
26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing  
official duties an English Civilian can find  
either time or opportunity to pay so graceful  
a tribute to the memory of a native personality  
as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of  
the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the  
well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta:  
Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many  
who are more worthy of being thus honoured  
than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr.  
Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with  
all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with  
lessons for those who desire to know the real  
India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not  
even the *Hindu Patriot*, in its palmiest days  
under Kripindas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence  
in any way approaching that which was  
soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities,  
his death from pneumonia in the early  
spring in the last year was a distinct and  
heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was  
an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put  
his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist  
becomes worthy of publication; it is more  
rarely still that such a life comes to be written  
by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the  
Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to  
pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus,  
the life of at least one man among Indian  
journalists has been considered worthy of  
being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30,  
1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a  
profund student and an accomplished writer,  
who has left his mark on Indian journalism.  
In that he has found a Civilian like Mr.  
Skrine to record the story of his life he is  
more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal  
himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2,  
1895.

For much of the biographical matter that  
issues so freely from the press an apology is  
needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee,  
the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an  
explanation would have been looked for. A man  
of his remarkable personality, who was easily  
first among native Indian journalists, and in  
many respects occupied a higher plane than  
they did, and looked at public affairs from a  
different point of view from theirs, could not  
be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahmin of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such uncommon interest that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes down the English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading.—*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are models of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unimpaired by national and religious bias.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a young youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more particularly matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter up in his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but presents the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Matony India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it to a small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, and some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality.—*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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OFFICE: 1, Uchoor Duff's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 733.

## THE KING'S HUNT IS UP.

[The following song is given by Mr. Collier in his "Extracts from the Registers of the Stationers' Company." It is supposed to be the production of a writer called Gray, who was held in good estimation by Henry VIII. and the Protector Somerset, "for making certain merry ballads."]

THE hunt is up, the hunt is up,  
And it is well nigh daye,  
And Harry our king is gone hunting,  
To bring his deere to baye.

The east is bright with morning light,  
And darkness it is fled ;  
And the merie horne wakes up the morne  
To leave his idle bed.

Beholde the skyes with golden dyes  
Are glowing all around ;  
The grasse is greene, and so are the treene,  
All laughing at the sound.

The horses snort to be at the sport,  
The dogges are running free ;  
The wooddes rejoyce at the merry noise  
Of hey tantara tee ree.

The sunne is glad to see us clad  
All in our lustie greene,  
And smiles in the skye as he riseth hye,  
To see and to be seene.

Awake all men, I say agen,  
Be merie as you maye,  
For Harry our king is gone hunting,  
To bring his deere to baye.

## ONE TOUCH OF PIGSKIN.

It has been said, and we're prepared the statement to support,  
That racing is essentially a democratic sport.  
Though Prince, or Peer, or commoner its chief rewards may win,  
One touch of pigskin, as it were, makes all the country kin !

And this, no doubt, is why it is the land has lately seen  
A loyal outburst so widespread, so genuine, so keen !  
The people love to see their Prince come down its sports to share,  
And loud his victory acclaim because the fight was fair.  
They know 'twas honestly fought out, clear in the light of day,  
Fought without feint or falsehood in the good old English way ;  
They know that 'twas not money-bags that triumphed in this case—  
The Prince himself had bred the horse which won the classic race.  
When, then, 'tis said his victory has stronger made the throne,  
Right gladly we endorse that view, for 'tis, in fact, our own.  
We, too, believe those hearty cheers that rose from British throats,  
Have spread a loyal impulse from Land's End to John o'Groats.

For what is it the nation finds ? It finds a Prince content  
To occupy himself in ways no censor need resent.  
He does not, like that other Prince across the North Sea's waves,  
Proclaim himself a demi-god and all his people slaves !  
He does not clank his scabbard as he rushes through the land ;  
He does not arrogantly scold or rudely reprimand :  
He does not cram down people's throats opinions they abhor,  
Or stir the army's passions up with whirling words of war !  
No, his is that far safer rôle which finds its work each day  
In tasks of well-arranged routine and innocent display ;  
He, happily, is quite content, discreetly debonair,  
The English people's hopes and aims and favoured sports to share.  
And that's the reason, we repeat, we have not far to seek  
Why all those hats went in the air on Epsom Downs last week ;  
The people cheered, as only those in our free England can,  
Because their Prince has proved himself so true an Englishman !  
—Truth.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE discovery, by Dr. Röntgen, of unknown rays penetrating through opaque substances has been followed by another triumph of photography. Thought-reader must now give way to thought-photographer. In a communication to the Paris Académie de Médecine, Dr. Baraduc affirms that he has succeeded in photographing thought. The process is simple. The person whose working of the brain is to be reproduced enters a dark room, places his hand on a photographic plate, and thinks intently of the object of his thought. It must, however, be stated that most of the photographs taken are very cloudy, a few giving the distinct features of persons and the outlines of things. Dr. Baraduc is confident to produce, at no distant date, a photographic image at a great distance. As an earnest of the extent of the marvel he expects to accomplish, it is related that Dr. Istrate, when going to Campana, declared he would appear on a photographic plate of his friend, M. Hasden, at Bucharest. On August 4, 1893, M. Hasden at Bucharest went to bed with a photographic plate at his feet and another at his head. Dr. Istrate went to sleep at Campana, at a distance of 300 kilomètres from Bucharest, but before closing his eyes he willed with all his might that his image should appear on the photographic plate of his friend. And so it appeared. To outsiders, the plate shews a kind of luminous spot and in its midst a trace of the profile of a man.

\*\*\*

THEY are determined to find out the missing link between man and his progenitors of the forest. It is about two years that Dr. Eugène Dubois, a surgeon in the Dutch army in Java, while stationed in that island, found separately, embedded in a volcanic tufa, covered by a thick deposit of river sand, at a depth of about fifteen yards, a skull, two teeth and a thigh bone. After an examination of these fossils, dark in colour, thoroughly petrified, and embedded in a matrix so solid as to be removed with difficulty, he believed that they formed parts of a form intermediate between man and the higher apes, which he named *Pithecanthropus erectus*. Brought over

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

to Holland, they were examined at Leyden by Professor Virchow, Sir W. H. Fowler, Sir W. Turner, Professor O. C. Marsh and other men of science during the meeting of the International Congress of Zoologists in September last. It is reported that, according to Professor Marsh,

"There cannot be any doubt that the discovery is a real one. The antiquity of the specimens is unquestionable. The deposit has yielded other fossils, which indicate that it was formed in the Pliocene Period—perhaps about the age of the Siwalik beds in India—in which, at present, no human remains have been found. To this period belong the so-called 'Craggs' of our Eastern Counties. The skull is imperfect, the upper portion alone being preserved. In general character it resembles that of the chimpanzee, and still more that of the gibbon. It is distinguished from the skull of the gorilla by the absence of cranial ridges, and from that of the orang-utan by its more elliptical form—in scientific terminology, it is dolichocephalic, while the other is brachycephalic. The diverging roots of the teeth give them a simian aspect, but the crowns are less rugose than in existing anthropoid apes. The femur (a left one) is so like a human femur that the two could only be distinguished by a careful comparison. But the skull also differs materially from that of man. The result of the careful study which has been bestowed on the fragments of *Pithecanthropus* is summed up by the latest investigator substantially in these words—that the various specimens apparently belonged to one individual, that the creature was of the Pliocene age, that it was not human, but represented a form intermediate between man and the higher apes, and that its discovery is an event of the first importance to the scientific world."

AT Christie's, on June 13, eighty-two drawings and pictures belonging to the late Sir Julian Goldsmid, M. P., realized 67,342*l.*, or an average of over 820*l.* each. Of these, nineteen pictures fetched 54,453*l.*, namely,

|                                                                                                                        |     |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| "Expectations," by L. Alma Tadema, R.A.,                                                                               | gs. | 1,950 |
| "Little Speedwell's Darling Blue," by Sir J. E. Millais, P.R.A.,                                                       | ... | 1,400 |
| "A Guarda Costa Riding Out the Gale," by Clarkson Stanfield, R.A.,                                                     | ... | 2,300 |
| "Embarkation of George IV. from Whitehall to open Waterloo Bridge, June 18, 1817," large sketch by J. Constable, R.A., | ... | 2,000 |
| "Rough Sea," by J. M. W. Turner, R.A.,                                                                                 | ... | 2,050 |
| "Rockets and Blue Lights," by Turner,                                                                                  | ... | 3,700 |
| "Frederica Charlotte Catherine Duchess of York," by Sir W. Beechey, R.A.,                                              | ... | 1,400 |
| "Portrait of a Lady," by J. Hoppner, R.A.,                                                                             | ... | 1,100 |
| "Mrs. Oliver and Sleeping Baby on her Lap," by G. Romney,                                                              | ... | 3,100 |
| "Lady Urith Shore," by G. Romney,                                                                                      | ... | 2,000 |
| "Miss Harriet Shore," by G. Romney,                                                                                    | ... | 2,750 |
| "Contemplation: Portrait of Lady Harriet," by G. Romney,                                                               | ... | 1,210 |
| A grand Landscape, view near Bath, by T. Gainsborough, R.A.,                                                           | ... | 3,100 |
| "Dorothea Lady Eden," by same,                                                                                         | ... | 5,000 |
| "Mr. and Mrs. Delaney and Daughter," by same,                                                                          | ... | 2,100 |
| "Charles Manners, fourth Duke of Rutland," by Sir Joshua Reynolds, P.R.A.,                                             | ... | 1,400 |
| "Barbara Countess of Coventry," by same,                                                                               | ... | 3,800 |
| "Hon. Mary Monckton," by same,                                                                                         | ... | 7,500 |
| "Mrs. Mathew," by same,                                                                                                | ... | 4,000 |

\*\*\*

PRINTING machines have been so constructed that they can print, fold, and cut off, after being folded, newspapers, and, when necessary, paste in, as they pass through the machine, supplements being inset. Many newspapers in England, Canada and Australia are printed in Messrs. R. Hoe and Co.'s stereotype web printing and folding machine. A single roll machine will print and fold 4 or 6 page papers at 24,000, and 8 or 12 page papers at 12,000 copies per hour. The largest newspaper presses, the first of their kind, have been built by Messrs. Hoe for the proprietor of the New York *World*. Each of the machines will print, paste, cut, fold, and count 96,000 eight-page papers an hour, or 1,600 a minute. A new process for producing illustrated papers by photography is announced. It dispenses with engravings and "half tone" blocks and even with typography. An exhibition of the process was made at the Royal Society's reception at Burlington House in May last. An account says:—

"Reels of sensitised paper rush through machinery which may be compared in principle with the modern rotary web presses. The place of typographic cylinders is taken by cylinders of transparent 'negative,' illuminated from the inside, which 'print' the sensitised paper with

great rapidity as it passes round them. Thence the web passes through 'developing' and 'fixing' baths, and finally emerges in cut sheets ready for binding. The letterpress is even 'set up' photographically by a kind of type-setting machine so as to produce a negative of each line automatically. It is said that a popular illustrated monthly will, in all probability, be produced by this method before long."

\*\*\*

THE first day's sale of the new half penny morning London paper, the *Daily Mail*, amounted to 397,000 copies. It is said that the proprietor, Mr. Harmsworth, spent more than £2,000 in producing trial numbers of the journal, hundreds of thousands of copies having been printed for the purpose of testing the power, speed, and accuracy of the machines. No fewer than 13 Hoe and Foster rotary machines were at work producing the journal from 2 o'clock in the morning until late in the afternoon, which is claimed as a larger number than has ever been employed on any morning paper in the United Kingdom. It is also said that, as a printed product, the first number was free from fault, and it was out in time for the trains.

...

*Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper* has attained the million circulation.

...

JAPAN is described as a country of the little. The men measure no more than 5ft. 5in., while the women are still smaller. "Japanese trees are dwarfed, and, in fact, all Nature seems to be made in miniature. The chickens are all bantams, and the cats, with their bobtails, look like kittens, while the horses are mere ponies. The houses of the poorer people have but one storey, and the rooms look like those of dolls' houses. The country, though big enough, is pretty rather than grand and you have beautiful bits rather than sublime landscape. It is the same with everything."

"Another striking disillusion is to find the entire absence of colour or architecture, which one associates with the 'far East.' Houses are only built one storey high. This is owing to earthquakes. The average duration of a house in Japan is seven years. No houses are painted. Street after street for miles nothing is found but low, unpainted houses. The effect is not only disappointing but monotonous to a degree of depression. The cities look like busy overgrown villages, without beginning or end. There are no sidewalks and but few horse vehicles. Beautiful colour and architecture do exist, but are the curiosities of the country."

Yet, there is not another country which in modern times made such rapid and remarkable progress as Japan. It beat China in war, and proved itself a Power to be reckoned with by the Powers of the West. Let us now turn from the little Jap the giant-killer to the giant of the far East. Hear what the author, of "Ti-Ping-Tien-Kwoh," the History of the Ti-Ping Revolution writes in his "A Cruise in Chinese Waters":—

"I felt bitterly enough to think that I had given up so much in order to lay my bones in China—that distant, out-of-the-way, outlandish, barbarian country: that remote empire where the compass points south instead of north; where men wear petticoats and women wear trousers; where they shave the head instead of the chin; where pockets are worn outside instead of inside the dress; where bed rooms are on the ground floor instead of up-stairs; where shoes, umbrellas, and lanterns are made of paper; where wooden anchors are used for ships, which are built with square instead of pointed bows; where etiquette commands people to put on the hat instead of take it off; where they write with a paint-brush instead of a pen; where they pray to devils much more earnestly than to gods; where rank and title, instead of being hereditary, is retrospective, and ascends to a man's great-grand-mother, &c., instead of descending to his successors; and where, in fact, not to write a volume of the contrariness and difference to European taste and custom, everything is grotesque, upside down and entirely opposed to Western civilization."

...

IN 1893, a Reading barber obtained £400 damages against the proprietors of the *Hairdressers' Journal* for a libel. Since then the journal published articles imputing that the statement made in the trial were false, and that if the defendants had been allowed to defend the action the result would have been different. This was resented by the barber as a second libel and he recovered another £100 damages from the same defendants.

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.



WE reproduce the despatch of the Secretary of State to the Government of India, regarding the appointment of the Additional Judge to the Madras High Court:—

"I have received the letter of your Government, dated 8th January last, in which the state of the files in the High Court of Madras was discussed. One of the remedies proposed was the enhancement of the pecuniary limit of the City Courts jurisdiction from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 5,000, but your Excellency in Council has accepted the view of the Madras Government, that this would not afford adequate relief, and that an additional Judge is required to enable the High Court to clear off the accumulated arrears. For this purpose such a Judge will be wanted in the opinion of your Government, as well as the Governor in Council for not less than three years, but your recommendation is that one should be appointed substantively by letters patent on the understanding that he will be absorbed on the next vacancy if the state of the files then admit such a reduction. Having given the matter my best attention in Council, I accept your conclusion that a court consisting of the Chief Justice and only four Puisne Judges cannot be expected to dispose of the arrears, and at the same time cope with current business. I also agree that the suggested enlargement of the City Courts jurisdiction would not meet the immediate requirements of the case. The appointment of an additional Judge is the only alternative, and having regard to the considerable period for which his services will be needed and the impossibility of making a temporary appointment by letters patent, I have come to the same conclusion as your Excellency in Council, namely, that the appointment should be made substantively. The constitution of the Court requires that two of its members shall be barristers while two must belong to the Civil Service of India. I hesitate, therefore, to accept your assurance that the additional Judge, whether barrister or civilian, will be absorbed within three years, but I am nevertheless prepared to sanction the appointment on condition that no officiating appointment is to be made without reference to me, except in case of a second Judge taking leave when one Judge is already absent. It will facilitate the disposal of any such reference if a table showing the state of the files both of the High Court and the City Court at the end of each calendar year is transmitted to this office with any explanation necessary for its elucidation as soon after the close of the year as is practicable.

As regards the City Court, I observe that the majority of the High Court Judges, including the Chief Justice, are in favour of its jurisdiction being enlarged, and this was also the opinion expressed by Lord Cross in his despatch of the 7th January 1892, and reiterated in his telegram of the 23rd February 1892. The City Court has now been working for more than three years, and I understand it has proved a success, and is popular with the classes of litigants for whose benefit it was established. I cannot think the proposed extension of its jurisdiction would seriously prejudice the efficiency of the local Bar. All the more important litigation of the presidency town will continue to come to the High Court as heretofore. I therefore request that when an opportunity offers itself, such as the case of the Act of 1892 coming up for amendment in other particulars, it may be taken, unless your Excellency in Council sees any strong reason to the contrary, to give effect also to the proposal to raise the jurisdiction to Rs. 5,000."

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE *Times* strongly appeals to the Government to disregard the argument of its clerks and accountants and reconsider the Suakin decision. Victory by a reduced majority, it says, is sometimes more damaging than defeat and the timely withdrawal from the position taken up would strengthen instead of straining the allegiance of its supporters. The *Times* urges the necessity of defining the Imperial obligations of India.

THAT and all other protests, from all quarters, in India and England, have gone for nought. Reuter tells us it is decided; Egypt fights and India pays. Perhaps, it is wise,—it is well, but not the less a pain; India has no further claim on Old England's justice, India's is the victim, and would be again; her eyeballs burn and thro', but have no tears.

Mr. John Morley's amendment, of which he gave notice on 19th May, that it was not expedient to charge India with any portion of the expenses of the Suakin expedition, was rejected by the House of Commons by 275 against 190 votes. Lord G. Hamilton, in moving his resolution reiterated the arguments used in his despatch of 30th June.

Mr. Morley, in moving its rejection, ridiculed the idea that the presence of the Mahdi at Khartoum endangered the safety of the Suez Canal, and said the adoption of the resolution would cause

discontent, and especially when the Indians saw the case against Her Majesty's Government enunciated in the Viceroy's masterly despatch.

Mr. Maclean seconded Mr. Morley's amendment.

Mr. Baunagri said the charge was unjust, and if adopted would cause discontent which would be impossible to gauge in London. India, he added, had not the remotest interest in Egypt.

Sir A. Scoble and Sir W. Wedderburn both spoke similarly.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach said that what was now proposed by the Government was no more than what was proposed in 1885, but was coupled with a statement of future policy more favourable to India than was ever before made. India, he said, maintained that Egyptian affairs were rather of Imperial than of Indian interest, and he never knew a responsible statesman advance a narrower view. The majority of the Council of the Secretary of State, who were equally entitled with the Government of India to decide such a question, held that but for the Indian Empire England would have no interest in Egypt, and it was therefore just that India should share in the cost of defending that interest.

Although Mr. Morley's amendment was rejected by a majority of eighty-five votes, Lord George Hamilton's resolution was carried by a majority of 146 votes, 252 members having voted in favour, and 106 against it. Twenty-one Unionists, including Messrs. Bowles, Bartley and Gibbs, and leading members connected with India voted with the minority, and five abstained from voting. The entire press except the *Standard* condemns the policy of Government as mean and paltry. The Opposition is exultant at the diminution of the Government majority.

SEVEN members of the India Council were in favour of charging India with the cost of the Suakin Expedition, and four against it, namely, Sir Donald Stewart, Sir James Peile, and Messrs. Robert Hardie and LeMarchant.

IN the House of Commons, on July 6, the Hon. Mr. Brodrick, replying to a question, said that no British Regiment had been ordered to advance to Dongola, but the British Garrison in Egypt was available if the Sirdar requires it. Mr. Balfour, in reply to a question, said that Great Britain was lending some Staff Officers to Egypt free of charge, and was also bearing the cost of the transfer of British to Cairo.

LOBENGULA'S son, Nyamanda, who is an active promoter of the present rebellion, has been chosen King of Matabeleland. Colonel Plumer's column attacked the Matabeles on Sunday last, and after seven hours' fighting expelled them from their position, inflicting a loss of 100 killed, and capturing 3,000 cattle and sheep. The loss on the British side was 23 killed and wounded. The British were at first repulsed, but finally drove the enemy out. The column is returning to Bulawayo. The Friendlies at Bulawayo are becoming restless, and it is greatly feared that they will become disaffected. Numbers of white settlers are quitting Matabeleland, deeming the prospects of a livelihood there poor.

SIR Hercules Robinson has been raised to the Peerage.

DURING the discussion in the House of Commons of the Foreign Office estimates, a debate took place on Crete, in course of which the Hon. Mr. Curzon said: "Neither the Christians nor the Mussalmans in Crete were like lambs, but both suffered from bad Government." Great Britain, he said, had acted in complete concert with the Powers and no British isolated action was intended in that quarter. He also informed the House that the Porte had agreed unconditionally to all the points pressed by the Ambassadors of the Powers. The vigorous action taken by the Foreign Consuls is tending to produce virtual peace in the island.

THE Czar, having recovered from his attack of jaundice, made a State entry, on July 4, into St. Petersburg. The ceremony was very brief and shorn of brilliancy.

A STRONG movement among the Silverites is going on at Chicago in favour of the nomination of Senator Teller, who secured the Republican convention which adopted the gold platform. It is believed

that the dark horse may win. The Goldites maintain their reserve, hoping to gain something from the chaotic condition of the parties. The Chicago Democratic Convention opened on July 7. Mr. Daniels, Silverite nominee, was elected temporary president of the Convention by a majority of 200 over Mr. Hill, Goldite candidate. The platform adopted demands the free and unlimited coinage of silver in the ratio of sixteen to one, and condemns the revival of the McKinley Tariff. The planks regarding the Cuba and Monroe doctrine are not settled.

TWENTY-SIX cases of cholera and nine deaths occurred among the Egyptian troops at Wady Halfa on July 5. Three men of the North Staffords have died, one at Wady Halfa and two in the sanatorium camp at Gemai. The disease has also broken out among the Egyptian troops at Assouan and Korosko. Up to the present five deaths from cholera have occurred among British troops on the Nile. The general health of the troops is excellent.

AN alliance of the Balkan States comprising Servia, Bulgaria and Montenegro has been agreed upon.

THE Berlin press, in bidding farewell to Li-Hung-Chang, are markedly cool, and express disappointment at the absence of any orders on behalf of his Government.

The French Chamber of Deputies has rejected the Income Tax Bill of M. Doumer, Minister of Finance, by a majority of twenty-nine. The Government made the matter a question of confidence.

COL. R. S. S. Boden-Powell, in command of the native levy in the last Ashanti war, in his "Downfall of Prempeh," describes the expedition "a smile and a stick."

THE Government enquiry into the charges of corruption and bribery against a Bengal Deputy Magistrate has resulted in a conviction of the innocence of the Baboo. Good. The service should, however, be above suspicion.

MR. Ebenezer Johnstone Barton, M.A., who came out to India in 1860 as a Bengal Civil Servant and retired in August 1887, is dead. By his will he has left £300 for the school at Jessore where he was Magistrate and Collector. Such legacies are a bond of union between the governors and the governed.

DR. K. N. Bahadurji, the chief native private practitioner, both as regards ability and the extent of practice, in Bombay, devoting himself to Indian Medical reform, is for some time trying his best, as the first instalment of that reform, for the separation of the civil branch of the Indian Medical service from the military. With that view he addressed a meeting in Calcutta, and at a public meeting held in Bombay in April last, he was elected to give evidence before the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure and to place the matter before the British public. Dr. Bahadurji left immediately for England. A letter enclosing copies of the resolutions passed at the Bombay meeting having been forwarded by the Chairman, the Hon'ble Pherozeshah M. Mehta, to Lord Welby, President of the Royal Commission, the Commissioners have requested Dr. Bahadurji "to favour them with a memorandum summarising the evidence which he would propose to put before them, in order that they may be able to judge whether it will be necessary to trouble him to appear personally before them." The subject for investigation by the Commission is a purely financial one, namely, "the administration and management of the civil and military expenditure incurred under the authority of the Secretary of State in Council or of the Government of India," and the Commissioners are doubtful whether the object of Dr. Bahadurji's visit to England fell within the scope of the enquiry. We are sure that, having gone to that extent, the Indian delegate will be able to shew that he is for reform as also for curtailment of expenditure.

LADY Burton, widow of Sir Richard Burton, dying on March 22, left personal estate of the value of 11,766*l*. She made a will bearing date Dec. 28, 1895, leaving various bequests to relatives and ap-

pointing Mr. W. A. Coote, of the National Vigilance Society, and two other persons her literary trustees. They were to publish her autobiography upon which she had been engaged and to continue the publication of her husband's works and not to issue or allow to be issued one coarse or indecent word in connection with her late husband's works. Her executors were further desired, to carry on, at the cost of her estate, any proceedings which might be taken at the instance of the Crown, or the police, or the National Vigilance Society, or, these failing, of the executors themselves, against any person printing or publishing anything objectionable in connection with the works of Sir Richard Burton. As the romantic wife of a romantic husband, she desired that after her doctor had pierced her heart with a needle, a *post mortem* examination should be made and that she should be embalmed in order that her body might be kept above ground by the side of her husband in the mausoleum tent at Mautlake. She also directed that she had bought adjoining the tent a vault for four bodies, and that two places were to be reserved in order that if a revolution should occur in England that arrived at the desecration of the dead, the coffins of herself and her husband might be lowered into the vault.

THE doctrine of *sub judice*, held in such reverence and horror, instead of being an aid, is an obstruction to justice. It excludes information and discussion which may materially assist an enquiry. It is not always possible for parties in a case to hunt up all available evidence. If, therefore, it be the object to arrive at the truth, it is folly to shut out outside criticism. A tolerant interpretation of the doctrine was given in the recent Muswell Hill murder trial. On an application for a rule calling upon the printers and publishers of the *Daily Mail* and the *Sketch* to shew cause, why, for having published a paragraph commenting on the pending trial, they should not be committed for contempt of court, the Lord Chief Justice of England refused it on the grounds that to discuss the paragraph in court would be to increase its prejudicial effect, and that there was no ground for imputing any malice to the writers, or for supposing that they had the least intention to prejudice the fair trial of the defendants. He, however, was not entirely free from the prejudice of the doctrine, and accompanied his refusal with the intimation to those charged with providing news for the benefit of the nation, that it was their duty as well to give no currency to statements and comments which might be prejudicial to any person awaiting trial, or in regard to any matter which might be awaiting adjudication in a court, whether civil or criminal. He further gave the warning that any attempt on the part of any journalist to infringe that rule would be promptly visited with punishment. We may add that the very large powers which the courts claim, ought to be a safeguard against their free and constant exercise so long as the doctrine is not knocked on the head.

THE Judges of the High Courts in India are not decked in wigs and the native Judges of the Bengal High Court have for sometime done away with the dignified turband. The Vakils too find it an inconvenience if not a disgrace to carry the *shamla* on their head when addressing the Court. Most of them cut their hair small and cover only half their head. This too interferes with the free flow of argument. The Vakils' Association, therefore, opened the current official year with an application to the Judges for permission to wear stuff gowns and to discard the *pagri*.

A GENTLEMAN thief, a Chakravarti, was sentenced, on Wednesday, by a Bench of Honorary Magistrates, in the Calcutta Police Court, to one year's rigorous imprisonment. He was caught while he had just extracted a silver watch with gold chain from the breast pocket of another gentleman, a Bauerjee, in the Court of the first Judge of the Small Cause Court. The respectable pick-pockets are on the increase. They are a pest to society and deserve to be severely punished. At a preliminary marriage feast in a native house, at the last marriage season, a doctor was relieved of his watch and chain by this gang. They equally made themselves free with the gold watch and chain of an editor at a prize distribution in one of the educational institutions presided over by the Lieutenant-Governor. The Police seems powerless to put them down. An occasional detection or punishment cannot extinguish the species. At a marriage party, three of these were subjected to the punishment reserved for thieves by society, on their being detected, not in the commission of any offence but as of the notorious band.

A EUROPEAN Salvationist, William Brodie, charged with the murder of a native at a village in the Ahmednagar district, and found guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, has been sentenced by the Bombay High Court sessions to seven years' imprisonment.

A SELF-STYLED saviour, a Mahomedan, calling himself Atwaddhar Paramahansa, much greater than the divine Rinkristo, after creating a stir at Howrah, Santagachi and Calcutta, and making many followers, has made himself scarce. We read in the papers of the establishment, in Calcutta, from the commencement of this month, of an educational institution bearing his name. It seems he is not to be forgotten though he has left under a cloud, and is to be forgiven for the outrages committed under the cloak of religion. The Mahomedan Paramhansa prescribed not only for salvation of souls and cure of bodies but possessed more than divine power. There appeared an *avatar* in Nadia to bring back the dead. In the same district, there is a dual divinity, the very sight of which in the Bengali mouth of Jeyt secures a Hindu wife immunity from widowhood. The run-away Swami professed the power to prolong human life.

ANOTHER *Bhagawan*, an incarnation of the deity, with 15 followers, has been lodged in jail for preaching sedition. Last year, in a small hamlet, named Chalkad, in Thana Tamar, some 50 miles from Rauchi and close to the border of Singhbhum, one Birsa Mandul, a young man of the cultivator class and a resident of Chalkad, assumed the god and proclaimed to the people that his mission was to deliver them from all woes and to establish his own Raj to the supersession of the British. Every day he would climb the roof of his house, and from that eminence, after beating a pair of cymbals, call out: "I am the earth and your father. There will be showers of fire and rain except within the limits of these two rivers, where people may be saved. Those who do not come within will not be saved; my Raj has commenced and that of the Sircar is at end. If the Government will oppose me their guns will turn to wood, and their powder to water. No one is now to obey the Government, but all must obey me. No one is to pay rent to any one but to me, to have their lands rent-free." He gained a number of followers. The Deputy Commissioner of Lohardagga would not tolerate the nonsense. He held a trial and for inciting rebellion sentenced Birsa and 15 of his men to terms of imprisonment varying from two to two and-a-half-years and fines of Rs. 20 and Rs. 50. The Judicial Commissioner of Chota-Nagpur upheld the conviction and sentence, and when there was an application to the High Court for admission of an appeal, Justices O'Kinealy and Banerji refused it. Birsa was more a political agitator than a religious teacher. There is a feeling that he ought to have been put under a Lunacy doctor before being placed under trial or the sentence on him being finally confirmed. The order being passed, let us hope he was as cool as his Judges and that he deserved his fate.

THE Veiled Prophet of Nadia, whose doings we chronicled in our issue of the 22nd February last, is still the observed of all observers.

WE read in the *Army and Navy Gazette* :—

"The illustrated weekly papers furnished by admirable artists like Melton Prior, Sidney P. Hall, C. E. Fripp, Montbard F. Dadd, &c., on the spot with sketches which convey with a force and precision which the descriptive efforts of the best writers cannot possess, the actualities of the events on which the public interest is engaged, deserve great credit for their enterprise, and the public in general take little thought of the trouble and difficulties which the artists encounter in their mission any more than they care about the expenditure which is needed in connection with them; but we confess that we are a little tired of 'Buluwayo' and its heroes and such incidents as 'five scouts clearing out twenty-three natives,' which seems to be shooting them down in a river with perfect impunity like so many cattle. So they may be, but the feats of the butcher are not subjects for an artist's pencil. In contrast to such an exhibition of a human battue, we have 'The Married Ladies' Quarters' in Buluwayo and a drawing of 'The Crow's Nest' in that famous capital, which represents a crowd of women and men with glasses, as if they were on the grand stand at a race meeting. *Basta!* And so of kraal burning and impi hunting. Let the Matabele be overcome, but save some of them to work for you."

Butchery and extirpation of natives seem to be parts of colonizing and empire-founding. It is bad enough to publish overdrawn pictures of barbarous cruelty to inflame and excite vengeance. It is worse to

paint in glowing colours the savagery of civilization—killing men like cattle, unless such scenes are intended to shew up the barbarity, which, in the present instance, they seem not to be. The *Gazette's* gentle protest, though indicating a proper attitude of mind, is not a sufficient condemnation of the vicious taste pandering to depraved feelings.

MR. F. W. Maclean, Queen's Councillor and a Master in Lunacy, has been appointed to succeed Sir Comer Petheram as Chief Justice of the Bengal High Court.

THE three Mahomedans found guilty, last week, at the criminal sessions, of kidnapping a Hindu girl wife and of abetment of the same offence, were sentenced, on Monday, to six months' imprisonment each. The Chief Justice thought there were extenuating circumstances to make the punishment light. The trial of Dwarkanath Gupta on the prosecution of Messrs. Ralli Brothers on charges of abetment of forgery, abetment of dishonestly using as genuine forged documents, and for cheating and thereby dishonestly inducing delivery of property, lasted for full three days. Mr. Dunne, Officiating Standing Counsel, and Mr. J. G. Woodroffe prosecuted and Mr. Allen and Mr. Knight defended the prisoner. Along with Dwarkanath, his son, Susil Chunder, was committed for the same offences, the counts numbering 14. On the application of Mr. Jackson, Sir Comer Petheram decided to try the two prisoners separately. On Thursday, in the forenoon, the Jury, without retiring, returned a unanimous verdict of not guilty in respect of the two counts on which only evidence had been given. Mr. Moumohun Ghose was counsel for the son. On the discharge of the father, the prosecution offered no evidence and a formal verdict of not guilty was recorded. After lunch, the same day, the murder case was taken up. Mr. Dunne and Mr. Swinhoe represented the Crown, while Mr. Allen, Mr. Dobbin and Mr. Gregory appeared for the three prisoners, who all pleaded not guilty. Seven Europeans and two Bengalis were empanelled as special jurors. There was not a single challenge. Yesterday, on account of rheumatism, the Chief Justice was unable to attend Court, and the trial commenced *de novo* before Mr. Justice Rampini.

THE hearing of the charge of defamation against Mr. D. M. Gasper of the *Sunday Times*, arising out of the Stewart-Culloden case pending before Mr. Pearson, has been postponed to Tuesday, the 21st. The Chief Magistrate was unwilling to take it up himself until the main case had been finished. If the prosecutor objected to the delay, Mr. Pearson said, the case would be made over to the Bench. The prospect was not, evidently, agreeable, and, on consent of both parties, the order for adjournment was made.

THE numbers on relief works in the N.W. Provinces have fallen to 48,000 and the village relief works are fast closing.

LAST week, the deaths in Calcutta numbered 222 against 236 and 241 in the two previous weeks. Cholera carried away 23 and there was no death from small-pox.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, July 11, 1896.

### WATER SUPPLY IN BENGAL,

OR

#### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRIVATE LIBERALITY.

THE circular letter of the Government of Bengal to Commissioners of Divisions on the subject of water supply presents points that demand serious discussion. Mr. Secretary Risley begins by stating that, although the scarcity, induced by the continued absence of rain for three years, has to some extent been exaggerated in both official and non-official literature, yet there can be no doubt that large tracts of country may, in years of unusual drought, be in real danger of a serious and wide-spread water famine producing considerable distress and even loss of life. The Government is aware of the fact that a failure of drinking water for both men and cattle is more difficult to deal with than a failure of food-

crops. A break-down of water supply comes suddenly upon us, without, indeed, any such warning as a rise in prices in a scarcity of food-supply. There is, again, no accumulated stock of water to draw upon; nor, if there were, could water be conveyed on a large scale to the distressed area, or at a cost equal to that of the transport of food grains in a season of famine. Then, also, in an abnormally dry season, even if pure water does not fail outright, there is the certainty of people being forced to resort to polluted tanks and wells. Disease, therefore, in all its manifold shapes, is sure to break out at such times. Fully alive as the Bengal Government is to these considerations, it does not require to be told that, to initiate effective action, the question must be dealt with systematically. What is wanted, therefore, is a definite scheme for permanent results, and not a suggestion for temporary relief. Sir Alexander Mackenzie accordingly has ordered an enquiry how far municipalities and villages containing more than 100 houses possess an adequate supply of wholesome drinking water and how to meet the requirements. This is a practical commencement. The existing state of things must be definitely probed before launching into remedial measures. Sir Alexander Mackenzie does not require to be told how difficult it is to ensure correctness of work in this line. There are tanks and tanks, and wells and wells. Second-hand information should not be relied upon, nor should ignorant chowkidars and head-constables or writer-constables be told off for the duty. Statistics gathered perfunctorily are always worse than useless, being, in fact, positively mischievous.

It goes without saying that the task of giving Bengal a perennial supply of pure water is a heavy one, and that a very large expenditure will be required before even appreciable results are produced. We need not wait for statistics for coming to this conclusion. The existing sources towards that end are private liberality, loans under the Land Improvement Act, funds raised by Union Committees under section 18 of the Local Self-Government Act, and lastly the Road cess. Sir Alexander Mackenzie believes that all these sources are insufficient, taken singly or collectively. Even if the receipts from Road cess be increased by such supplemental sources of revenue as pounds, ferries, education, and medicine, the District Boards will not still be in a position to do anything for water supply. This is, no doubt, a very desponding view of the situation. We think, however, that Sir Alexander Mackenzie is not wholly right. The source of private liberality, in a country like India, is not to be despised, particularly when there are religious incentives for awakening it into commendable activity. It is admitted that in times past, land-owners of all grades were active in increasing the supply of drinking water all over the country, and that a large proportion of existing

tanks and wells is due to their munificence. The religious sentiment which inspired these works has, it is said, become weaker than it was. The forced labour also by which many of these were executed is no longer available under the altered state of things brought about by mass education on the one hand and curtailment of the powers of land-owners by the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. Then, again, more ostentatious forms of benevolence have come into fashion, seriously competing with local works of charity. We believe the Government estimate of the force of every one of these reasons is open to correction. The incentive derived from repeated injunctions of the Hindu Scriptures, though weakened by the godless education of our schools and colleges, has not been weak to the extent imagined. English education has touched as yet a very small portion of the population. There are land-owners in the mofussil, of both sexes, who still believe, as their ancestors did in their days, that of all forms of piety, the excavation of tanks and wells, and their dedication, with proper religious rites, to the use of men and beasts treading on land and of feathery creatures ranging the air, are productive of considerable merit both here and hereafter. The sentiment is not wholly dead that made Maharaja Kirti Chandra Bahadur of Burdwan pardon, and reward with re-employment, a superior official of his establishment, who had embezzled a large sum of money, upon learning that the man had spent the whole of it in excavating a large tank in his native village. The time has not come when imitators, however few, cannot be found of the grandfather of the late Babu Prankristo Chowdhury of Chandernagore,—the first patron of the Bengali poet Bhárat Chandra,—who, casually over-hearing in course of a journey the complaint of certain village matrons about the distance from which they had to fetch water for domestic purposes, dug a tank covering an area of about a hundred biggahs, in the village called Nashibpore within half a dozen miles of Serampore along the road leading to Seakhala and Pátul. The fact is, the sentiment is still in existence in the Bengali mind. Unfortunately, certain circumstances to which we shall presently refer have combined to keep it in a dormant state. Statesmanship is required to awaken it into a living force. Those circumstances have their origin in the alteration that has come over our manner of living. The citadel of conservatism has surrendered to the forces of civilisation. Tastes have been imbibed that are costly to gratify. There have been improvements in food and drink, dress and manner of locomotion, the houses we live in, and the furniture we need for comfort and luxury. A hundred years ago, the personal expenses of a millionaire in the mofussil came up to a figure so low that it would not suffice to-day for an ordinary gentleman of the middle class, not forgetting the change that the rupee itself has undergone in value. The houses that sheltered our grand-sires,—those, that is, who witnessed the political revolution in Bengal,—were for the most part of bamboo and grass. Or, if made of brick and mortar, they were so low and ill-ventilated, with their bull's eye apertures doing duty for windows and door-frames seldom going beyond five feet six in height, that nobody would now think of willingly passing a week within them. Look at the quantity of Burma teak that is now annually consumed in the construction of houses! Look at the quantity of Sylhet

#### **The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.**

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.  
(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Wednesday, the 15th Inst., at 5 P.M. *Subject*: Properties of Matter.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Friday, the 17th Inst., at 7 P.M. *Subject*: Heat; its Effects.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

*Honorary Secretary.*

July 11, 1896.



lime that is sold at Calcutta for use in the same direction! Look at the department of upholstery or of tailoring. What changes, what costliness, have come over within a few decades! Formerly, carriages and cabs were a luxury with a very few. They have now become a necessity with most. Our people are fast losing the power of walking long distances without fatigue, for which many of them were formerly noted. The introduction of tram-cars with their cheap fares has already made walking a vulgar exercise or the sure indication of an absence of respectability. Add to the expenses incurred in these various directions, the costs of education and medicine. School fees with the price of stationery and books for a single child belonging to the middle class, would come up to a figure really startling to compare with what was incurred by a wealthy zemindar a century, or a century and a half ago, upon a dozen lads of his family. The charges of the doctor, for attendance and drugs, on a single patient, killed or cured, reach a total that sufficed to remunerate a Kavi-raj of the last century for attendance upon and medication of a whole family of invalids from year's end to year's end. Consider next the expenses of marrying the daughters of respectable families. There has been such a rapid increase of expenditure in this direction that the fear is almost legitimate that if the leaders of society do not move in time, the day will soon come when the birth of a daughter in a family of gentle blood will be looked upon as an unmitigated curse. Without pursuing the subject further, we do not hesitate to say that it is this enormous increase of expenditure in every direction, and not a real weakening of the religious sentiment that stands as a stumbling block in the way of private liberality effecting anything considerable towards gratifying the almost universal want in Bengal of good drinking water in seasons of unusual drought.

The suggestion that land-owners in past times had recourse to impressment for executing works of this kind, can scarcely be supported by authentic history. Our own information, derived from careful enquiry, is that the large tanks with which a considerable portion of Bengal, that is to this day known by the name of *Rarh*, is dotted, were excavated during seasons of scarcity, when labour, cheap as it always was, was very much cheaper. The usual rate of remuneration was one cowrie (one-eightieth of a pice) for one basketful of earth raised. Notwithstanding the Famine Code, famine has not become a thing of the past with us. On the other hand, failure of food crops, total or partial, comes upon us more frequently, or at shorter intervals. The price of labour at such seasons goes down, and land-owners, if so minded, can avail themselves of such cheapness for works of this kind on a large or small scale. That the desire is not cherished, is due to the same circumstances that have conspired to partially deaden the religious incentive. Besides those already mentioned, there are others that are connected with what Mr. Risley happily adverts to as the introduction among the people of more ostensible forms of benevolence. Local fame, even when obtainable, no longer satisfies our countrymen. To cite a telling instance that will be remembered by many: a nazim of the Jeypore durbar could not visit his poor *alma mater* at Chinsura and promise, instead of immediately paying down as most people would have done, the magnificent contribution of Rs. 10 in aid of its funds, without his friends trumpeting forth the deed of charity through letters

published in more than one cheap print of the day. Then, again, by the side of land-owners and money-lenders of note, contributing, amid circumstances of widespread publicity, thousands of rupees to some scheme devised by some eminent official and nursed by others of his class with whom his relations are cordial, and rewarded for those very contributions with honours equal to those of the famous houses of Burdwan and Krishnagore, another, even when he has the means, does not feel disposed to spend a few hundreds on such a prosaic and dull object as a tank for the benefit of a few hundreds of his fellow beings. Even if noticed by the "especial" of some inferior print, the circumstance fails to excite any interest among neighbours or abroad. Fully sensible as the Lieutenant-Governor is of the change that has come over the spirit of charity in Bengal, it is not necessary to dilate on the point further.

It would be the height of folly to hold the present administration responsible for the change of which we speak. The inevitable tendency of civilisation is to multiply the comforts of life and make living expensive by creating a taste for them. It is a mistake to suppose that Manchester cloths and Birmingham cutlery are forced upon a people by the thunder of British iron-clads. People have only to see in order to like them, and liking them they must exert for having them. Apart, however, from this necessary increase of expenditure which an improvement in tastes must bring with it, and for which administrative agencies can never be held responsible, there is this much for which one may honestly contend that, for the change that has come over the direction of national charity in Bengal, or, for that matter, in India, the responsibility solely rests with the Government of the country. Englishmen frequently forget that India, in spite of her railways and telegraph wires, and telephone cords, and irrigation canals, and steamers and flats propelled by steam, is still a primitive country. The time has not come for the introduction here of the latest ideas of western reformers. Hundreds of wants, more immediate and imperious, stare one in the face, than those which are prominently brought before the view under official inspiration or encouragement. Where the main body of the people are in want of such a necessary of life as a copious supply of water, a costly sanatorium on a Himalayan peak for a few invalids or restless spirits on the spree, or a widespread organisation engulfing lakhs upon lakhs of rupees for providing women with medical attendants of their own sex, or any other institution whose existence is justifiable more on sentimental than practical reasons and which swallows up the available charity of the land without returning a corresponding benefit, must be held to be pure luxuries. If all these be swept away tomorrow, nobody will be a loser for it, except, perhaps, some enthusiasts that live upon their hobbies. It is open to Sir Alexander Mackenzie to inaugurate a wholesome reform in this direction. Let but the word be spoken that titular distinctions, in Bengal at least, shall no longer be conferred for expenditure on projects of luxury, within six months perceptible results will have been achieved in the direction most needed. The excavation and re-excavation of tanks and wells will begin in right earnest. The religious sentiment, aided by the stimulus of ambition, will promptly accomplish what the State can never hope to do by even a liberal grant in the budget every year. District officers

should be instructed to mix more largely than now with Hindu and Mussulman magnates within their respective jurisdictions. With a knowledge, at once first-hand and accurate, of the requirements of the people such as the projected statistics cannot fail to furnish, Magistrates and Collectors will be able to do much in the way of suggestion and advice.

### NOTICE OF BOOKS.

*Kavi-Kunja*, composed by Amvika Charan Mukerjee, B.A., B.L., published by Atul Krishna Goswamin, from 11, Mahendranath Goswamin's Lane, Simla, Calcutta.

This is, as its name suggests, a collection of poems on various subjects. Bound in pleasing yellow, it consists of 241 pages. The get-up is not bad, considering the price. The short preface tells us that the book is given to the reading public not by the author himself, but by one of his *quondam* pupils charmed by the pieces it contains. In these days when so many immature writers wish to see their compositions in print, one cannot sufficiently commend the author for his unwillingness to appear before the public although many of his pieces are unquestionably specimens of good poetry.

The chief characteristics of the pieces, as they appear at the first sight, are lucidity of thought, sweetness of versification, naturalness of description, and the power of drawing lessons of deep import from common things. Nowadays, mysticism, or rather, unintelligibility, determines the excellence of Bengali poetry. Bengali Byrons and Scotts, without at all displaying the qualities of Byron and Scott, liberally indulge in the mysticism of Shelley and Wordsworth. In imitating, our poets imitate only this and other faults. In their English exemplars there is mysticism or incoherency of idea alone, but in the Bengali poets there is a mysticism of language also. We are glad to see that Babu Ambika Charan is not guilty of the usual vice of his contemporaries. His meaning can always be got with ease. The melody of his lines is almost faultless. His descriptions, again, are not unoften charming.

The pieces, in the present collection, can be distributed under three heads: Original compositions, Adaptations, and Translations. In some of the original pieces the author bewails the loss of a dear wife. A deep tone of grief pervades them. Coming out of the heart, these expressions of a passion, really felt, are sure to be pronounced beautiful by every reader of feeling. They betray the keen sense of personal loss that sometimes reminds us of passages in Tennyson's *In Memoriam*. Some of the pieces have the same passion, though not the same metaphysical tone and consolatory balm as those of Tennyson. They have not the sustained scorn of Shelley's *Adonais*, nor the cold, tender regret of Milton's *Lycidas*. Compared to Milton's sonnet to the Memory of his second wife, one cannot but say that Milton's lamentation, full of classical and mosaic allusions, is, to a great extent, unnatural. Babu Ambika Charan's lamentations are more natural because they are the outpourings of a heart really pierced and lacerated. It redounds to the sincerity of the poet that, as a husband, he has not married again. His loss being irreparable, his ideal pleasure, in his own words, will be,—

“Bhāviyā bhāvanā tār,  
Sudhiva premer dhār,

and

“Kāmanā kicchui nāi,  
Kevala ihāi chāi,  
Jwaliyā jwaliyā kari jivan yāpan.”

The anguish here is keener than what is expressed by the line “I waked, she fled, and day brought back my night.”

His reason, for not marrying, is thus expressed in his own fine lines,—

“Bālyera pranaya, hāya,  
Bhulā ki kakhana yāya,  
Bādiyācche se pranaya hridayera sanc ;  
Misiyā sonita sange,  
Pasiyācche ange ange,  
Chāhileyi bhulihāre pāri vā kemane ?

“Yatane bhāviyā āni  
Premera murati khāni,  
Hridaya sonite tāre karecchi poshana ;  
Aji tāra singhāsane,  
Vasāiyā anya janc,  
Vale kinā se murati dite visarjjana ?”

Intellectual giants are not unoften seen to be moral pigmies. We have seen men held to be learned and wise, rushing in old age to bring another bride before the time of mourning ends. To them the poet gives this golden advice:—

“Ye jana hārāya nidhi,  
Puna ki re tāre vidhi,  
Sāgara sinchile tādā milāya kakhana ?  
Lobhe yevā punarāya,  
Sāgara sinchite yāya,  
Bhāle tāra kālakuta mile re takhana.”

Space does not permit us to show the excellence of all such pieces. We cannot refrain from saying that his address to his motherless boy is quite original and full of tenderness.

Some of the original pieces are occasional, as the “Vivaha Upahara.” It is a worthy present by a poet to a friend. Who will not be pleased by the healthy view of woman's heart the poet takes? That heart, the poet says, is like the deep ocean, whose caves bear full many a gem of the purest ray serene.

The “Surya-Mandala,” or encomium on the well-known Tarak Chandra Paramanik of Calcutta, is not, we are sorry to say, above mediocrity. It has all the exaggerations which characterise the general run of Bengali odes of this kind. The “Prabhata-Gau” finely paints the morning scene and the patriotic feelings of an Indian author. The “Trisrotā-Tira” or “on the banks of the Trisrotā,” betrays, no doubt, considerable capacity for describing nature. But morals drawn at every step mar the beauty of the poem. “To the Magician” is a fine specimen of its kind. The poet shows that the world, its flowers, bees, birds, the evening sky, women, boys, &c., &c., are all great magicians. The delineation of the charms that women and boys have, reveals the author's psychological insight. The “Kamini Kusum,” too, is a fine little bit. The poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling, sees in the most humdrum objects qualities unseen by others. Who does not see the sun shine in the heavens every day, and who does not breathe the perfumes the air brings? Yet Vyasa draws a truth of deep import from these commonest of occurrences. He makes use of these to illustrate the silence with which the good man does his work.

Abruban bāti surabhirgandhah sumanasām suchih,

Tathavavyāgharan bhātī vimalo bhānuramvare.

“Wafting the breath of sweet spring flowers,

Softly the breezes blow ;

In silence, too, the bright sun showers

His rays on all below :

And thus they bless the passing hours,

Without parade or show.”

(Rendered by Mr. O. C. Dutt, in the *National Magazine* of December, 1893.)

No wonder, therefore, that Babu Ambika Charan sees in *Kamini* flowers, the virtues of chaste ladies. As to his “Vidhava-Vivaha,” he is not for the remarriage of widows and, therefore, he is an opponent of Pandit Vidyasagar. The gist of his argument is that widow-marriage strikes at the root of that sacred *Pāṭivratya* which is the glory of India. The land of Bharata has never hankered after carnal pleasure. The legislation of the Rishis essayed to ennoble the soul. The very sovereignty of Heaven—the status of Indra—was pronounced by them to be hell. Their ideal of felicity is much higher. It is nothing less than absorption into the Supreme Soul and attainment of Immortality. Why are our so-called social reformers so bent upon securing the gratification of the “secondary appetites” of human nature? The late Bankim Chandra Chatterjee refuted Pandit Vidyasagar by using a similar argument. There are keener and more unbearable miseries around us. Vidyasagar's heart melted only at the thought of the misery felt by widows,—a misery that is scarcely a subject for agitation. The reason why the Pandits could not maintain the field against Vidyasagar, for he is believed to have scored a triumph against them, is that they argued neither from sentiment nor from common sense. The question was discussed from only the scriptural point of view. They tried to twist in their favour the meaning of the celebrated couplet of Parasara by dialectical acuteness. They could not urge Bankim's arguments. To them it was nothing that the number of women in India exceeds that of men several times, whence widow-marriage would rob virgins of husbands. This is not the place to raise the discussion. But we are sure that any one who reads the piece on this subject in the volume before us will pronounce the poet's sentiments to be correct. The poet does not reason. It must be borne in mind that the sphere of poetry is not the same as that of polemic discussion.

The two long pieces “on the marriage of Rati” and “the Self-choice of Saudamini” cannot be reviewed within the space we have at command. We can unhesitatingly say that they are not unworthy of Babu Ambika Charan's genius.

Of the adaptations, that of Goldsmith's *Hermit* is not so fine as that of Kalidasa's sloka---

Casing saha yāti kaumudi,  
Saha meghena tadit praliyate ;  
Pramadā pativartmagā iti  
Pratipannam hi vichetanairapi.

Those of three unclaimed slokas in the four last pages of the volume are excellent.

The translations from various celebrated Sanskrit poets are all well executed. As they are done in verse, they could not but be free. But this enhances their charm, for the curse of Babel, it should be remembered, has fallen with peculiar heaviness on poets.

#### OUR LONDON LETTER.

June 19, 1896.

*Imperial Parliament.*---*House of Lords.* Since my last, Lord Salisbury has delivered two important speeches, one on our position in Egypt, the other on Dr. Jameson. In the former he laid down, with his wonted lucidity, our exact policy in the forward movement to Dongola. Dongola is our present objective, and Sir H. Kitchener---the Sirdar of the Egyptian army---has a free hand to act as he deems proper. So far the victory of Firket, and the occupation of Suada, have raised the military reputation of the Sirdar. At Dongola there is to be a pause, but Lord Salisbury was careful to explain that financial considerations only prevented an immediate advance to Khartoum. Once the Egyptian and British flags are floating on the battlements of Khartoum, it will be felt the base and ignominious abandonment of the illustrious Gordon has been avenged.

As to Dr. Jameson, Lords Ripon, Kimberley, and Rosebery were anxious to force the hand of the Government, as to the enquiry promised by Mr. Chamberlain in the House of Commons. But Lord Salisbury resented any action that would at present imperil Jameson's chances of a fair trial, and it passes belief that the three noblemen I have named should, for the sake of a party manœuvre, suggest any step so thoroughly foreign to the innate love of Englishmen to see fair play.

You will see Jameson and five of his officers have been committed for trial by Sir John Bridge---the chief magistrate of London. The other nine have been liberated, and it is said they return at once to Bulway to assist in restoring order in Matabeleland.

It was very like Jameson's heroic nature that he instructed his Counsel, Sir Edward Clarke, to say he accepted the entire responsibility, and that he alone was answerable for any infraction of the law that may be brought home to him.

*House of Commons.*---Things are not working smoothly. On Monday Mr. Balfour called a meeting of his supporters at the Foreign Office which was attended by between 300 and 400 Unionists. He explained the impossibility of prolonging the session beyond the week ending the 14th August, and the strong repugnance the Government felt to carry the Education Bill by "closure by compartments," although they had the baneful precedent set by Mr. Gladstone in order to carry his now defunct Home Rule Bill. What then was to be done? The proposal is that when the House rises in August, there should be a simple adjournment to about the 13th of January, when its whole time would be given for six or seven weeks to the Education Bill. Neither the "Times" nor the "Standard" approves this arrangement. But the bulk of the Unionist members see in it the only way of being extricated from the impasse into which things have drifted. Undoubtedly there are obvious disadvantages. During the recess the Opposition orators will endeavour to rouse the enthusiasm of their supporters, by every means that malice and misrepresentation can suggest. But, personally, I think this evil may be exaggerated. The country is sound at bottom. It has no sympathy with such a motley crew as now forms H. M.'s Opposition. Of the main portion one half follows Lord Rosebery, the other Sir W. Harcourt. Then there are the "Little Englanders" led by that pattern of all the domestic virtues, Sir Charles Dilke, and his dear friend Mr. Labouchere. The Irish party is split up into three sections. The Dillonites, the Healyites, and the Parnellites, all mutually hating one another and devoting their whole energies to tripping one another up on the floor of the House. To me it seems Mr. Redmond, the leader of the Parnellites, is the most honest among them. Mr. Healy far and away the ablest, and poor Mr. Dillon, in India, would be called a veritable skunk.

There can be little doubt much of the present confusion is due to Mr. Balfour himself. He is apparently not a "heaven-born leader." He is a man of great gifts and of a most genial temperament. Moreover he has the advantage of being exceedingly popular,

not only with his own followers, but also with members of the regular Opposition. It must never be forgotten he is placed in circumstances of singular difficulty, from having no regular Opposition, led by one responsible man, to deal with. Hitherto the Glandstonian or Radical party has, as a rule, acted as a uniform Parliamentary party, welded together under one common leader. The Government of the day has then only to deal with this leader, and, on the whole, the business of the House, in such circumstances, moves along steadily and smoothly. Full opportunities are afforded the Opposition for the discussion of imperial questions, but all is arranged in a spirit of "give and take," behind the Speaker's chair, between the leader of the House and the leader of the Opposition. All this is changed now, and changed very much for the worse, and to the detriment of the business of the country.

Sir Vernon Harcourt cannot answer for the "Little Englander" party, or "independent Radicals." They form a contemptible "rump" and are led by a man whose moral character is held in contempt by every member of the House. All admit his great ability and his power of application. But he committed political suicide when he had to appear some years ago in as scandalous a case as has ever disgraced the records of the Divorce Court. But he has "political gnats and mosquitoes" at his disposal, men of very humble birth, who are proud to lick the shoes of a live Baronet! This is a party contemptible in numbers, but not in ability. On the evening of Monday---the day of the great Unionist meeting at the Foreign Office---Sir Charles Dilke, without consulting Sir V. Harcourt, put forward his parasite, Mr. Dalziel, to move the adjournment which succeeded in wasting two hours of precious time. Then on Tuesday Sir V. Harcourt, Sir H. Fowler, and Mr. Asquith were the culprits, delivering long-winded second reading, instead of short business-like Committee speeches. All this serves the purposes of obstruction, and yet they would be very indignant if any member of the Unionist party so accused them. This is a matter of grave public scandal. It enhances the tremendous difficulties of the Government, but, what is of infinitely more serious consequence, it inevitably tends to bring the "mother of Parliaments" into contempt as a business assembly. There are still considerable misgivings as to the course suggested by Mr. Balfour, of hanging up the Education Bill in the course of a week or ten days, to be resumed in a January session. The "Times" is very outspoken. "The course decided upon by ministers avoids immediate difficulties, but it prepares greater troubles in the future. \* \* If the Government persevere in this course, so much of the Education Bill will remain over for consideration when the session is resumed in January, that there will be little hope of carrying, at the best, more than a small fraction of the Bill \* \* If the measure were relieved of its non-essential provisions and were pressed forward before everything else, if there were a resolution to meet, if necessary, at the end of October and to carry the Bill through, if possible, before Christmas, we believe the Government would have no reason to complain of want of spirit on the part of their adherents. \* \* The discussion in Committee will be resumed today (Wednesday) upon the first line of the first sub-section of the first clause, to which there are over 16 pages of amendments still to be considered. At this rate it may well be that the second clause will hardly be entered upon when the time is reached at the end of next week for 'breaking off' to use Mr. Balfour's phrase, the Committee upon the Bill in order to make such progress as the Opposition will deign to permit with other business."

*The United States.*---It would require a singularly gifted man to follow the ins and outs of the Presidential election. As you know politicians in the States are divided into Republicans and Democrats. As a preliminary step each party holds a grand caucus to determine the choice of a candidate. On this occasion the Republicans meet at St. Louis, and the Democrats at Chicago. The former have been holding their session this week. It is acknowledged on all hands they will eventually carry their candidate and oust Mr. Cleveland from the White House at Washington. Hence the great importance of their nomination. The ground has shifted from day to day, but yesterday's news seems to point to the triumph of Mr. McKinley, the author of the celebrated protection tariff. He has adroitly been keeping himself in the background, leaving to other men to speak for him. The great bone of contention is the question of the currency---How to pronounce a definite policy that will satisfy the monometallist, without disgusting the silverites. Dancing on the tight rope, or crossing Niagara Falls on a rope, seem ludicrously simple, compared to the difficulty of drawing up a Republican "plank."

In the end the following declaration was adopted: "The Republican party declares unreservedly for sound money. We are unalterably opposed to every measure calculated to debase our currency or impair the credit of our country. We are therefore opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver except by international agreement between the leading commercial nations of the world, which we pledge ourselves to promote." (These

**DEAFNESS.** An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.---Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

last words are put in as a sop to the silverites.) This plank was adopted together with a strong pronouncement in favour of the most severe protection to American industries, and a grand routing of the "Monroe doctrine" by 545 votes to 350, which is declared to be a decisive victory for Mr. McKinley.

All the world knows the politicians of the United States are nothing, if not unctiously devout and pious. Pecksinffs were nothing to them. So you will not be surprised to hear each session was opened with prayers to Almighty God to guide their deliberations, and that no resolution should be adopted what would not be to His glory and the advancement of His Kingdom on earth, particularly in the United States. And so they had a supply of Bishops, white and black, to lead their devotions alternately. What a burlesque the whole thing seems! Would not Carlyle have pronounced it "damnable profanity?" The Mahomedans with their five prayers in the twenty-four hours are not in it with these puritanic, pietistic representatives of the Republican party assembled at St. Louis! And now that Mr. McKinley is the chosen candidate of the Republican party, it would be well if we could know for certain what stamp of man he is. The "Standard" writes of him:--

"He has no fixed opinions on any political question under the sun that ever we could discover---except Protection---but the silver inflationists thought he was their man, and he would gladly have been so---no doubt, if the cat had jumped that way. It is the victory of commonplace well organised. The chosen man is not a distinguished man in any sense, or a learned man, or a wise one, but he has made himself a popular Governor of Ohio, and knows how to manage the machine."

Lord Kelvin's Jubilee has passed off at Glasgow with great éclat. He received a telegram of congratulation from the Queen and a long letter from the Prince of Wales. After a very distinguished career at Cambridge, he was appointed to the chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, at the early age of 22. He is now acknowledged to be the greatest of living scientists, and second only to Newton. Among other telegraphic congratulations he received one from your Viceroy, while all the great Universities of Europe sent delegates, and the Universities of Calcutta and Bombay were also represented. One who knows Lord Kelvin well, writes of him: "I never knew a man less self-conscious. He is absolutely without affectation or any thought of self importance." His humility "arises from the simplicity and sweetness of a great nature."

*Wreck of the "Drummond Castle."*---This has created a profound impression all over the country. Only three lives saved out of over 250! We shall probably never know the true cause as the Captain and officers went down with the vessel. But the conjecture is, that owing to a heavy drizzling rain and possibly a fog superadded the Captain failed to make Ushant light. His proper course then would have been to slow down and wait for daylight. But apparently the vessel was going full speed, and the wreck took place in a channel between Ushant island and the mainland, a course peremptorily forbidden by the Board of Trade. It is a most distressing calamity, and some of the narratives are heart-rending. One feels for the venerable Chairman of the Company, as this is the first occasion on which there has been any loss of life in connection with his splendid fleet.

*National Indian Association.*---The annual meeting of this Association took place yesterday, at the Imperial Institute, your late Legal Member of the Viceroy's Council, Sir Alexander Miller, presiding. I was very sorry to see so few of your countrymen present. There were more native ladies than gentlemen. It was such an excellent opportunity for your friends to testify their appreciation of the devotion of the Hon. Sec., Miss Manning, to the best and most vital interests of India, one would have been glad to have seen a large muster. When Miss Manning arranges a conversazione at the I. I., they turn up in crowds. Yesterday I think all who were present might have been counted on one hand. It is much to be regretted, as it leaves a false impression on the minds of English ladies and gentlemen who have never been in India. The N. I. A. affords a common ground for an interchange of courtesies, but, if your countrymen will stand aloof, in a mood of sullen indifference, the fault is theirs, and, I am afraid, in not a few instances they return to India and speak of the coldness and indifference they met with in London.

This letter is, I fear, already too long, so I reserve comments on Cuba, Crete, and Venezuela until next week. Reuter will, before this reaches you, have informed you of the startling news received yesterday, as to an attack made by Venezuela troops on a British surveying party. Great reticence is maintained by both the Foreign and Colonial Offices, but the general feeling is the news is of a character, so pregnant with great issues, there is a reluctance to publish anything until authentic details reach the authorities here.

*Political gnats and mosquitoes.*---These are not confined to avowed obstructives in the House of Commons, such as Captain Tommy Bowles on the Conservative side, and Mr. Dalziel on the Radical

The latter is only of interest to you, as having succeeded the late Sir George Campbell in the representation of the Kirkcaldy burghs. The electors of these burghs rejoice apparently in sending "cranks" to represent them. In Sir G. Campbell's case they had a man of considerable gifts and very wide experience. In their present representative they have selected a man of no particular gifts---of no political experience---and whose one outstanding quality is brazen impudence. There are "cranks" hardly ever heard of in the House, but, who, afflicted with the *cacotheter scribendi*, are for ever writing letters to the "Times." Of these, the principal offender is Sir Henry Howarth. A column, three-fourths of a column, and never less than half a column is freely placed at his disposal by the editor of the "Times." Why, no one knows. The waste paper basket is the proper receptacle for his weary, dreary writings, and if only the editor of the "Times" had the courage so to treat two or three of his lucubrations it would probably put an end to his sterile letters, and prove an enormous boon to its readers. The effect upon Sir Henry might be disastrous, but the boon to the public would be more than ample compensation. In the "Times" of the 15th he complains bitterly of the offices in the Government held by the Liberal Unionists. Now out of 20 Cabinet ministers, four belong to Mr. Chamberlain's party, and of minor members of the Government out of 26---six; not so very much out of the way surely, seeing Mr. Chamberlain has a following of 71.

And it has to be remarked that out of the four members of the Cabinet, three are Peers and Mr. Chamberlain himself is the solitary Cabinet minister of the Liberal Unionist party in the House of Commons.

### WHAT IS THAT ONE THING?

IT seems like an absurdity, yet it is true all the same. I mean that you might have a cellar full of wood and coal and still shiver with cold; and you *would* if it were not for one thing. "Oh, that is so obvious," you may say. "It was hardly worth while to hint at it. Anybody can see it with his eyes shut. All the better for me then; I shan't have to explain. And by the same sharpness you will be able to pick out the important point in two short letters I am about to copy for you."

The first runs thus: "In December 1890, my daughter (Mrs. M. J. Muther,) got into a low, weak, nervous condition. Do what she would she could not get up her strength. Gradually she wasted away until everyone thought she was in a decline, and had not long to live. In fact, she was so low and dejected *she did not care whether she lived or not*. She was under a doctor for six months, but his medicines did her no good. My husband then said, 'My daughter, I will now see what I can do for you.' What he meant was that he would have her take a medicine called 'Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup.' He had used it himself when he was ill, and thought it might prove as beneficial to her as it had to him."

"Mrs. Muther said she was willing to try the Syrup, although she had little or no faith in its helping one as bad as she was. For if she really had consumption we know there is no cure for that. My husband, however, got a bottle from Mr. Hulme, the chemist, in Rochdale Road, and my daughter began taking it. After the first bottle we saw a great improvement. She could eat, and the food caused her no pain. She continued with this remedy, and gradually gained strength, but it took some time to bring her round, she was so very low and weak. After a time she was able to get about, and never looked behind her. Since then she has been strong and well. We have told many persons how Mother Seigel's Syrup restored her to sound health, and are willing you should publish this statement of the facts. (Signed) (Mrs.) Margaret Watson, 11, Ruby Street, Bury, Oct. 8th, 1895."

"In March, 1893," says the second letter, "I began to fail in health. I could not say exactly what ailed me. I felt low, weak, and tired, and had no strength for anything. My appetite fell away, and what little food I ate gave me great pain at the chest and side. My hands and feet were cold, and nearly all the colour left me. I was often in so great pain I could hardly do any work. I was frequently sick, and could keep no kind of food down."

"I got weaker and weaker, in spite of all that was done, and had to be off my work for seventeen weeks. In this way I went on until November of the same year---1893. Then I happened to read about Mother Seigel's Syrup and what it had done for others suffering like me. I got a bottle of this medicine from Mr. W. Heywood, grocer, in Oldham Road, and after taking only the half of it I felt much better. I could eat without pain, and was stronger and brighter every day. When I had finished the bottle I was quite cured, and have had no return of the complaint since. I have told many others about what the Syrup did for me, and out of thankfulness I am willing my letter should be made public. (Signed) Miss Lydia E. Morton, 1, Greaves Street, Middleton Junction, near Manchester, October 10th, 1895."

Both these ladies say that they were very weak, and that their food---of which they could take but little---did them no good. In the midst of plenty they were actually starving. So much wasted was one of them that it was believed she had consumption. The event showed that they both suffered from dyspepsia, and nothing else. But that was quite enough; and besides it often runs into consumption and other fatal maladies. By setting the stomach right Mother Seigel's Syrup fully cured them both.

Coals and wood are useless without means to light a fire; and bread and meat are as nothing unless we can digest them and make them part of our flesh and bone. That is easy to see and important to remember. And it is its power to help nature work this transformation that makes Mother Seigel's Syrup so wonderful a remedy.



**CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.****LOAN NOTIFICATION.**

THE Commissioners of Calcutta are prepared, with the sanction of the Governor-General-in-Council given under Section 404 of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888, to open a Debenture Loan for Rs. 20,00,000 (twenty lakhs) on the security of the rates, taxes and dues imposed and levied under the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1888.

2. The debentures will have a currency of fifteen years from the 1st December, 1896, and will bear interest at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st June and 1st December of each year.

3. The form of the Debentures will be that given in the twelfth schedule of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888.

4. No Debentures will be issued for any sum less than Rs. 500, and above that amount Debentures will be issued only for complete sums of Rs. 100.

5. Tenders for the whole or any part of the above Loan of Rs. 20,00,000 will be received by the Secretary to the Corporation up to 2 o'clock P. M. of Friday, the 7th August, 1896.

6. Each tender must be made out in the form annexed to this Notification, and enclosed in a sealed cover addressed to the Secretary to the Corporation, and superscribed "Tender for Municipal Loan of 1896-97."

7. Each tender must be accompanied by Government Promissory Notes, Calcutta Municipal Debentures, currency-notes or cheques for not less than 3 per cent. of the amount tendered.

8. When a tender is accepted, the deposit, when made in currency-notes or cheques, will be held as a payment in part of the amount tendered, and will bear interest at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum from the date of acceptance of the tender, provided that the whole amount tendered is paid up in the manner hereinafter prescribed; but no debenture will issue for the sum so deposited so long as the entire amount of the tender is not paid.

9. The deposits on tenders, which may not be accepted, will be returned on application, and no interest will be payable on such deposits. If an allotment after being made is not taken up, and the full amount allotted is not paid as hereinafter prescribed, the deposit will be forfeited.

10. The rate at which a tender is made must be specified in rupees, or rupees and annas; a tender in which the rate is not so specified will be rejected as null and void.

11. The rates stated in a tender must not contain any fraction of an anna. If a rate containing a fraction of an anna is inserted in any tender, such fraction will be struck out, and the tender treated as if the rate did not contain such fraction of an anna.

12. The amount of the accepted tenders must be paid into the Bank of Bengal in the following instalments:—

One-third by the 21st August.

Do. " by the 21st September.

Do. " by the 26th October.

Parties, whose tenders are accepted, will have the option of paying all or any of the instalments before the dates specified above, and will receive interest from the date of such payment.

13. Anticipation interest will be paid on all instalments from the respective dates on which such instalments are paid into the Bank of Bengal to the 30th November, 1896.

14. In the case of two or more tenders at the same rate a *pro rata* allotment will be made (if the tenders are accepted), but no allotment will be issued if the amount distributable on any tender is less than Rs. 500.

15. A minimum having been previously fixed, tenders will be opened by the Loan Committee of the Commissioners at 2-30 P. M., on Friday, the 7th August, 1896, at the Municipal Office.

W. R. MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE:

Calcutta, 29th June, 1896.

**FORM OF APPLICATION FOR DEBENTURES.**

I hereby tender for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Municipal three and half ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ ) per cent.

Debenture Loan for 1896-97, and agree to pay for the same subject to the conditions notified at the rate of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ annas for every Hundred Rupees allotted to me.

I enclose Government Promissory Notes, Calcutta Municipal Debentures, currency notes, or a cheque for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

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 from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
 from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
 to, Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
 to, Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
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 from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
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It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Surendra Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

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VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 734.

## THE SIKH.

[The following ballad, which originally appeared in an Indian paper, is supposed to represent the feelings of an old Sikh warrior. Attar Singh is the speaker.—David Ross, C.I.E., F.R.G.S.]

I've come to make my salaam, Sahib. My soldiering days are done.  
Your father was ever a friend to me; I'm glad to have seen his son.  
Well, yes, it's hard to be going! I am an old man now I know,  
But I come of a tough old fighting stock, and I find it hard to go—  
To feel that my life is over, that my sword must hang on the wall,  
Never again to leap from its sheath at the ring of the trumpet call.  
I think I could do some service yet, ay, though my beard be white,  
For my heart still warms to the tramp of horse, and longs for the  
rush of the fight.

Ah well! it comes to us all, Sahib! I am old, I have had my day,  
And the young men think me a dotard, and wish me out of the way.  
Maybe they're right! When I was young I should have done the same,  
But I come of a tough old fighting stock, and the blood is hard to tame.  
I think they are not what we were, who were bred in the wild old time,  
When every Sikh was a soldier, and Runjit was in his prime.  
Before I was out of my boyhood I knew what it was to feel  
The joy and shock of the onset, and the bite of a foeman's steel.  
I rode by the side of my father when we scattered the Afghan hordes,  
And I longed for the day when the Khalsa host should roll on the  
Sutlej fords.

Not one of us feared for the issue. We saw your Poorbeahs yield  
To a half-armed rabble of tribesmen we drove like sheep from the field,  
So we longed for the day that we felt must come—an evil day when it  
came—

God's curse on the cowardly traitors who sold the Khalsa to shame!  
My father fell at Sobraon. There was blood on the old man's sword,  
As foot by foot you bore us back to the brink of the flooded ford.  
We never broke, though around us the river was choked with dead,  
My God! how the grape tore through us from the guns at the bridge's  
head.

I had been unhorsed by a round shot, but I found my way to his side,  
And I held by the old man's stirrup as he plunged his horse in the tide.  
I never knew how the end came, for the fierce stream forced us apart;  
But he died, as a Sikh Sirdar should die, with the fight still hot in his  
heart.

We saw that the war was over when we formed on the western bank;  
The sword of the Khalsa was broken—and the hearts of the bravest  
sank.

We were all unused to be conquered: you had taught us the lesson at  
last;

But you left us, with arms in your hands, Sahib, to brood on the hopes  
of the past;

And we knew we had pressed you sorely, that the game had been almost  
won;

And the Sikh blood boiled for another fight ere a year of peace had run.  
Well, you know how the train was fired again, you know how the  
Khalsa rose;

And if you bore us down at last you found us stubborn foes.

Full thirty years are gone since then, but still my heart beats high

To think how wild the battle raged against the darkening sky.

I led a troop at Chillianwal: they say I led it well;  
Near half of us were cold and stiff before the darkness fell.  
How clear it all is still! I seem to hear the roar of fight,  
And see the fair-haired English come cheering at our right.  
And swarms of slavish Poorbeahs, the scorn of the Khalsa's sons;  
They were falling fast, and the rush was spent before they reached the  
guns;

And then we burst upon them, all winded as they came,  
And the shattered line went reeling back, torn through with sword and  
flame.

There was little to choose between us that night when the red sun set;  
We had taught those hounds a lesson they have never forgotten yet.

Ah! yes, I know how it ended, how the big guns swept us away,  
But never a cringing Poorbeah came up to our swords that day.

My God! how I longed to see them, how I longed to hear once more  
The shrill short cheer of the charging line high over the battle's roar!

But still the big guns thundered on, and the plain grew like a hell,  
As hour on hour upon us poured the stream of shot and shell.

We gave at last—what could we do!—and the Poorbeahs yelled on our  
tracks;

But for the guns and the white men they'd never have seen our backs.  
But for the guns and the white men we'd have hunted them through  
Lahore,

And laid all Delhi in ashes, Sahib, and many a fat town more.

But what is the use of boasting now? My lands were taken away,

And the Company gave me a pension of just eight annas a day;

And the Poorbeahs swaggering about our streets as if they had done it  
all;

Curse them!—they wished they had let us be when we got their backs  
to the wall.

We were all right weary of years of peace when the murdering cowards  
rose,

And never a one of us all but longed for a chance at his father's foes.

\* \* \* \* \*

I was first man up to the summons, with a score good Singhs at my  
heel.

Rare times those were for a soldier, wild months of battle and storm,  
And the horse well into the thick of it, wherever we'd room to form.

I rode to Delhi with Hodson; there were three of my father's sons;  
Two of them died at the foot of the ridge, in the line of the Moree's  
guns.

I followed him on when the great town fell; he was cruel and cold they  
said;

The men were sobbing around me the day that I saw him dead.  
It's not soft words that a soldier wants; we knew what he was in fight,

And we love the man who can lead us, ay, though his face be white.

I fought in China after that; and now I've lived to see  
My grandson ride through Cabul, with a Ghazi at his knee.

Lord! how the people scowled at us, us of the hated race,  
Scowl as they will they little love to meet us face to face.

Sherpur? Well, yes, they faced us there—a score or so to one—  
And some of them repented it I think before we'd done.

*Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.*

Five days we fought their gathering clans, and smote, and broke, and slew,

And then, the fifth, they bore us back, for we were faint and few ;  
And twice five days we stood at bay behind the crumbling wall,  
And still they shrunk from the one straight rush that should have finished all.

It came at last, one wintry dawn, before the break of light.  
A sudden flare of beacon fires upon the southern height,  
A signal shot to east and west, and then with one wild swell  
Pealed up from fifty thousand throats the Ghazi's battle yell ;  
And the rifle flashes hemmed us round in one broad quivering ring ;  
And overhead in fiery gusts the lead began to sing ;  
And we clenched our frozen carbines in the darkness and the snow,  
And waited, with fast beating hearts, the onset of the foe.....  
Just one rush, and all was over. Sullenly they faced us still,  
Swarms of stubborn swordsmen gathering round their banners on the hill,

And from field and wall around us, all about the broken plain,  
Rose the fitful rifle volleys, rose, and sank, and rose again.  
But the battle cry was silent ; and the battle rush was sped ;  
And their hearts were cold within them ; and in vain their leaders led ;  
And in vain their mullahs cursed them : what they could do they had done,

And we speared them through the open, ere the setting of the sun.

Well, Sahib, I've made the tale too long ; I rode to Kandahar,  
And saw once more an Afghan host broken and scattered far ;  
And now I'm back in Hindustan, and the times are times of peace,  
And I must lay my old sword down, and my fighting days must cease.  
The great Sirkar's been good to me, for I've served the English well ;  
And my fields are broad by the Ravee, where my father's kinsfolk dwell ;

And all the Punjab knows me, for my father's name was known  
In the days of the conquering Khalsa, when I was a boy half grown ;  
And since he died, nigh forty years, I've kept his memory bright,  
And men have heard of Attar Singh in many a stormy fight.  
So I can rest with honour now, and lay my harness by,  
And the lands that saw my father born will see my children die.  
But still—it's hard to be going. I'm an old man now I know,  
But I come of a tough old fighting stock, and I feel it hard to go.  
I leave the boy behind me, Sahib ; you'll find him ready and true ;  
Your father was ever a friend to me, and the boy will look to you.  
He's young, and the ways of men must change, and his ways are strange to me.

And I've said sometimes he'd never be all his fathers used to be.  
I wronged him ; and I know it now. When first our squadron shook—  
They fought like devils in broken ground, and our spent beasts swerved at the brook—

I saw him turn, with a ringing curse, and a wrench at his horse's head,  
And the first of us over the crumbling bank was the boy the old house bred.

I've never sneered at him since then ; he laughs, as a young man will,  
When I preach of the days that are long gone by, but the Sikh blood's hot in him still ;

And if ever the time should come, Sahib—as come full well it may—  
When all is not as smooth and fair as all things seem to-day ;  
When foes are rising round you fast, and friends are few and cold ;  
And a yard or two of trusty steel is worth a prince's gold ;  
Remember Hodson trusted us, and trust the old blood too,  
And as we followed him—to death—our sons will follow you !

SOWAR.

### WEEKLYANA.

THEOSOPHISTS have found a reason in favour of cremation. It is "that until the gross material body had disintegrated, the astral form hovered about the place of interment in the shape of a bluish mist." The threat is not sufficient to convert those who bury their dead. The astral form may assume many shapes and—perform miracles. It is some months we received for publication a letter which we preserved for future use, from which we make the following extract. The correspondent assures us that what is related below is not a story or an echo from ghostland :—

"A Bengali gentleman, who holds a high post in the Forest Department, some years ago came to Cawnpore at the house of a relative. He had one of his legs fractured through a fall from his horse. The gentleman with whom he stayed called in the best medical men of the station for attending upon him. The patient, however, grew worse and worse. The surgeons were alarmed. The whole family began to watch their sick relative with anxious care. Some of them expected the worst. One day, it was a hot summer day, the patient happened to be in his bedchamber with only his wife. The doors and shutters had all been closed from inside. The wife, from exhaustion, had sunk into a sound sleep. The patient felt much worse that day. Thinking that he was past human help, he prayed intently for Divine grace. Opening his eyes he saw or thought he saw before him some rays of gentle light issuing through a particular part of the walls of his room. His surprise was very great. Within a few seconds, the rays accumulated and formed a mass of mellow light. Soon it was transformed into a human figure which advanced towards him with slow steps. When very near, his surprise knew no bounds at finding that the figure was no other than his sister-in-law. The patient trembled from feelings he could scarcely analyse. He lay mute. His sister-in-law then addressed him, 'Dear brother ! get up and come with me.' The patient, although he felt that he was, for the time being, in magic land, could not help smiling and said, 'How is it that you ask me to get up and follow you when you know that I cannot move an inch ?' The figure, in reply, said, 'Try to get up and you shall be able to get up, I say.' The patient resolved to obey her bidding. He succeeded in getting up not only without assistance, but with perfect ease. The figure then spoke to him, 'Dear brother, have you still any doubt about the power of will force ? I know you have little faith in occultism. Your life is valuable and I am commanded by my Guru to come to your succour. You are now cured. Have faith in your own religion. Be never an atheist and always be sure that there is working behind this material world a mighty hidden force.' After this, the figure became transformed into beams of light and vanished from sight. The patient sat in a state of stupor for a while and, when he awoke from it, he found that he had acquired the use of his legs. It was almost a resurrection. He kept the means of his recovery a profound secret for a long time. From that day, however, he became an altered man as regards his faith in occultism."

A PICE vernacular paper suggests the suppression by Government of breast-beating as self-torture, especially "where this is done for the sake of a few annas or pice." It has perhaps no objection when there is a larger payment. Self-torture or self-murder may be illegal, but it has not been abolished by Acts of the Legislature. If, again, self-torture be for gain, by its prohibition, you close a source of living. Mourning is very often a show, and there are various ways to make it known. When you denounce the show, you cannot let escape those who contribute to or abet it, who are equally punishable with the principal performer. Are you prepared to punish them all ?

If the showy beating of breasts at the Maharum is bad, the exhibition now being held at Earl's Court of ascetic Yoga postures is much worse.

We read of a complaint that, at Agra, some Europeans, in spite of protests, photographed from the river a female bathing ghat with its fair occupants. The fair of Ind who expose themselves to the sun, how can they avoid his pencil ? The newly discovered X rays threaten to penetrate the walls of the zenana. How to escape that fierce light ?

LALA Hurji Mal, a banker of Peshawar, has memorialized the Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. Provinces for removal of certain grievances which forced themselves upon him while on a visit to Hardwar, to the fair, as he says, of Nirjala Ekadasi. They are—

That the unclaimed Hindu corpses are either buried or are thrown away into the Ganges by the sweepers without at all being burnt ;

That in spite of the notice dated June 1864 by the Magistrate of Saharanpur, engraved upon a stone in the wall at the Hardwar ghat, prohibiting fishing at or near the ghat, the Municipal Committee of Hardwar recently passed a resolution allowing fishing at Hardwar and Kankhal ;

That there is no waiting-room for the third class passengers at the Hardwar Railway station—a source of great inconvenience, annoyance and trouble to the poor passengers, especially to women and children. That "there is only one window for issuing tickets to all classes of passengers, irrespective of their status as travellers or sex" ;

That pilgrims are not unoften carried in goods waggons without lights, instead of regular third-class railway carriages, packed like herrings.

If every citizen, like the banker Hurji Mal, did his duty, drawing the attention of the proper authority to wrongs committed in his presence or to his knowledge and otherwise assisted in their removal, the country would more rapidly advance without such costly aids as Provincial Conferences and National Congresses.



THE Parsis were formerly, like Hindus, Baboos. Now, as dining on tables with knives and forks, they are so many Esquires. As regards titular distinctions, they share them with Mahomedans as Khan Bahadurs and Shamsul-Ulams. A proposal has been made that a title like Vaiyadhyia Paytee would be more appropriate to a Parsi than that of Shamsul Ulama.

THE Calcutta pipe water has ceased to be saltish but has become less transparent. The last is an annually recurring complaint and is traceable to the season, when the river water is unusually muddy. The present great nuisance of Calcutta is the mosquito. The destruction of open drains saw their extinction. What has caused their re-appearance?

MAIKOO LALL, President, Koornai Sadar Sabha, Lucknow, in his "A Treatise on Cholera, Fever and Small-pox, their Origin and Remedy," thinks that cholera is the effect of the east wind on the human system, that fever is caused by exposure and that small-pox is the result of cold. A correspondent of a Bombay paper has been told that "the kite is not to be seen in the place where cholera is raging."

THE *Army and Navy Gazette*, of June 20, remarks:—

"If the statement of *Al Mokattam* is true that the Sultan is suffering from diabetes and that the fact is carefully concealed in Constantinople, fresh troubles may be in store for us in the East. His Imperial Majesty, it is said, was visited by a specialist from Munich, who lately returned to Germany immediately on leaving the Palace, and that he was also visited two days later by another specialist from Paris, who likewise returned to France at once after the visit."

HERE is a note from the same number:

"Why are the Matabele, whom Mr. Rhodes, 'Captain' Laing, 'Captain' Brabant, 'Captain' Stoddart, 'Colonel' Spreckley, 'Captain' Macfarlane, and other captains and men-at-arms, with 'Mtepe's men' and other 'friendlies' and valiant allies are engaged in hunting down, to be called 'rebels'? They never acknowledged King Chartered Company or Queen Victoria, and they simply allowed, because they could not prevent, the occupation of their country by the invaders and the Bechuanaland column when Lobengula was overthrown, and made the best of the situation under their new masters till they were impelled into murderous insurrection against them by real or imaginary wrongs, and became enemies, but in no sense 'rebels.' Their 'wild shriek of liberty' will soon be silenced, but Sir F. Carrington's humane orders will put a stop to indiscriminate shooting at sight, and we are glad of it."

AN earlier note concludes with these words:

"Well, let us welcome the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers (and mothers) who are visiting the old country and appropriating Shakespeare, Bacon, Izack Walton, and Oliver Cromwell—we would even throw in Charles I. and Charles II.—with open arms, but it is just as well to treat as rhetorical flourishes the pious aspirations of the reverend gentlemen who recognise an Anglo-Saxon-American millennium in the visits of American Congregationalists to Farnham Castle. There is one fact that may certainly be laid to the credit of the Puritan Fathers and their descendants, if they like it, and that is the extirpation of the red men of their continent, just as we destroyed the aboriginal population of the Australian continent."

The last is the privilege of the civilized Briton and a part of empire-founding.

THE cycle as a military machine has a bright future before it. A Captain in the French Army has discovered a way of doubling it up for every transport and it has stood a good test. Each machine travelled about 1,200 miles and was 300 times folded up and set going again. The manufacturer of the jointed cycle has further found a workable means of connecting two such machines together so as to make a four-wheeler. He is also confident to convert it into a light waggon for removal of the wounded.

IN all 3,723 Indian troops have arrived at Suakin, with 821 horses, 168 mules, and provisions for three months. The Indian Government have calculated the cost of the contingent at twenty-four lakhs of rupees. Does the estimate include the pay of the soldiers, which, it has been decided, will be a charge on the Indian revenues?

NO news about Dr. Nansen. The governor of Yakutsk reports by cable that the inhabitants of Ustyansk have not heard anything about the Arctic explorer, who was recently reported to be returning after having reached the North Pole. We hope he will have a different fate from Franklin's.

IN the "Leisure Hour," M. Fionvielle, the aeronaut, has a paper on the balloons that voyaged out from Paris during the siege of 1870. Gambetta was accompanied by M. Spuller, one of the survivors of the 169 who took to that mode of transit; 166 balloons carried 169 persons, 3,000,000 letters, 363 carrier pigeons and 5 dogs.

It is intended to hold a universal census in 1900. The proposition was discussed at the International Statistical Institute at Berne.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

PRESIDENT Faure has escaped the fate of President Carnot. On his arrival, on July 14, on the Review ground, Longchamps, a man fired twice from a revolver in the direction of the President's carriage, which luckily did not hurt him. The assailant, whose name is François, was at once arrested, and is believed to be demented.

THE House of Lords has passed the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill by a majority of thirty-eight votes. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, the Duke of York, and the Duke of Fife supported the Bill.

THE *Times* says that the late debate in the House of Commons on the Indian contingent at Suakin has had a great result in obtaining the recognition by the British Government of reciprocal obligations of Great Britain and India, which the Indian Government have always urged. The declarations of party chiefs hold out promise of fairer treatment for India, in future, and India may, therefore, now patiently accept the tardy instalment of justice granted. Lord George Hamilton, speaking at Ealing, said the terms for the assistance rendered by the Indian troops at Suakin were better than hitherto, and India would receive help from the Imperial Government on precisely the same terms when required.

MR. Chamberlain, replying to Mr. Redmond in the House of Commons, said he had received a memorial signed by 9,000 Mussalmans of Ceylon, complaining of the dismissal of Mr. Le Mesurier from the Civil Service. The most influential members of the Mussalman community had, he said, abstained from signing the memorial.

MR. Bryan of Nebraska, a former member of Congress, has been unanimously nominated as Democratic candidate for the Presidency on the fifth ballot. Mr. Bland withdrew after leading three ballots. Mr. Bryan is thirty-six years of age and an Extremist. The Stiverite delegates from Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin declined to nominate any candidate on the Chicago platform. The Democratic disruption is complete. Mr. Sewall, of Maine, has, however, been nominated Democratic candidate for the vice-presidency. A number of influential Democrats are alarmed at the decision of the Chicago Convention, and are rallying round Mr. McKinley, who now declares that he is strongly in favour of gold.

THE French Senate has passed the Bill making Madagascar a French Colony.

M. LAURIER, the new Canadian Premier, speaking at the civic reception of Admiral Erskine, commanding the British North American Squadron, said that he would do his duty to the utmost for Canada and the Empire. None, he said, were more loyal to the Crown than the Canadians.

REUTER'S correspondent at Bulawayo states that the situation is very disquieting, and that the rebellion seems extending southwards. Several Impis threaten the Tati road between Bulawayo and Bechuanaland, and it is feared the Makalakas will join the Matabeles.

It was arranged with the sanction of the Sultan that the British Consul and a senior British Naval Officer should distribute relief to distressed Christians and Mussulmans in Crete, but a letter from Lord Salisbury informs the subscribers that the proposal has been dropped owing to objections raised by Germany, Russia, France, Austria, and Italy, who fear the misinterpretation of such British action. The Cretan Assembly has opened. Great discord prevailed among the Christian and Mussalman Deputies, and the prospect is gloomy. Grave complications are feared in the island owing to the aggressive attitude of the Turkish troops regardless of the armistice and deadlock between the Governor and the military Chiefs. The Powers have urged on the Sultan that the Turkish troops in Crete should remain on the defensive. The Christian deputies demand a Christian Governor with command of the army and the right of veto, the Porte receiving half the net revenue from the customs.

GOVERNMENT has withdrawn its own amendments to the Irish Land Bill, owing to the protest of Mr. T. W. Russell, member for South Tyrone. The papers deplore this fresh example of vacillation. It is believed that the attitude of the landlords' representatives will prevent the passing of the Bill. The Government's attitude towards India is firm. Following the Commons, the Lords have accepted the Suakin resolution. In the debate Lord Onslow repeated the arguments of Lord George Hamilton in the Lower Chamber. Lord Reay opposed the resolution. He said that the time for driving hard bargains with India had ceased, and would not believe that the Suez Canal was in any way endangered. Lord Lansdowne thought the Suakin charge a just one and India's interest in the integrity of Egypt was not confined to the Suez Canal. Lord Kimberley was not so positive. He deprecated the pressing of such a small matter, and thought Government ought to aim at removing any friction. Lord Northbrook spoke to the same effect and believed the principles of Lord George Hamilton's despatch would satisfy India. Lord Salisbury explained that the movement of Indian troops to Suakin was not directly connected with the Soudan campaign, but with the defence of Suakin or the Southern littoral of the Red Sea, in which India was chiefly interested. The resolution was adopted by a majority of 52 votes.

AN early abandonment of KISSALA by the Italians is expected.

THE *Times* agrees with the article in the *Edinburgh Review* that it is time for England to reconsider her attitude regarding the Egyptian question and say frankly that, while not annexing the country, she cannot pretend to foresee the future when it is unnecessary to remain as the indispensable guardian of Egyptian prosperity and European interest.

UNEASINESS is being felt regarding the shortness of the water-supply in Egypt. The maize crop is threatened, the Nile flood being a fortnight late. That ought to cause uneasiness in India, for the interests of India are bound up with those of Egypt.

LI-HUNG-CHANG will be a guest of the State while in England. He will stay for four weeks and reside in the large mansion taken for him by Government. The British Vice-Consul from China on leave will be attached to the Chinese envoy. We make no doubt the expenses will be made a charge on the Indian revenues.

COMMEMORATIVE medals in bronze and in white metal of the late Reinhold Earnest Rost, L.L.D., M.A., Ph.D., C.I.E., late Librarian of the India Office, and one of the truest friends of India, have been executed by his son, Mr. A. E. L. Rost, the sculptor, and are on view at the sculptor's studio, 20, Newman Street, Oxford Street, W. and at Messrs. Luzac & Co.'s, 46, Great Russell Street, W. C., London. Price, in bronze 5/6 and white metal 2/6. For the life devoted to India, Dr. Rost deserves a memorial in this country. The Presidency towns may, at very little cost, order, of the son, busts of the eminent Orientalist. They will not only be cheap but very life-like. In the meantime, orders should go for the commemorative medals. We hope arrangements will be made in India for their supply.

THERE is no likelihood that the widow of the late Dr. Rost, a permanent invalid, will be granted any pension. Her nationality is in her

way. The sum allotted for pensions is limited by Act of Parliament to £1,200 a year and the First Lord of the Treasury thinks that it should be limited to British citizens. We hope, however, if no pension can be assigned, there will be no difficulty in making a grant later on.

We believe the pension is open to an Indian. In India, we have no Civil List fund, either for pension or grant. The only general recognition of scholarship was the purchase by Government of three copies of books printed in India. The Printing Press Act making it obligatory on every printer to deliver 3 copies of every book printed by him to Government, and on the Government to pay for them, has been altered to make the books free gifts. It is, of course, open to the several Governments and Administrations to patronize a book, but we have recently seen how economical they are in the exercise of that power.

THEY are celebrating the centenary of the discovery of vaccination in Europe and America—at Berkeley, in Gloucestershire, the birth-place of the discoverer, at Bristol, Moscow, Berlin, Baltimore, and Brooklyn.

Son of a clergyman, Edward Jenner, M.D., was born in 1749, and was, as he says himself, "the only one of a long line of ancestors and relatives who was not educated at Oxford." Yet he outshone them all. At the age of twenty-one he became the pupil and assistant of John Hunter, in whose house he resided for two years. Jenner was the first to detect angina pectoris as a disease of the coronary arteries. To this enquiry he was led by the sufferings of his honoured preceptor. Earlier still he had produced some poems one of which, the "Signs of Ruin," ran through several editions. As a naturalist, he contributed to the Transactions of the Royal Society papers on earth worms and their influence in breaking up the soil and fertilizing it for cultivation, on the habits of the cuckoo and other birds, &c. His "Inquiry into the Cause and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ" was published in June 1798. His fame was now established and he did not wish for more. Writing to a friend, he said: "Shall I, who even in the morning of my life sought the lowly and sequestered path of life—the valley and not the mountain—shall I, now my evening is fast approaching, hold myself up as an object for fortune and for fame?" In recognition of his long and disinterested labour, the House of Commons, in 1802, voted him £10,000, and five years after another grant of double the amount. In 1809, a statue of him was erected by subscription at Trafalgar Square, London. The first successful vaccination was on the 14th of May 1796 and his discovery is dated the 19th of July when he wrote the now famous letter which we quote:

"Dear Gardner,—As I promised to let you know how I proceed in my inquiry into the nature of that singular disease, the cowpox, and being fully satisfied how much you feel interested in its success, you will be gratified in hearing that I have at length accomplished what I have been so long waiting for, the passing of the vaccine virus from one human being to another by the ordinary mode of inoculation.

A boy of the name of Phipps was inoculated in the arm from a pustule on the hand of a young woman who was infected by her master's cows. Having never seen the disease but in its casual way before, that is, when communicated from the cow to the hand of the milker, I was astonished at the close resemblance of the pustules. But now listen to the delightful part of the story. The boy has since been inoculated for the small-pox, which, as I venture to predict, produced no effect. I shall now pursue my experiments with redoubled ardour. Believe me, yours sincerely, Edward Jenner. Berkeley, July 19, 1796."

Dr. Jenner died on the 26th of January 1823, at the age of seventy-four. The following epitaph is inscribed on his tomb:

"Within this tomb hath found a resting place  
The great physician of the human race—  
Immortal Jenner! Whose gigantic mind  
Brought life and health to more than half mankind.  
Let rescued infancy his worth proclaim,  
And lisp out blessings on his honoured name;  
And radiant Beauty drop one grateful tear,  
For Beauty's truest friend lies buried here."

The efficacy of vaccination has not the universal acceptance which the celebration of the centenary may lead one to suppose. It is not unannounced good. It has been made compulsory by law and maintained by it. There is against it a strong opinion which is gaining ground. It is doubted as a preventive and dreaded as the introducer of many diseases.

MAJOR-GENERAL F. de Winton, the Comptroller of the Household of the Duke and Duchess of York acknowledges, in a letter to the Under-Secretary of State for India, dated York House, St. James's Palace, S. W., May 16, 1896, the receipt of the silver casket presented to them by the European and Native communities of Calcutta and the Province of Bengal. He writes:

"I have duly laid the papers before Their Royal Highnesses, who desire me to convey their thanks to Lord George Hamilton for sending them.

The Casket to which the above refers, has been received and Their Royal Highnesses would feel much obliged to Lord George Hamilton if he would forward to the several communities the very warm expression of thanks of Their Royal Highnesses for the very beautiful present that Calcutta and the Province of Bengal have been good enough to send them."

THE *National-Zeitung* of the 11th June translates the article on the late Barthelemy St. Hilaire that appeared in *Reis and Rayyet* over the signature A. Barth. The editor of the Berlin paper introduces the obituary notice with the words of which we give a translation:

"Barthelemy St. Hilaire.—Under this heading there is in the weekly periodical *Reis and Rayyet* of the 14th March (a periodical that appears in Calcutta) a necrologue written by A. Barth, a member of the French Academy, particularly distinguished by his learning in all matters concerning India. Barthelemy St. Hilaire was known as a prominent statesman, as a highly learned Greek and a distinguished Indianist. He was successively a pupil, a fellow-student and a friend of Eugene Burnouf, Victor Cousin and Adolphe Thiers. He died in Paris, on the 24th of November 1895, at the age of 90."

We are grateful to our distant contemporary for the attention paid to us. Our acknowledgments are also due for the copy of the journal received.

In a letter from Paris, M. Barth makes a correction in the article in *Reis & Rayyet* originally written by himself in French. He writes:—

"The translation is very well done. There is one point where it seems objectionable, the passage where the translator makes me say 'B. St. Hilaire was more a man of wisdom than a man of learning.' A man of learning he was surely, and of great learning. I do not remember my own words in French, but they must have been somewhat as 'than a man of minute and dry learning,' 'than a man of deep and original research.' But it is a mere trifle and does not matter much."

Regarding the article on Mr. Pincott by Dr. Fitzedward Hall (*Reis and Rayyet*, March 21,) the great Indianist of France says it is a "touching notice."

"Pincott I knew by what he wrote in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, some wild speculations on the plan of the Rig Veda Samhita and much better ones on the plan of the Adi Granth. Now I know how much he was an autodidact, the deficiencies of his paper on the Rig Veda appear less surprising."

In the same letter, M. Barth gives a glimpse of his own life:—

"The manifold troubles to be undergone by every man in position and who holds a pen in India, is the same here with us. From the time I am fixed in Paris, I have much less leisure than before, though the work done is not greater for that. Most of my time I am spending for others whom sometimes I did not know the day before. The only part of the year I am my own master, is when, running away, I seek shelter in a lost hamlet on the seashore of our Bretagne."

We are afraid, it is the case in other countries as well. We remember an Anglo-Indian journalist now retired making the same complaint in respect of persons rich enough to pay for the work done for them.

THE Vicerey would not grant Umra Khan an audience, but the ex-Khan of Jandval has Lord Elgin's permission to return to Cabul. The

*Pioneer* is sorry that he has not chosen an asylum in India, for, had he done so, he would have been comfortably provided for. Alas! poor Umra!

UMRA KHAN who had been staying in the Mussafirkhana at the Frere Road, left Bombay on Saturday night by the Ahmedabad mail train under the escort of the Bombay Police. Umra Khan with two others and Mr. Mirza Mahomed Ally, Inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department, occupied a second class compartment, while Umra Khan's followers, about twenty-five in number, occupied four compartments of the intermediate class. Each compartment contained about seven Chitralis and police. The Sepoy policemen forming the escort travelled in plain clothes, but they were required to take their uniforms with them and to use them when necessary. While in Bombay Umra Khan expressed a wish to make some purchases of arms including a very large quantity of ammunition, but he was not permitted to do so. The arms which were taken away from him when he left Bombay for Mecca have been returned to him.

At a meeting, held yesterday in the British Indian Association rooms of lawyers, merchants and others, presided over by Maharaja Narendra Krishna, it was decided to request the Sheriff to call a public meeting to honour the retiring Chief Justice, Sir Comer Petheram. A discordant note was sounded by one of the advocates of the High Court, who thought that it was too much to move the Sheriff for the purpose. Luckily for Sir Comer, he came to Calcutta after the stormy days of his predecessor had blown over, or the meeting would not have the support of the "mischief-makers."

ON Thursday night, the India Club treated Professor Jagadis Chunder Bose, of the Presidency College, who has leapt into fame by his electrical discovery and the patronage of Lord Kelvin, to an English dinner without wines and native songs. The Babu goes to Europe at the expense of the State to make a better study of his own special subject and to improve the laboratory at the Presidency College. He will be away for 6 months, the first three of which he spends on the Continent, and the second in England. He leaves Calcutta next week for Bombay where he takes the steamer *Caledonia*. He will be accompanied by his wife.

At the dinner, 42 covers were laid and Mr. R. D. Mehta, one of the senior members of the Club, presided, who, at the conclusion of the dinner, asked his forty comrades to charge their glasses with the filtered water of the muddy Hughli to drink to the health of the distinguished guest of the evening. While complimenting the Professor on his achievements, Mr. Mehta made the remark—"It used to be said of us that we are a body of mere imitators incapable of original research. Dr. Bose has refuted this calumny." If the chairman was complimentary in the toast, the guest was electrical in the reply. He could not command words to express his gratitude but left those who honoured him that evening to read his thoughts. The inner man, he said, was no longer a secret—the bones, muscles and all and even thoughts were being photographed, and they could see for themselves how much he appreciated their hospitable board spread with dishes from the Hall of all Nations and their good wishes for him and his.

THE week has been notable for four publications, which, notwithstanding the rains and the mosquito, are sure to produce electrical shocks in many quarters. Dr. Jogender Nath Bhattacharya's "Hindu Castes and Sects" is an exposition of the various Faiths with a new light, which, like the X rays, pierces through darkness and mystery. Mr. Manomohan Ghose, the terror of the country magistracy, has prepared two terrors for Government in the shape of "A collection of opinions of eminent Executive and Judicial authorities from 1793 to 1883" and "A Compilation of (criminal) cases" in which he held a brief or with the facts of which he is otherwise familiar, which collection lays the axe at the root of the boasted English fair-play and justice, and both intended as aids to his contention for separation of Judicial and Executive functions in the Magistrates of British India outside the Presidency towns. To supplement, as it were, the balanced statements of the cautious advocate, Babuo Ram Gopal Sanyal has enlarged his "Record of Criminal

### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., on Wednesday, the 22nd Inst., at 5-30 P.M. Subject: Properties of Matter (concluded). Hydrostatics.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M. Thursday, the 23rd Inst., at 6 to 7 P. M. Subject: The Protozoa.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Friday, the 24th Inst., at 7 P.M. Subject: Expansion of Bodies by Heat.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,

Honorary Secretary.

July 18, 1896.

Cases, as between Europeans and Natives for the last hundred years," dedicating it

"To the deliverer of an injured land,"  
to the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, July 18, 1896.

### REFORM IN MEDICAL SERVICE.

THERE can be no doubt that the people of India are reaping many advantages, direct and indirect, from their British rulers. Apart from the wealth gained by many from trade and commerce, the number is not inconsiderable that is supported by service rendered to the Crown. Civil and military duties are entrusted to many. The very civil service, which had so long been the monopoly of members of the ruling race, has been thrown open to the ruled, though in a shape slightly different. The higher judicial service has begun to be recruited from the lower one, to the advantage of the people of the land. The Indian Vakils have been elevated to the Benches of the several High Courts. In the military line Havildar-Majors and Subadar-Majors are no longer exceptional distinctions. Great Britain has been brought to a closer affinity with India by the two Egyptian expeditions. In almost all departments of the public service Indian subjects are being admitted more liberally than before. Improvements are being made in every direction with commendable zeal. In the subordinate medical service, however, the case is contrary. Nothing has been done to improve its position and prospects. The inertia of rest that distinguishes it seems to be permanent. There was some time ago a change in name. Sub-assistant surgeons have in consequence dropped the particle sub—that telling mark of inferiority—but their actual status remains the same. Dr. Bahadurji's proposal to separate the civil from the military medical service should, no doubt, be carried out. The employment of Assistant-Surgeons in the place of Civil Surgeons to a large extent will no doubt be an improvement, while improving the financial condition of the Government. First grade Assistant-Surgeons can be raised to civil medical officers in districts, without European members of the service suffering any injury.

The position and pay of Assistant-Surgeons have ever been a matter of complaint. The few among them that have attained to any prominence have been differentiated from the unwashed by being classified with the white-washed. Brilliant students of the Calcutta Medical College are not wanting. But a journey to England and the consequent expenditure are the difficulties that stand in the way of their rise. Medical education is sought generally by the sons of the poor middle classes of Indian society. The hardship involved in dissection, *post mortem* examination, and hospital duties deters children of the wealthier section of the community from entering this institution. No other branch of learning presents so many difficulties in its acquisition. Field survey with students in engineering is a matter of comparative ease. After the severe trial undergone by them, threatening danger to life itself from imbibing some deadly poison, if the students happen to pass the final examination, they think themselves quite fortunate.

Generally, dearth of means prevents a passed student

from setting up as an independent practitioner. He has to begin as a supernumerary with a pay of only Rs. 50 per month, and this probationary appointment may run over a year. He that is lucky may, through some influence or other, exerted in the Surgeon-General's office, succeed in winning a post in the third grade, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 a month. After seven years, passed in different stations, he has to pass a departmental examination which, if he passes successfully, will bring him Rs. 150 and promotion to the Second Grade. Another seven years and a second successful examination enable him to rise to the First Grade and a pay of Rs. 200. This is the ordinary course.

The case is different with those who, admitted to the public service, are located in crowded cities and towns. They may then, by private practice, make a respectable income. With them the Surgeon General's office is the one centre of interest. When an office exercises large patronage, people believe in the existence, in it, of such corrupt practices as were lately detected in the office of the Inspector-General of Registration. Sometimes a man in the third grade has been found to officiate as Civil Medical officer. He may even succeed in getting a prize appointment in consequence of his opportunities. Some become fixtures in the metropolis from their first admission to the service. The lectureships in the State medical schools, which always fetch the largest income, are frequently bestowed not for merit but upon a principle of undisguised nepotism. Instances like these enhance the discontent based on inadequate remuneration.

Of all Departments of Government Services the Subordinate Medical is unquestionably the most ill-paid. The bitter feeling is intensified in those who, in consequence of their stations, are unable to avail themselves of private practice. With small hospitals under their care, in out-of-the-way places, they cannot earn anything over their pay unless they seek extra profit from the supply of diet to indoor patients. The contrast becomes glaring between such men and those who hold lectureships in the State medical schools. The latter are allowed to practise without even hospital attendance being insisted upon. The subordinates take advantage, seeing the lax supervision by superiors. The demands of private practice are attended to with greater punctuality than those of hospital attendance. This state of things may be seen in even the Calcutta Medical College. The days of the Cheverses and Chuckerbuttys, of the Fayers, Cutcliffes and Gayers, have passed away. The hospital medicines are rarely of the best. The supervision exercised by native donors has become a thing of the past. The Surgeon-General finds rest in desk work or in sojourns to healthy stations. Genuine or active inspections are becoming rarer and rarer. A few hospitals only are visited, and never without previous notice.

The only argument that can be adduced against enhancement of pay of Assistant-Surgeons, is that they are adequately remunerated by the proceeds of private practice. This is true of only lecturers in medical schools. With the generality of Assistant-Surgeons, their pay is their whole income. Assistant-Surgeons are generally placed in stations where there is not much lucrative business. Localities where private practice may be more favourable, are generally filled with practitioners not



in State employ. Another disadvantage is that the distance of inhabited areas from their stations, as also from one another, are very great. For this reason they cannot visit those localities without neglecting their hospital duties. The morning is taken up by official work. So that their afternoons are their own, which they can spend in any way they like, provided there are no bad cases in the hospital. But this ill suits the patients. Consequently, Assistant Surgeons cannot have much private practice.

Towns and inhabited areas in the interior have generally such bad roads as do not admit of carriages being plied on them. The alternative is the palki, a costlier and slower method of locomotion. It also means much loss of time. In crowded cities with metalled roads locomotion is cheaper and more rapid. For these reasons, Government should frame some clear and well-defined rules for regulating the appointment and transfer of Assistant-Surgeons. It would not be well to leave them to the tender mercies of irresponsible subordinates open to every kind of influence. Apart from these inequalities in the service, its general status ought to be raised. It should be borne in mind that the men are engaged in practising an art that has for its object the alleviation of human sufferings. The privilege cannot be acquired except by reading costly books and journals which require money to buy.

Dr. Bomford, the present Principal of the Medical College of Calcutta, has all on a sudden become a strict disciplinarian. Rules have been promulgated, under the sanction of superior authorities, that will make it impossible for a student of average parts to pass the final examination. If one fails twice in any intermediate examination he will not be allowed to appear again. His future prospects are thus to be ruined by a second failure. Instances are not rare where meritorious students have failed several times before achieving success or winning the diploma.

Some of the Professors themselves of the Calcutta Medical College have been unsuccessful in obtaining medical degrees, though, by passing the service examination, they have secured high appointments in the Medical Service of India. The severity of the present rules will ruin many students who have joined the Calcutta Medical College and who wish to win the final diploma by perseverance, if necessary. No positive harm can result if they are allowed to strive over and over for achieving their purpose. No diploma can be theirs unless they come up to the fixed standard of excellence. Whether they do so in five years or eight, or even ten, is a question that concerns them alone. The public have little interest in it. Those who persevere in the face of repeated failures, do not deserve to be despised. Generally speaking, they acquire more knowledge than those who pass on the first chance. Failure to pass an examination does not necessarily imply an absence of knowledge. As examinations are conducted, success is sometimes more a matter of chance than study. There are candidates that are so flurried in the examination hall that they cannot do their best, although in actual knowledge of the subjects examined they are not a whit inferior to the very flower of their year.

In India there are no separate service examinations. Public appointments depend on the final university examinations. Hence an objection may apparently be taken to the admission of plucked students. But when there is a restriction of age in

the first appointment for public service, the rejection of plucked students cannot be justified. If these fail to win the diploma at the proper age, their admission into the public service will be barred. Nothing more. They may yet earn a living by private practice. The reason of the rule, therefore, is not clear. Has it anything to do with the improvement of the position of the European Apothecaries under training in the same College?

On the first of June last, a paper was read at the Hare Anniversary on the Medical College of Calcutta. The lecturer deprecated the want of sympathy of modern professors compared with those of former times, with those that sit at their feet. Dr. Sircar from the chair pointed out the narrowness of modern medical men. If opportunities are given, the Subordinate Medical Service can produce men like Drs. Ram Narain Dass in surgery and Prasanna Kumar Mitter in midwifery. Indeed, both of them, though belonging to the subordinate service, were better than many members of the upper service. If the rule of rejection passed at Dr. Bomford's instance be not withdrawn, the only way of proceeding should be by calling into existence other medical colleges with the same standard of education with the Calcutta Medical College. This will induce Government to devise a separate service examination. The founding of an institution for teaching medicine may now be tried, though its fruits will appear at a distant date. Recently a College of Physicians and Surgeons has been established for the same purpose under the presidency of Dr. Juggobundhu Bose. The attempt is laudable, and good results are expected. Our wealthy men should endeavour to support it. The scheme may produce men like Dr. Kitasato of Japan. India in medical learning may in future rank with any country in the world.

#### GUBERNATORIAL TOURS AND LAW COURTS.

##### AN EX-OFFICIAL VIEW.

I see the Lieutenant-Governor makes very nice speeches in Behar. He seems to be rather frank in his utterances. I like frankness in high officials. It would be a great boon to the people if our Governors were able to ascertain the public feeling in regard to the administration of justice. A certain Emperor of Delhi used to travel incognito for finding out the real grievances of his subjects, but our Governors are surrounded by interested officials and toad-eaters in their rounds. The former try to show the bright side of the picture, while the latter spend their money and energy to get titles and honours. The consequence is that the Governors come back to their head-quarters with erroneous notions of the condition of the people. As a matter of fact, the country now suffers from the uncertainty of the law and the inequitable proceedings of the courts. Now-a-days scarcely two or more persons sit together and do not talk of the arbitrary proceedings of the authorities. Life and property are no doubt safe from marauders and robbers but one's innocence is no longer a safeguard against the clutches of the law. The multiplicity of Courts is a curse to the people. It has been a prolific source of false cases and subornation of perjury. In India where people in the good old time considered themselves bound by conscience to repay the debts of their grandfathers every attempt is made to avoid the payment of just debts by means of false evidence and legal flaws. Again, the Executive Police and Officers of Government are more apt to drag innocent people into Court than to bring the real offenders to justice. The latter generally escape if they are able to engage the services of ingenious legal practitioners and secure the good grace of the Police. Independence of Courts is now a rare quality. There are few officers who would dare

displease the executive authorities and sacrifice their own prospects in life. It is not the public confidence which they now care for. To please a Commissioner of Police or a District Superintendent who is hand and glove with the Magistrate is their study. For specimens of officers of this stamp you are not to make inquiries in the distant mofussil. Your own city abounds with them. Here criminal trials are mostly a farce. The other day His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor asked the municipality to press for exemplary punishment in certain petty cases, but every one knows that a majority of such prosecutions would result in acquittals if there were proper trials. As a matter of fact, the trial of petty cases instituted by the police and other public officers seldom occupies half a minute each. The alleged offenders know that a denial of the charge would entail more trouble and expense than an admission, although they believed in their minds that they were innocent. The sacrifice of goats at the Kalighat temple occupies more time than the trial of petty cases in the Police Courts. Of course, the result is satisfactory to the police and the magistrate earns the good opinion of the head of the police, an opinion worth having, speaking from a selfish point of view.

### THE MAHABHARATA.

TO THE EDITOR.

AFTER years of Herculean toil, the English translation of the Mahabharata, published by the late lamented Pratap Chandra Roy, C.I.E., in successive fasciculi, is at last completed. The Mahabharata is a treasury of wisdom and eloquence. The culture and erudition of the Island-born Rishi are reflected in it. Playing upon the heaven-strung *vina* which the Goddess of Poesy, invoked in his opening lines, herself handed over to him, he produced this gigantic epic containing the best account we possess of the heroism and manners of ancient Hindustan. Poor Pratap Chandra was not allowed an extension of days for seeing his work completed. He was snatched away by the pitiless hand of Death in the midst of the undertaking. Pratap Chandra laboured indefatigably for the completion of his self-imposed task, but, alas! the evening of his life had surely come too quickly. Incessant toil and anxiety had gradually broken down his health. Conscious of his approaching end, Pratap Chandra, in his death-bed, before starting for that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns," beseeched Babu Kisari Mohan Ganguli, the translator and his guardian angel, by clasping his feet, while tears trickled down his cheeks, to finish anyhow the English translation of the Mahabharata and free him from his debt to the subscribers. The translator gave him the required assurance. At this, his friend became tranquil. A few days after, when his hour came, he was fully prepared. Full of hope and thought centered on Krishna, without casting a longing lingering look behind, with the consciousness of having lived a life of usefulness and fellow-feeling for God's creatures on earth, and continually calling upon Vasudeva to give him a place at his feet, this martyr in the cause of the diffusion of Rishi-lore breathed his last. With his mind fixed in contemplation upon Vasudeva, he expired in *Yoga*. Yes, it was *Yoga* of the highest kind, for he had ceased to talk of his worldly affairs. It was thus that his soul left its mortal tenement of clay. He has ascended Heaven, let us hope as Hindus, on a celestial car wearing celestial garlands, with celestial choristers proclaiming his good deed, leaving us on this shore, full of

whips and scorns of time,

The oppressor's wrongs, the proud man's contumely,

The pangs of despised love, the law's delay,

The insolence of office, and the spurns

That patient merit of the unworthy takes.

Death, though as natural to us as birth or age, is always looked upon with dread. It is the shadow that mars our brightest landscape, and casts a depressing gloom over the happiest course of life. It is the poison that lurks in the sweetest cup of enjoyment. It is an inexplicable mystery of existence, which has blinded the keenest eye and baffled the most adventurous mind. But the black waves of this trackless ocean, at whose shore the strongest intellect of the physical man sinks in hopeless despair, offers no resistance to the awakened powers of the human spirit. Poor Pratap Chandra is dead and gone, but his name will live as long as his work will last.

Sreemati Sundaribala Dasi, the unfortunate widow of Pratap, has fulfilled the solemn promise which she had so ungrudgingly made to her departing and beloved lord, at the sacrifice of all her *Sridhan*. The world's adoration is due to this self-sacrificing Hindu

widow. Her name has since spread far and wide. It is to be hoped that the liberal portion of our countrymen will come forward to pay off her debts. I now come to the translator. To those unacquainted with press secrets he remained behind the screen. The general public had been groping in the dark. But the time has come when the veil must drop; the seal of anonymity must be broken. The screen concealing the personality of the individual should be put aside. A Sanskrit scholar of undoubted solidity and possessed, besides, of a good knowledge of the law, Babu Kisari Mohan Ganguli must be held to have achieved lasting fame by translating this gigantic work. His Brahman simplicity, his Rishi-like knowledge, his job-like patience, and his inspired pen best fitted him for dressing the Mahabharata in an English garb. He has Englished the Mahabharata in a very praiseworthy manner.

*Native Opinion* (Madras) said many years ago: "We can truly testify to the translation being a very faithful and ably-executed one, possessing no small amount of the beauty and vigour of the great original. Instead of 'dis'ing up Hindu ideas so as to make them agreeable to English taste,' the translator tells us that his 'endeavour has been to give as literal a rendering as possible of the great work of Vyasa; and we have no hesitation in saying that he has succeeded remarkably well.'" The *Saturday Review* (London) calls the translation "flowing" and ascribes other merits to it. *The Critic and Good Literature* (New York) states,—"the numbers before us argue well for the ability of the translator." W. E. Coleman, Presidio, San-Francisco, California, says,—"I have examined (the parts received) closely and critically, and I find the translation a very good one." Von R. Garbe, Professor of Sanskrit, Konigsberg, Germany, says,—"I have compared some parts of the translation with the original and found it literal as well as elegant." *Trubner's American, European, and Oriental Literary Record* (new series), pronounces,—"The translator has so far proved himself amply efficient for the task, and his English is idiomatic and clear. His terminology is flowery, and many of his passages are decidedly oriental in character. There is, in fact, a peculiar charm about his pages which cannot fail to fascinate the promiscuous reader, and yet, although the work is at all times pleasant reading, the accuracy of rendering is nowhere sacrificed by the translator to his desire to be entertaining." The above is from the pen of the late Dr. Rost, for it was he who edited the *Record* at the time. Coming to India, the *Hindoo Patriot* believed the first fasciculus of the translation to come from the renowned pen of Professor Max Muller. The truth is not a line of the copy sent by the Professor was adopted. The *Pioneer* said,—"The translation before us appears to be an admirable one." *The Bombay Gazette*: "So far as we are able to judge, the translator has striven to embody in his version the beauties of the original." *The Indian Spectator*: "The rendering appears to be faithful and spirited." Very recently, Mr. Tawney and Professor Cowell, in writing to Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra Nyayaratna, characterised the translation as "meritorious." Professor Blumhardt of Oxford wrote,—"I am extremely pleased with the English translation of the Mahabharata. It is excellent." Sir Edwin Arnold wrote,—"I may remark that, comparing several passages of the translation with the Sanskrit, I have found it generally excellent, terse, faithful, and most useful."

I have selected the above opinions at random from the wrappers of the successive fasciculi of the publication. Numerous other expressions of opinion occur of a similar kind.

With Babu Kisari Mohan the English translation of the Mahabharata has throughout been a labour of love. On a late occasion, Sir A. Croft wrote to him, saying,—"I have, as I believe you know, a very high opinion of your ability and your unwearied industry." Sir A. Croft in this short sentence has said what everybody must acknowledge that has ever come in contact with Babu Kisari Mohan Ganguli. To those acquainted with press secrets, the name of Babu Kisari Mohan Ganguli was all along known as that of the English translator of the Mahabharata. The majority of Oriental scholars, and almost all those officials who have helped the work, knew him as the author. Anonymity, with regard to a work going on for so many years, could scarcely be possible. Some years ago, an upcountry journal charged Pratap Chandra Roy with attempting to impose upon the public by putting himself forward as the translator when in reality he was unacquainted with the English language. Poor Pratap was very much moved by this foolish attack. He replied promptly, and crushed the offending journal completely by referring it to the two prefaces with which the first fasciculus was published. One of those prefaces was by the translator, while the other was by himself. The journal admitted its error and apologised to Pratap Chandra Roy for the hasty attack. Indeed, in his correspondence with Oriental scholars he freely named the translator in answer to enquiries addressed to him. He was not a man to plume himself with borrowed feathers.

Babu Pratap Chandra Roy and Babu Kisari Mohan Ganguli, by Englishing the Mahabharata, have not only placed India but the whole civilised world under an everlasting debt. No effort in that direction had been made by any one before, except Dr. Bopp, who, in 1819,

published some specimens, but his lamented and premature death prevented further progress. Professor Goldstucker also had begun collecting materials for giving the world an English translation of the great epic of Vyasa. But the project having been conceived late in his life, death prevented its execution. Fauche's French version, of which ten volumes had appeared when the author died, is rather a rough paraphrase than a translation. Sir Monier Williams published only an analysis of the contents of this great work. That done into English by Babu Kisari Mohan Ganguli and published by Babu Pratap Chandra Roy and his widow is the first complete translation of that immortal work of ancient Indian genius. The Government made Pratap Chandra Roy a C.I.E. If the publisher who finances the work deserved such recognition, the scholar whose pen produced it must be held to deserve it more. Rai Bahadur Bankim Chandra and others were of opinion, and they made no secret of it, that the author should have been honoured before the publisher. As literary men, their sympathies were entirely with a brother collaborateur. It should be remembered, however, that it was an anonymous undertaking. There can be little doubt that the author's turn has come. Sir Alfred Croft, I am sure, will do a simple act of justice in the direction indicated.

Even if no recognition comes from the State, the appreciation of his labours by the whole civilised world is no small reward to Babu Kisari Mohan Ganguli. Few persons among us possess working powers coming up to Babu Ganguli's. Indeed, in this respect, I may not unfitly compare him with Lord Brougham who achieved the singular feat of clearing off the arrears of the Court of Chancery accumulating for years and years together.

S. C. SANYAL, M.A.

### OUR LONDON LETTER.

London, 22nd June, 1896.

*Imperial Parliament.* The ministry has had its first fall. At the meeting of the Cabinet on Saturday, it was determined to drop the Education Bill for this session. The "Times" still thinks its own plan of an autumn session, commencing in October, would have been preferable. It writes: "The Education Bill has been treated throughout as the principal measure of the session. It was carried on the second reading by a majority unparalleled in the annals of Parliament. \* \* It was the one measure introduced by the Government which the Opposition declared that they would wreck, and they have wrecked it. \* \* The disappointment of faithful adherents, the encouragement of unscrupulous opponents, and the shattering of the belief in the leading members of the Cabinet as capable men of business are factors of importance in the development of public opinion. \* \* Mr. Balfour's position excites much sympathy. His personal qualities have won him the good will of his opponents as well as his followers. His quick intellect and his adroitness in debate have given him a commanding place in the House of Commons whether he is in or out of office. But it is impossible to deny that he is largely responsible for the mismanagement of business which has caused the strongest Government of modern times to make a humiliating surrender to a feeble and discredited Opposition. \* \* Mr. Balfour is a man of varied interests. Literature, art, philosophy and athletics have claims upon his attention.

But the career of the Parliamentary leader admits of few distractions. Those who have successfully ruled and guided the House of Commons have been absorbed in its life, have been familiar with its personalities and its incidents, however commonplace, and have felt its pulse from hour to hour. We are glad that there is no disposition in any quarter to criticise Mr. Balfour's shortcomings in an ungenerous spirit. His brilliant gifts are recognized by his party, and his capability of exerting them, when he is fairly roused, is beyond dispute. He has had a sharp lesson, and no doubt he will profit by it. Mr. Balfour has to recover his character as a man of business and to restore to his followers the confidence that belongs to a commanding and united majority. This is not beyond his powers. The mismanagement of business in the House of Commons is unfortunate, but it is not fatal, as the Opposition would have us believe." There is sound sterling sense in these observations. The leading Gladstonian evening paper endorses all the "Times" says as to Mr. Balfour's personal popularity in the House, but it adds: "He does not stick to his work. Instead of sitting glued to the Treasury Bench, he has to be fetched in, even in the middle of important crises." This is one feature of his failure as Leader. Lord Palmerston, though over 80, hardly even stirred from the Treasury Bench, once he had taken his seat at 4 o'clock. And, in his days, there was no automatic closure at midnight. The House sat till 1, 2 and even 3. But the grand old man was still at his post. The same may be said of Mr. Disraeli. No doubt it was

a terrible strain, and on that account, he accepted the peerage, so as to be relieved of the constant attendance involved in leading the Commons. And that is what Mr. Balfour must bring himself to do, and while the House is sitting he must abandon his preference for literature, art and philosophy. Another drawback he shares with his uncle is the absence of large and frequent gatherings, of a social character, of his supporters. It is unfortunate Lord Salisbury's grand historic home at Hatfield is within half an hour's drive of King's Cross. As a consequence he goes down from Saturday to Monday, and entertains a select few only.

But Mr. Balfour, with his home at Downing Street, might surely have weekly or at the least fortnightly gatherings of his supporters, and of his Opposition friends as well. Nothing contributed more to Lord Palmerston's social popularity than Lady Palmerston's Saturday evening receptions when all that was best in London society, Lords, Commoners, and men illustrious in literature and art were assembled in the salons of Cambridge House.

23rd June.

Last night, in the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour in a penitential sheet, had to eat the humble pie. He had to abandon the great Education Bill, and he had to explain how in one short week the Government had to make a complete *volte-face* from the position it had taken up at the meeting of the party, at the Foreign Office, on the 15th instant. On the whole he did it well, but all the facts patent last night were equally before him on the 15th. It was no doubt a humiliating position, but he had to make a clean breast of it, and for the present the Opposition have a right to crow, and no cock on its own dunghill will crow more lustily than will Harcourt, Fowler, Morley, and Asquith, during the recess.

Mr. Balfour was guilty of one of those *fauxpas* which bring him so much discredit. The article I have quoted above from the "Times" was on the whole friendly to him, and it is read not only by all the leading public men of this country, but it is also almost the only English paper read by publicists in the various capitals of Europe. But Mr. Balfour prides himself on never reading it, or any other paper. The "Westminster Gazette" very pungently writes: "Mr. Balfour said yesterday that he had not read that morning's 'Times,' and this is only an example of what it is well-known he takes pride in professing to be his practice. \* \* Is not Mr. Balfour's high and lofty academic tone strangely misplaced? If the whole thing bores him why does he not betake himself to his philosophy and his athletics? Every one is glad to have him Leader of the House, but he must consent to play the game according to the rules. He cannot expect to succeed by an ostentatious neglect of the conditions which all his predecessors have faithfully observed."

Sir Vernon Harcourt was in his glory. He pointed out that the Bill had been destroyed by a staunch Conservative, Sir A. Rollit, the member for Islington. He insisted the first and fatal blunder was in Mr. Balfour throwing over Sir John Gorst, and accepting the absurd amendment of Sir A. Rollit. This last is a man of too great capacity to be bracketed with the Bowles, the Dalziells, and Howarths, but, nevertheless he must be a regular gadfly to the Government. Out of some 1,200 or 1,300 amendments he has appropriated to himself over 80.

Now supposing the House were to divide on each of them, the mere act of walking round the Division lobbies, would consume 2½ working days, indeed you may say 3. Mr. Balfour made some calculations assuming each division would occupy 10 minutes, (20 would be much nearer the mark) from the time the bell begins to ring until the division has been taken, and the House resumed. I have based my calculation on each division consuming quarter of an hour. But, suppose 20 minutes were the average then more than three days would be consumed in dividing only on Sir A. Rollit's amendments. Mr. Labouchere, in his speech, described him ironically as "one of the most modest and unassertive members of the House." These are just the attributes in which he is singularly wanting. He is a solicitor, having a business in the city, and also at Hull. He poses as a great authority on Education, and possibly his eighty amendments are meant to score off against the Government for his not having been offered the post of Vice-President of the Council and virtual Minister of Education, an office so ably filled by Sir John Gorst. Sir A. Rollit's love of publicity is phenomenal and amounts to a mania, somewhat of the same type as Sir. H. Howarth's for writing to the "Times."

26th June, 1896.

Obstruction is rampant in the House of Commons and Sir Vernon Harcourt glories in being its most forward champion. His

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papers are covering him with sickly adulation. The "greatest Parliamentarian of his day" is about the mildest praise bestowed upon him, and he appears to drink it all in with avidity. His henchmen ransack the Dictionary for terms of servile, parasitic flattery. And yet this "great Parliamentarian," Leader of the Opposition, to whom the character of the debates in the House of Commons should be a precious legacy to maintain in its former lustre was twice called to order by the Speaker on Wednesday afternoon. He is really bringing himself down to the level of the Bowles, Dalziells and Stuarts.

**Cuba.**—The Fates do not appear to favour Spain in her efforts to suppress the rebellion.

Things are rapidly approaching a crisis of the greatest gravity. Spain itself is being denuded of both men and money. The rains have set in, the precursor of yellow fever, and the bulk of the troops being young unacclimatized youths, are expected to fall easy victims, and yield a death rate much more terrible than any that the insurgent forces could inflict. As one of the insurgents said to the *Times* correspondent: "Four new Generals had now arrived to aid them, June, July, August and September." Now as to the finances. The deficit for the ensuing year is estimated at \$82,000,000, say £16,000,000 sterling, which will "have to come out of the Spanish Treasury." This will bring home to the Spanish people exactly what Cuba costs them, and when their taxes are increased to meet this enormous deficit, there will be a very pregnant danger of revolutionary tumults. If Spain would only conquer its pride, and sell Cuba to the United States of America, her day of salvation might be at hand. Things cannot go on as they are now, without the loss of Cuba and possibly a revolution at Madrid. One great evil is the influx of Cubans from the country districts to the towns, especially Havana. All supplies are cut off by the rebels, so that the more than 1,000,000 souls in the towns are dependent on what they can procure from abroad. It is estimated the exports to the end of this year will produce only £2,600,000, including their staple products of sugar and tobacco.

There is really no money in the country, and starvation will drive the people desperate. What a tragic history that is of Spain and her Colonies! Three centuries ago, and now! It is very terrible. Surely of her it must have been written *delenda est Carthago*. And who will trace the causes of this terrible catastrophe? The native Spaniard is to-day as proud as his ancestors of three centuries ago. How have the mighty fallen! Will the boy King ever come to the throne? Were I a betting man, I would lay heavy odds he never will.

**Natives of India in Africa.**—At a meeting of the East India Association, presided over by Sir Lepel Griffin, a paper on "India and Africa," prepared by Captain Younghusband, C. I. E., was, in his absence, read by Mr. L. Probyn. The drift of the paper was based on the proposition, which every one will accept, that "in Africa there was land needing population, and in India there would be every year a larger population needing land." Captain Younghusband alleged that "ten years hence there would be 30,000,000 more people in India, than there were now, and in another quarter of a century 80,000,000 more." "Tropical Africa could scarcely be a field for settlement for a large white population, and if it were dependent for its developments upon whites alone the development would be very slow and tedious. But, by making use of India for the purpose progress ought to be assured, and the development rapid."

Sir Lepel Griffin, in opening the discussion, made some very judicious remarks: "Africa would depend for development upon forces outside itself, and as the country was obviously unfit for colonization by Europeans it would in time fall more or less into the hands of other races, possibly Indians, probably Chinese." This is far too sweeping a statement, as both Bechuanaland and Mashonaland are favoured with a climate perfectly adapted to the white races. With far more justice Sir Lepel added: "The Indian race was very highly placed in the intellectual rank of races, and he possessed a great many virtues which the Chinese did not, and probably never would possess." On the question of the payment of Indian troops sent to Africa, Sir L. Griffin spoke with no uncertain sound: "No person that was a true friend of India, and who wished well to the British Government at home could possibly be silent. So long as Indian troops were employed in Africa on work which was entirely outside those duties which were laid down in the India Act for the legitimate employment of Indian troops out of Indian revenues, they should be paid the whole of their ordinary pay and the whole of the extraordinary expenses, and not one rupee should be charged to the revenues of India. The matter was one of very great importance, and the honour of England was distinctly involved."

A parliamentary paper has just been published from which I am sorry to see only two members of the Secretary of State's Council had the courage to protest against any charge whatever being made on the revenues of India in respect of the troops sent to Suakin. The two were Field Marshal Sir Donald Stewart, G.C.B., and Sir James Peile, K.C.S.I. Those members who have apparently acquiesced, are General Sir Owen

Burne, Mr. R. Hardie (formally at the head of the Bank of Bengal) Sir A. J. Arbuthnot, Sir C. A. Turner, General Sir A. Alison, Sir C. Crosthwaite, and Sir Stuart Bayley. The despatch of the Government of India has now arrived, and, it is said, Mr. John Morley's motion will come on, in the House of Commons, on Thursday next week. Unfortunately, he belongs to the "little England" party, and objects strenuously to the employment of native troops at all out of India. Had his motion been confined to the question of the financial arrangements, I do not doubt the Government would have had to yield, if it has not already determined to do so, out of deference to the views of the Viceroy's Executive Council. But many who would support Mr. Morley in a defence of the revenues of India, will refuse to follow him into the lobby on the other question.

**Rhodesia.**—By next mail I hope to be able to send more satisfactory accounts of the state of things in Mashonaland, than I could report to-day. Mr. Rhodes has his work cut out for him, and I fear there must be a great lapse of time before things settle down into the quiet groove that ensued after Loben's defeat. But the authorities here, at the Cape, and on the spot seem fully alive to their heavy responsibilities.

**Canada.**—This letter has already run to so great a length I must leave over to next week the marvellous result of the general election in Canada. The Conservatives have been completely routed, and Mr. Laurier will take office as the first French-Canadian Premier of the Dominion. Our explanation of his triumph is, that the electors in the Quebec district—mostly of French descent, and Roman Catholics—resented the insolent dragoon-ing of their priests. But I will not go farther into the question to-day.

Crete and Venezuela must stand over till next week.

### WHAT IS THAT ONE THING?

It seems like an absurdity, yet it is true all the same. I mean that you might have a cellar full of wood and coal and still shiver with cold; and you *would* if it were not for one thing. "Oh, that is so obvious," you may say. "It was hardly worth while to hint at it. Anybody can see it with his eyes shut. All the better for me then: I shan't have to explain. And by the same sharpness you will be able to pick out the important point in two short letters I am about to copy for you."

The first runs thus: "In December 1890, my daughter (Mrs. M. J. Muther,) got into a low, weak, nervous condition. Do what she would she could not get up her strength. Gradually she wasted away until everyone thought she was in a decline, and had not long to live. In fact, she was so low and dejected *she did not care whether she lived or not*. She was under a doctor for six months, but his medicines did her no good. My husband then said, 'My daughter, I will now see what I can do for you.' What he meant was that he would have her take a medicine called 'Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup.' He had used it himself when he was ill, and thought it might prove as beneficial to her as it had to him."

"Mrs. Muther said she was willing to try the Syrup, although she had little or no faith in its helping one as bad as she was. For if she really had consumption we know there is no cure for that. My husband, however, got a bottle from Mr. Hulme, the chemist, in Rochdale Road, and my daughter began taking it. After the first bottle we saw a great improvement. She could eat, and the food caused her no pain. She continued with this remedy, and gradually gained strength, but it took some time to bring her round, she was so very low and weak. After a time she was able to get about, and never looked behind her. Since then she has been strong and well. We have told many persons how Mother Seigel's Syrup restored her to sound health, and are willing you should publish this statement of the facts. (Signed) (Mrs.) Margaret Watson, 11, Ruby Street, Bury, Oct. 8th, 1895."

"In March, 1893," says the second letter, "I began to fail in health. I could not say exactly what ailed me. I felt low, weak, and tired, and had no strength for anything. My appetite fell away, and what little food I ate gave me great pain at the chest and side. My hands and feet were cold, and nearly all the colour left me. I was often in so great pain I could hardly do any work. I was frequently sick, and could keep no kind of food down."

"I got weaker and weaker, in spite of all that was done, and had to be off my work for seventeen weeks. In this way I went on until November of the same year—1893. Then I happened to read about Mother Seigel's Syrup and what it had done for others suffering like me. I got a bottle of this medicine from Mr. W. Heywood, grocer, in Oldham Road, and after taking only the half of it I felt much better. I could eat without pain, and was stronger and brighter every way. When I had finished the bottle I was quite cured, and have had no return of the complaint since. I have told many others about what the Syrup did for me, and out of thankfulness I am willing my letter should be made public. (Signed) Miss Lydia E. Morton, 1, Greaves Street, Middleton Junction, near Manchester, October 10th, 1895."

Both these ladies say that they were very weak, and that their food—of which they could take but little—did them no good. In the midst of plenty they were actually starving. So much wasted was one of them that it was believed she had consumption. The event showed that they both suffered from dyspepsia, and nothing else. But that was quite enough; and besides it often runs into consumption and other fatal maladies. By setting the stomach right Mother Seigel's Syrup fully cured them both.

Coals and wood are useless without means to light a fire; and bread and meat are as nothing unless we can digest them and make them part of our flesh and bone. That is easy to see and important to remember. And it is its power to help nature work this transformation that makes Mother Seigel's Syrup so wonderful a remedy.



**CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.****LOAN NOTIFICATION.**

THE Commissioners of Calcutta are prepared, with the sanction of the Governor-General-in-Council given under Section 404 of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888, to open a Debenture Loan for Rs. 20,00,000 (twenty lakhs) on the security of the rates, taxes and dues imposed and levied under the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1888.

2. The debentures will have a currency of fifteen years from the 1st December, 1896, and will bear interest at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st June and 1st December of each year.

3. The form of the Debentures will be that given in the twelfth schedule of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888.

4. No Debentures will be issued for any sum less than Rs. 500, and above that amount Debentures will be issued only for complete sums of Rs. 100.

5. Tenders for the whole or any part of the above Loan of Rs. 20,00,000 will be received by the Secretary to the Corporation up to 2 o'clock P. M. of Friday, the 7th August, 1896.

6. Each tender must be made out in the form annexed to this Notification, and enclosed in a sealed cover addressed to the Secretary to the Corporation, and superscribed "Tender for Municipal Loan of 1896-97."

7. Each tender must be accompanied by Government Promissory Notes, Calcutta Municipal Debentures, currency-notes or cheques for not less than 3 per cent. of the amount tendered.

8. When a tender is accepted, the deposit, when made in currency-notes or cheques, will be held as a payment in part of the amount tendered, and will bear interest at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum from the date of acceptance of the tender, provided that the whole amount tendered is paid up in the manner hereinafter prescribed; but no debenture will issue for the sum so deposited so long as the entire amount of the tender is not paid.

9. The deposits on tenders, which may not be accepted, will be returned on application, and no interest will be payable on such deposits. If an allotment after being made is not taken up, and the full amount allotted is not paid as hereinafter prescribed, the deposit will be forfeited.

10. The rate at which a tender is made must be specified in rupees, or rupees and annas: a tender in which the rate is not so specified will be rejected as null and void.

11. The rates stated in a tender must not contain any fraction of an anna. If a rate containing a fraction of an anna is inserted in any tender, such fraction will be struck out, and the tender treated as if the rate did not contain such fraction of an anna.

12. The amount of the accepted tenders must be paid into the Bank of Bengal in the following instalments:—

One-third by the 21st August.  
Do. by the 21st September.  
Do. by the 26th October.

Parties, whose tenders are accepted, will have the option of paying all or any of the instalments before the dates specified above, and will receive interest from the date of such payment.

13. Anticipation interest will be paid on all instalments from the respective dates on which such instalments are paid into the Bank of Bengal to the 30th November, 1896.

14. In the case of two or more tenders at the same rate a *pro rata* allotment will be made (if the tenders are accepted), but no allotment will be issued if the amount distributable on any tender is less than Rs. 500.

15. A minimum having been previously fixed, tenders will be opened by the Loan Committee of the Commissioners at 2-30 P. M., on Friday, the 7th August, 1896, at the Municipal Office.

W. R. MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE:

Calcutta, 29th June, 1896.

**FORM OF APPLICATION FOR DEBENTURES.**

I hereby tender for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Municipal three and half ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ ) per cent.

Debenture Loan for 1896-97, and agree to pay for the same subject to the conditions notified at the rate of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ annas for every Hundred Rupees allotted to me.

I enclose Government Promissory Notes, Calcutta Municipal Debentures, currency notes, or a cheque for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed

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OF

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to Banerjee, Babu Sirodapasrad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chrlu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffin H.P.  
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from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
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to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.  
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It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

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It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his life and letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

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OFFICE: 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 735.

## IN MEMORY OF DON CARLO,

Born in Guernsey, September 1875,  
Died in London, 19th May 1888.

My trusty friend in lonely years  
Thy little life is o'er,  
And thou art laid in mother earth  
Amid the city's roar.  
I watched thee weak and weaker grow  
And dim and glazed thine eye,  
And though thou only wert a dog,  
I wept to see thee die.

While tending thee with loving hand  
Thy latest glance was mine,  
I have found love in human hearts,  
But not such love as thine.  
And oft at evening's social hour  
I sit in solitude,  
And think on all thy blameless life,  
So gentle and so good.

Another Dog they brought to me,  
Of birth and lineage true,  
And in my grief I failed to trace  
The virtues found in you.  
Companion of my merry moods  
And soother of my woes,  
The only grief thy life did cause  
Was when that life did close.

And mankind's cold and selfish creed  
Denies when life shall end,  
A compensating future state  
For you my faithful friend.  
But when I reach the other shore,  
And walk the golden street,  
May I 'mongst loved and lost ones find  
You sitting at their feet.

E. MACKAY.

—The Strand Magazine.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE German is fond of the nightingale. It is said a crowd of Bonn students was "hushed into silent ecstasy by one nightingale, which, in 1840, used to make a mile of wood ring with her nightly melody". "It was in the same year that the Prussian authorities, in want of money, ordered the trees round Cologne to be felled and sold. The whole ancient city of Agrippina was alive with terror; the trees abounded with nightingales which the Kölnische burgers adored, and they actually bought the trees standing, and thus preserved them

for the nightingales, and the nightingale music for Cologne." Bechsten has interpreted part of the song of a favourite nightingale. Hark to the note of Philomela!

Zozozozozozozozozozozoz zirrhadng.

Hezezezezezezezezezezezezezezeze, couar ho dze hoi.

Higaigaigaigaigaigaigaigaigai, guaiagai coricor dzio dzio pi.

\*\*\*

THE *Indian Magazine and Review* for the current month gives the list of Indian ladies in the West. We reproduce the names:

Bengal.

Mrs. B. L. Gupta.  
Miss Charulotâ Gupta.  
Miss Banolotâ Gupta.  
Mrs. W. C. Bonnerjee.  
Miss Nalini Bonnerjee (Medical).  
Miss Sushilâ Bonnerjee.  
Miss Promilâ Bonnerjee.  
Miss Janoki Bonnerjee.  
Mrs. O. C. Mullick.  
Mrs. T. Palit.  
Miss Basanti Lolona Lillian Palit.  
Mrs. A. Nundy.  
Miss Sarojini Chattopadhyay (resident at Hyderabad).  
Bombay, &c.  
H. H. the Maharani Saheb of Gondal.  
Miss Manek Turkhud (Medical).  
Mrs. Merwanji R. Boyce.  
Miss Serene Bahadurje.  
Mrs. J. D. Cama.  
Mrs. H. A. Wadia.  
Miss Ruttonbai Wadia.  
Mrs. A. J. Sett.  
Miss Amabai Sett.  
Miss Serene Sett.  
Miss Manek Dadabhai (Medical).  
Mrs. Cavalier (née Sorabji Khursedji Langrana).  
Mrs. Pheroze Thomas.  
Miss Lena Sorabji.

N.W.P.

Miss Lydia Dutt (Medical).

Punjab.

The Sardrani Umrao Singh.

Cannot a list of Indian ladies, dead or alive, who have visited Europe, be prepared? That would be more welcome. As the commencement of such a record, we give one elsewhere. It is not exhaustive. We shall be glad to receive names. Another list of Indian gentlemen marrying English girls in their country will be equally instructive.

..

THE same journal has a short but pregnant article on "The Capital of India." We quote it entire:

"There are, to all intents and purposes, two capitals—Calcutta for, say, five months in the year; and Simla, roughly speaking, for the other seven.

It was not until the advent of Sir John Lawrence as Governor-General in 1872 that Simla came to oust Calcutta. It is understood Sir John made it a stipulation he should be allowed to make Simla the capital, say, from the beginning of May to the end of September.

Then for the first time was seen the whole executive Government transferred to Simla, with the various Government offices, and the clerical establishment attached to each office.

More than a month every year is lost in the transfer from the plains to the hills, and a very large sum of money is thrown upon the Indian taxpayer.

Looking at it from the Native point of view, one cannot but sympathise with them. I have been led to look into the question by

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

the publication in a recent number of the well-known Calcutta paper, *Reis and Rayyet*, of an article by its lately-deceased distinguished Editor, Dr. S. C. Mookerjee.

Some of the reasons why the Natives object to the annual migration to Simla are the following :—

1. Its costliness.
2. The removal of Government from the influence of public opinion.
3. The hardship inflicted on the Native and Eurasian employees by separating them from their families for seven months every year.
4. The waste of time in closing the offices in Calcutta, and re-opening at Simla, and *vice versa*.
5. The creation of a separate and privileged class of the Civil and Military Services, whereby, while the bulk remain in the plains, the favoured few enjoy a splendid climate all the year round.
6. That the handsome pay of the Civil Service was calculated expressly on account of the exposure of its members to an exhausting climate.

These are some of the objections put forward by the Natives; and who will gainsay them?

When we consider that the Judges of the High Court, the Barristers, and the Solicitors have to do their hard intellectual work in the trying climate of Calcutta, through the whole of the hot season and rains, bar two months of vacation, the plea that better head work can be done at Simla will not bear investigation.

Moreover, have not the merchants and physicians to do their work in Calcutta all the year round?

There is no doubt whatever the climate of Calcutta is a trying one; but it is incomparably more healthy than it was half a century ago.

It has now a magnificent supply of water, brought down from a point of the Hooghly above Barrackpore, and many a city in Great Britain might well envy it.

Then the drainage is on the latest and most improved principles. I remember, some forty years ago, reading a speech of the late Mr. Russ Dannelly Mangles in the House of Commons, in which he said he had worked in Calcutta for thirty years with hardly a single holiday, and with scarcely a day's illness; and that, too, when Calcutta was dependent for its water supply on the public tanks, and with no system of drainage at all!

What, then, can be done? I am much afraid nothing at all. Large sums have been spent on a new Government House at Simla, as well as on public offices.

But I cannot help thinking the practice previous to Sir John Lawrence's assumption of the Governor-Generalship was the best for India.

That left the Governor-General free to leave Calcutta by himself, accompanied only by his personal staff. And a very reasonable provision that was, as he is always a man of mature years, and has not been acclimatised. Some may object and quote the disastrous effects of such an arrangement, as in the case of Lord Auckland and the first war in Afghanistan. But to-day no such objection would hold good, as the Governor-General is always in touch with the Secretary of State in London by the electric telegraph. And the Government cannot move in any matter of importance without the sanction of the Secretary of State.

Old Indians will remember when Macaulay went out as the first Legal Member of Council, he was stopped at Madras to take counsel of the then Governor-General—Lord William Bentinck—who, under the peremptory orders of his doctor, was passing the hot season at Ootacamund. But Macaulay did his four years of giant work in Calcutta without leaving it, and, in addition to his legal work, contributed regularly to the *Edinburgh Review*, including his brilliant essays on Clive and Hastings.

Another eminent—according to Macaulay, the most eminent—civilian (Sir T. Metcalfe) did thirty-nine years' incessant work in the plains.

Not only the pay is magnificent, but the leave and furlough rules are equally on an extensive scale. The facilities of travel in these days are, again, no mean consideration against the exodus. Nor has Simla been agreeable to all Viceroys. Viceroy after Viceroy had wished that it were not the summer capital. There are considerations also why Simla life should not be too much indulged in.

DURING 1895, works of public utility constructed by private individuals in the several districts of Bengal cost :—

|                                      |     |     |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| Public buildings (15)                | ... | ... | Rs. 59,133 13 3       |
| Roads (7)                            | ... | ... | " 1,07,400 0 0        |
| Bridges (4)                          | ... | ... | " 4,500 0 0           |
| Tanks (172)                          | ... | ... | " 1,83,038 0 0        |
| Wells (5)                            | ... | ... | " 2,898 0 0           |
| Bunds (6)                            | ... | ... | " 11,950 0 0          |
|                                      |     |     | 3,68,919 13 3         |
| Works costing less than Rs. 500 each |     |     | " 1,13,062 8 9        |
|                                      |     |     | Total Rs. 481,982 6 0 |

The amounts for the previous two years are : 1894—Rs. 3,46,424-3-0 and 1893—Rs. 3,95,620-6-0. There is no information how many of the works costing less than Rs. 500 were tanks and wells. That is very material at the present moment. A statement of the number of tanks and wells constructed during the past 25 years and their cost,

equally with the number of existing tanks and wells for which last orders have been made, will be a valuable aid in the discussion for a better supply of water for rural Bengal. We see that during the year 1895, only five wells were sunk at the cost already mentioned and that a maid-servant of Babu Nafar Chandra Pal Chowdhuri of Latuda gave Rs. 800 for a masonry one at Mayapur, district Nadia.

THE Bengal Government has notified that under the Rules for the Management of the Charitable Dispensaries and Hospitals in Bengal, "the pay of an Assistant Surgeon will be assumed to be Rs. 150 per mensem, and that of a Civil Hospital Assistant Rs. 38, and local authorities will be required to pay these sums into the Treasury half-yearly in June and December, irrespective of the actual pay of the officer appointed."

The reason of the rule is thoughtfully published simultaneously :—

"Rule 9 of the Dispensary Manual permits local authorities to appoint medical subordinates of the Government establishment to dispensaries in Class II, and requires them to do so in the case of dispensaries situated at the head-quarters of districts or subdivisions. Under the existing rules these subordinates, whether Assistant Surgeons or Civil Hospital Assistants, are entitled to promotion after seven years' service in their grade, on passing a professional examination. When such promotions occur, local authorities are usually unwilling to accept the increased charge for salary, and Government is asked either to replace the medical officer by one of a lower grade, or to meet the difference in pay from Provincial Funds. The transfer of officers on promotion causes, however, much hardship to them, and more especially affects those in the higher grades, while at the same time it interferes greatly with the efficient management of dispensaries."

2. In order to avoid these disadvantages, it was decided in 1893 that the increased pay to which a medical subordinate in charge of a local fund dispensary becomes entitled on promotion to a higher grade, would be met from Provincial revenues, if the local body could show to the satisfaction of Government that they were really unable, owing to financial pressure, to bear the increased charge. This policy is still pursued in dealing with such cases, but experience has shown it to be wanting in finality, and to cause much inconvenience to Government, the local bodies, and the officers concerned. The Government of India have now expressed their approval of the introduction of a system which is in force in the North-Western Provinces, and under which the contribution by a local body of a fixed sum calculated on the average pay of a particular class of medical officer entitles it to the services of an officer of that class without reference to grade. This system was also recommended by the Committee appointed to report on the questions of the pay, position and prospects of Assistant Surgeons, and the Lieutenant-Governor, after carefully considering the subject, is of opinion that it promises to work more smoothly than the one already in force in Bengal. It will equalise the demands on local authorities, and will secure them from those frequent changes which are unpopular in themselves and disastrous in their effect on dispensary administration. At the same time it will enable Government to provide permanent appointments for senior officers of the service, and thus to remove a long felt grievance of the subordinate medical services."

It is not intended to make the rule hard and fast : "The actual pay and leave allowances of these officers will be a direct charge against the Provincial Revenues in the first instance, and as the allowances of such officers during privilege leave are payable by the local bodies, these should also be calculated for the periods of such leave on the average rate now fixed. Cases where the application of this rule will cause hardship or inconvenience, or will conflict with pledges already given, will be specially considered. The sums annually due on account of the pay and privilege leave allowances of medical subordinates should be paid into the local treasury half yearly."

It may be convenient to Government to charge equally all local authorities irrespective of the quality of the men supplied, but we are not convinced that equal justice will be done to all. The equalization of demand is not necessarily a just demand. The exigencies of service may dictate the transfer of an Assistant Surgeon or a Civil Hospital Assistant in spite of the new rule.

The rule comes into force from the 1st of April, 1897.

MR. J. P. Hewett, C.I.E., having been granted privilege leave for three months, Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, C.S.I., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, on leave, has been appointed to officiate as Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department. Mr. Cotton had hoped for a Chief Commissionership, and the Home Secretaryship is regarded as the stepping-stone to a higher place.

MOULVI Abdul Jubbar Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., who has succeeded the late Prince Jehan Kadr Mitza, as President of the Mahomedan Literary Society and a Commissioner of the Calcutta Corporation, also fills his place as a Trustee of the Indian Museum. The Khan Bahadur



would not, after his retirement, accept any remunerative service. And he was offered more than one. The offices of a Municipal Commissioner and a Trustee of the Museum being honorary appointments and having been offered, he could not well refuse them.

**NOTES & LEADERETTES,  
OUR OWN NEWS  
&  
THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH  
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.**

THE marriage of Princess Maud to Prince Charles of Denmark was duly solemnised on the 22nd. The scene in Buckingham Palace Chapel was a most brilliant one. All the members of the Royal family were present, besides many foreign guests. The Queen withdrew after the ceremony, and the Prince of Wales presided at the breakfast at which the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury, Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, and Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain were present.

LORD Salisbury, when laying the Venezuelan papers on the table of the House of Lords, deprecated arbitration at the present stage, and said he felt confident that after the Commission had learned the facts the diplomatic question would be easily adjusted.

Official despatches show that Great Britain and America have not yet reached a common basis of agreement, though both parties are desirous of an amicable settlement.

CHINA has refused the requests of Russia and Germany to establish banks at Peking to transact Government business. Li-Hung-Chang when visiting the Credit Lyonnais at Paris, said China intended issuing a big loan, but wished to treat direct with a large bank without mediation of Consuls or the Minister of Finance.

IN a speech at the United Club, Mr. Balfour said it was impossible, with the existing procedure, for Government to control the House of Commons so as to ensure the smooth and continuous progress of legislation. In the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour brought forward a motion to suspend the standing orders for the remainder of the session in order to enable Government business to be undertaken at any time. The motion was carried by a large majority.

THE Select Committee of the Cape Parliament finds that Messrs. Cecil Rhodes, Beit and Harris were acquainted with Dr. Jameson's intended invasion, of which they were active promoters. Mr. Cecil Rhodes, they say, drafted a telegram stopping Dr. Jameson, but the message was not sent; furthermore the Chartered Company supplied all funds with the knowledge of the London office, and that Mr. Cecil Rhodes afterwards covered the amount with a cheque.

The trial of Dr. Jameson, in London, opened on the 20th before a jury. Sir E. Clarke moved that the indictment be quashed in that it did not state that the Foreign Enlistment Act was operative where the alleged offences were committed. Lord Russell completely upheld the indictment.

It is announced that negotiations have been concluded with German, French and Russian Bankers for a Russian three per cent. gold loan of four hundred million francs.

THE Cuban insurgents have defeated a Spanish column in the Province of Penar del Rio, killing and wounding 14 officers and 300 men, besides capturing the General-in-Command.

THE latest advices from the Nile expedition are that cholera is increasing at the Kosheh Camp. Reports from Suakin state that the Indian troops are suffering somewhat severely from dysentery. Tokar is described as a terribly trying place to live in, sandstorms being continual for 18 hours out of the 24. General Egerton has, it is believed, made more than one attempt to move a portion of his brigade towards Berber, but the authorities have promptly forbidden any such action.

THE *Times'* Hongkong correspondent states that a missionary charges the Japanese with great atrocities in South Formosa, where sixty villages have been burnt, and thousands of inhabitants have been killed. Another telegram from Singapore says that risings among the natives in Formosa have taken place, and that the Japanese are hard pressed.

LI-HUNG-CHANG, being interviewed in Paris, has declared that China desires to hold the balance equal between England and France, and that there is a share for both in the trade of South-West China.

IN a speech, at Liverpool, Lord Charles Beresford said that the Navy was short by twenty seven thousand men of the proper complement for manning the present and future ships. What is the limit of that future?

A STRONG force under Sir F. Carrington, Colonel Plumer, and Captain Laing left Bulawayo on Saturday evening to attack the Matabele in the Matoppo Hill. Sir F. Carrington with a strong force attacked the Matabele stronghold at dawn on the 20th. The enemy offered a fierce resistance until the afternoon, when the position was carried and the Kraal burnt. The enemy lost sixty killed while the loss on the other side was three killed and eleven wounded including Lieutenant Alfred Taylor. On Monday, the Matabele attacked General Laing's column while in laager, and, after a hot fight, were defeated with the loss of ninety killed. The British lost four whites and twenty-five friendlies.

IN the House of Commons, on the 21st, Mr. Roberts moved that the House adjourn to consider the treatment of the Maharaja of Jhallawar. Sir William Wedderburn seconded the motion. Lord George Hamilton said the Maharaja was deposed because he had not complied with the conditions upon which he was allowed to ascend the throne. The motion was eventually withdrawn.

A COMMERCIAL treaty between China and Japan has been signed based on the treaty of Shimonosaki. China grants Japan the Favoured Nation treatment, but Japan refuses to grant the same to China.

DISTURBANCES broke out at Caneg on July 21, necessitating the landing of Austrian and Italian Bluejackets. The British marines had landed on the 18th. The situation in Crete is regarded as serious. Christian deputies are being maltreated by Benghazis.

AT the dinner given by the South African Association on July 22, the Chairman, the Marquis of Lorne, in toasting the prosperity of South Africa, said he believed that the British before long would be as much masters of the Zambesi as the masters of the Nile.

THE new Three Per Cent. Loan has been subscribed three times over. The particulars are:

Aggregate amount of tenders, Rs. 12,02,51,500.

Minimum rate of accepted tenders, Rs. 102-7.

Tenders at that rate received per cent., Rs. 2-9 per cent.

Total amount of accepted tenders, Rs. 4,00,00,000.

Total amount to be received by Government, Rs. 4,12,46,888-2.

Average rate at which Loan is issued, Rs. 103-1-10 1/2.

This is a highly satisfactory result for the Government of India. In three years, the interest on public loans in India has been brought down to 3 per cent., or  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. less than that on the whole Indian debt in India and in England. Until 1823, the Government of India was unable to borrow at less than 6 per cent.; in that year it borrowed at 5 per cent. and in the following year the rate of interest offered and accepted fell to 4 per cent. In the days of the mutiny the rate went up to  $5\frac{1}{4}$ . Immediately after, in 1859 the 6 per cent. loans were all converted and paid off; by 1872 the 5 per cents and by 1879 the  $5\frac{1}{4}$  were similarly disposed of. The  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cents were reduced to 4 in 1892, and in 1893 the Government issued a small loan as a feeler at  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. It succeeded and was followed in 1894 by the conversion of the 4 per cents to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ . And now, by another successful move the interest is only 3 per cent. The Indian

sterling debt in England was likewise reduced from 5 and 4 to 3½ per cent., in 1889. The current year's sterling loan of £2,400,000 carries interest at 2½ per cent., the tenders amounting to £6,180,000.

The accepted Calcutta tenderers of the new 3 per cent. loan are : Bank of Bengal, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Grindley & Co., Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Kanu Ram Dass, Mahomed Yusoff, Midan Mohun Roy, Mohabeer Prasad Sah, Mohun Lall Indar Man, National Bank of India, Ltd., Prosad Das Baral, Pudma Nath Barua, Robert Kelso Hair, Skinner & Co., and H. and A. F. Sturmer.

THE programme of the Lieutenant-Governor's tour for August has been revised. Starting from Dacca at 23.5 railway time on Sunday, the 2nd August, Sir Alexander Mackenzie will be successively at Mymensingh, Narainjan, Madaripur, Barisal, Khulna and Jessore, arriving at Calcutta on Wednesday, the 12th August at 5.0. The Lieutenant-Governor has been obliged, on account of the abnormal lawlessness the Bhagirathi, to give up his visit to Berhampore—to his old district—fixed for the 24th instant.

STARTED by the *Times of India*, the following is going the round :—

"One of the heaviest criminal trials on record in this (Bombay) Presidency has just been brought to a very satisfactory end in the Court of the Joint Sessions Judge of Belgaum, Mr. R. J. C. Lyrd. Thirty-five members of a notorious gang of Border dacoits were committed for trial last December. The case was heard for fifty-one days in all. The voluminousness of the records may best be imagined from the fact that the learned Judge spent three days and (practically) three nights analysing them and digesting them into his charge to the jury. The charge took five and-a-half hours in delivery, and the jury unanimously found all 35 prisoners guilty. The aggregate sentences passed upon them amounted to about six and-a-half centuries. Nevertheless, most of the ringleaders will have to be tried again for murders committed during their outlawry."

The Bombay journal concludes its remark with the words—"The result so far is one on which we may congratulate the public, the jury and the judge." It has no words of praise for the Police or the Dacoity Department and the prosecuting Counsel. But for those who captured the dacoits or made the preliminary enquiry, and those that sifted the evidence and marshalled it before the Court, neither the jury could convict the men nor the judge sentence them so heavily to the satisfaction of the public. The wholesale conviction is, indeed, remarkable. The law and the evidence must have been perfect and complete to allow the escape of not one of the 35 prisoners, and their offence must have been too great for the infliction of punishment only less than the capital and greater than the next highest—transportation for life, which, under the law, can be commuted for imprisonment not exceeding 14 years' duration. The penalty for belonging to a gang of dacoits is transportation for life or 10 years' imprisonment. Some of the prisoners must have been found guilty of greater offence to swell the average rate of punishment to more than 10 years. We are not told, if the men were defended. Even if not, they could not complain, for the Court had devoted, on an average, more than a day and a half to each of them. Our exclamation is—Awful Justice! 35 men prosecuted, all of them found guilty and each sentenced to an average of over 18 years and 6 months' hard labour, and yet many of them to be tried again and punished for more serious offences. Will the patience of the jury, the judge and the public last till then?

BABU Tarini Charan Chatterjee is dead. He was a character and deserves a record. Commencing life as a schoolmaster, he lived to grow and die much greater. A native of the famous town of Nadia, he made himself famous in that town, attaining to the highest unofficial dignity, in the career of a native, opened by Lord Ripon by his local self-government scheme. Mr. Chatterjee was for several years an English teacher of the Sanskrit College, Calcutta, and, in the early days of vernacular education, made money by a geographical primer and a history of India in Bengali. When Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra Nyaratna began to dig for the foundation of his power, Tarini, with others of the older staff of the College, retired on one-third pension. He was, however, full of energy and his hands were never idle. At the dismemberment of the family of the lords on earth, he espoused the cause of a widowed Rani—a near relative. The lady was ever after grateful to him, and, to the end of his life, found him a liberal monthly

allowance. Although he never gained a high position in the service of Government, he did not sink as a schoolmaster in his retirement. He continued to be known, as he had been, as "bhugole" or geography, if not geographer, Tarini. The income from his books was respectable. Over and above the allowance he drew from the Rani whose *factotum* he was, he had other odds and ends. In his native town, he, with the aid of a few fellow citizens, established an English school which, soon superseding the cheap missionary school, began to yield him a substantial profit. He held for many years the office of Chairman of the Municipal Corporation of his native town, and held it with an iron hand, which partially accounted for his unpopularity, for, though he was very successful in life and never had to account for what he did, he was more dreaded than loved. His memory will always be associated with the wholesale destruction of the monkeys that infested the town. Considering that Nadia is a holy place, considering that monkeys are almost sacred creatures, and considering how municipalities of other sacred cities find the suppression of the monkey nuisance a tough task, Mr. Chatterjee may be said to have accomplished an impossibility. And he did the massacre in the city of the Vaishnavas without a protest. Tarini Charan's domestic life was, generally speaking, not unhappy. About five or six years ago, its sunshine was clouded by the death of his first wife who was an exemplary lady. He took a second wife in a grown up girl, to disperse the darkness that had overtaken his old age, when he was more than 60. Though the second wife presented him with two children, he never felt himself happy again. Almost confined to bed by a distressing illness, the closing years of Tarini Charan Chatterjee were cheerless.

THAT sorrow is a canker of the heart, capable of shortening life itself, needs no proof. How terrible is the bereavement caused by the death of a friend or relative, is known to him that has felt it. And who is there that has not felt it? What should one do when afflicted by sorrow? Is one to indulge in loud lamentations, or to remain sullen and return laconic answers when addressed? It is generally supposed that the weaker sex is naturally prone to the first, the rougher to the second course. The effect of sorrow is not equal on the two sexes. Women generally succeed in soon disburdening themselves of the heavy weight. Lamentations and tears relieve them. In the case of man who is denied the luxury of tears, sorrow eats into his very vitals. It is interesting to observe how poets have considered the question. We shall quote two poets of two different lands, belonging to different times, and singing in different languages. Let the prince of dramatists be first examined. *Macbeth* addresses *Macduff* who is sorely distressed by the intelligence of the inhuman slaughter of his wife and child and dependants, in these words :—

What, man! never pull your hat upon your brows;  
Give sorrow words: the grief, that does not speak,  
Whispers the over-fraught heart and bids it break.

Let us see what Bhavabhuti, whose command of language was marvellous,—indeed, whom Speech, to quote his own proud words, obeyed as a submissive wife,—and whose knowledge of human nature was deep, says: *Rama* faints again and again at the sight of objects, in the woods of Panchabati, that remind him of his beloved *Sita* whom he has banished in obedience to the senseless cry of some of the citizens of Ayodhya. *Sita*, through the puissance of the river-goddess Ganga, is invisible to *Rama*, while witnessing the indications of his heart-rending sorrow. She exclaims :—

इही, इही, अश्रुतो वि पशुनकण्ठं रचो ।

"Alas! Alas! my husband also is weeping aloud!"—(Tawney.)

Tamasā replies :—

वत्से, साम्प्रतिकमिवेतत् वसंभ्यामि

दुःखिते दुःखनिर्वापयामि ;

यतः

पूरोत्पीके तद्वान्न परीवाहः प्रतिक्रिया ।

श्रीकश्यपे च हृदयं प्रकाशयितुं शक्यते ।

"My dear child, it is meet that he weep now; those who are afflicted must extinguish their sorrow, [or, rather, indulge in acts capable of extinguishing sorrow.] For, when the flood of a lake has swelled to the full, an emissary is a remedy; and in the agitation of sorrow the heart is supported by lamentation."—(Tawney.)

We leave the reader to judge which of the two dramatists has expressed the fact more poetically. Here, again, is another deliverance of Bhavabhuti on the usefulness of lamentation in heavy grief :—

मिथ्याकी वीर्य दुहुमिव चयः क्षयति ।

\* \* \*

तस्याङ्गुली भवति ननु कामी हि वदित ।

"Sorrow for his beloved withers his heart as heat [rather, the season of sweat] a flower. \* \* \* Still, lamentation is truly a gain, for it is owing to it that he still lives [breathes]"—(Tawney.)

We commence with the following the list of Indian ladies who have been to the West. We omit those now residing in Europe whose names are given by the *Indian Magazine and Review* and which will be found in the opening page of this number of *Reis*. We find two omissions in the Magazine—Miss Dadabhoi Bahramji and Mrs. and Misses Burjorji Doctor. Its Miss Muneek Dadabhai should be Miss Maneckbai Dadabhoi Naoroji :—

The late Maharani Chandra, widow of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and mother of Maharaja Dhulip Singh.

The (deceased) mother of the late King Wajid Ali Shah of Oudh.

The Maharani of Baroda.

The Maharani of Cooh Behar.

The late Mrs. Sasipada Banerjee of Baranagore.

Mrs. Satyendra Nath Tagore.

Mrs. Chatterjee, wife of Dr. Nityanand Chatterjee of Cannanore.

Mrs. P. K. Roy.

Pandita Rama Bai.

Mrs. Devendranath Dass, wife of a son of Babu Sreenath Das, Pleader, High Court, Calcutta.

Mrs. Roy, widow of Dr. Gopal Chunder Roy.

The late Mrs. Ganendra Mohun Tagore and her two daughters, one of whom is dead.

Mrs. Greece C. Dutt.

Mrs. Govin C. Dutt and her two highly accomplished daughters the late Miss Oru Dutt and Miss Toru Dutt, the authoress of *Mademoiselle D'Arvers* and *Sheafs gleaned in French Fields*.

Mrs. Manomohan Ghose and Miss Ghose.

Mrs. P. L. Roy.

Miss Chuckerbutty.

Mrs. B. De and daughters.

Mrs. Dwarkanath Banerjee.

Mrs. Jagdis Chunder Bose who has just left Calcutta for Europe with her husband, the discoverer of wave lengths of light and electricity.

Bai Dhunbai Jehangir Readymoney.

Mrs. and Miss Dinshaw Adenwalla.

Mrs. Desai.

Bai Soonabai Merwanji Tarachand.

Mrs. Jehangir Merwanji Tarachand.

Mrs. R. D. Mehta.

Bai Goolbai Dadabhoi Cama and daughter.

Bai Jerbai Nusserwanji Patel and daughter.

Bai Dossibai Cawasji Jussavera.

Mrs. Dadabhoi Behramji.

Mrs. Ruttonji Jamshedji Tata.

Bai Aimal Hormusji Wadia.

Bai Avabai Merwanji Bhannugri.

Misses Maneckji Cursetji Judge.

Bai Perozebai Umrigur and daughters (3).

Bai Maneckbai Jehangir Watcha.

Bai Bhicaji Dorabji Cama.

Bai Shreenbai Dorabji Cama.

Mrs. and Misses Framji Cama.

Mrs. Dadabhoi Naoroji.

Bai Maneckbai Nowroji Master.

Miss. Frey Cama.

Miss. Furdounji Banaji.

Bai Meherbai Ardeshir Vakil.

Mrs. and Miss Dossabhoi Khola.

Mrs. and Miss Merwanji Khureghat.

Bai Shreenbai Muncherji Cama.

Bai Avabai Muncherji.

The late Mrs. Harold Littledale, second daughter of the late Dr. Atmaram Pandurang.

IN reporting the visit of the Lieutenant-Governor to Bankipore, the correspondent of a native daily contemporary, says :—

"At 9 P.M. Moulvi Fazel Imam Khan Bahadur in the name of the Mahomedan community of Patna gave an Evening Party in the Bankipore European Club, where preparations on a grand scale were made to accord a befitting reception to His Honour. The party was at first arranged to take place at the residence of Mr. Fazel Imam, but after his Honour's return from Nawab Valayet Ali Khan Bahadur, the Vice-Chairman (Mr. Fazel Imam) received an intimation to the effect that Sir Alexander Mackenzie refuses to be entertained at his house owing to some private reasons, which I for decency's sake do not think it advisable to disclose to the public."

The writer makes no secret that he means more than he says. He also connects the refusal of the Lieutenant-Governor with his visit to the old Nawab, the inference being that at the Nawab's place Sir Alexander Mackenzie learnt, either from the host or from other guest, something to the disparagement of Mr. Fazel Imam which led to the refusal. Nothing could be wider off the mark. The disinclination to go to Mr. Imam's house was communicated to him, through the usual channel, on the 8th instant, at about 5 P.M., in the Commissioner's Bungalow, after the presentation of the addresses to the Governor. It was not till the next morning, the 9th, that Sir Alexander Mackenzie went to the Nawab's after inspecting the Opium Factory. It cannot, therefore, be that the plan to humble the Imam was concocted at the Nawab's. It must have been settled before that visit, if not earlier. The *contretemps* is regrettable. But what is the cause? Our contemporary's correspondent, who seems to know, says it is not to be heard by ears polite. Why then make a fuss about it?

We deeply regret the death, on Sunday last, at the Ranchee Dak Bungalow, at the age of 59 years 11 months and 29 days, of Captain Andrew William Hearsey. He had come down from Mussooree on some legal business. He was about to return and had ordered the pony at Raipur to take him to his home and family, after an absence of some weeks, when the dreadful news reached Mrs. Hearsey that the Captain was no more. He died suddenly. The body will be removed to Mussooree and buried there.

The Hearseys are a large and well known family and the deceased was a prominent member. His short military career was not uneventful and, serving during the stirring days of the mutiny, he had been severely wounded and had won a medal and clasps. Entering the service of the East India Company as an Ensign in 1855, he became Captain in 1864 and retired the next year. During the succeeding 33 years, though no longer a soldier, he never ceased to be a hero. A sturdy citizen, he not only bravely fought for all the rights of a citizen when they were in danger, but, thrusting himself, in the exuberance of animal spirits, into other people's quarrels, he fought for justice to others, irrespective of race and nationality. Through the various vicissitudes of fortune and ills of life, he exhibited a remarkable doggedness and persistency which never failed

#### The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 29th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subject*: Hydrostatics—Pascal's Law. Barker's Mill.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 30th Inst., at 6 to 7 P.M. *Subject*: The Protozoa.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Friday, the 31st Inst., at 7 P.M. *Subject*: Temperature and its Measurement. Thermometers.

Lecture by Babu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 1st August at 5-30 P.M., *Subject*: Morphology of Plants—Roots.

Lecture by Dr. Nilratan Sarkar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 1st Aug., at 6-30 P.M., *Subject*: The Animal Body.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,

July 25, 1896.

Honorary Secretary.

to bring him their reward. Of kind heart and genial temperament, full of anecdotes of the great and the small, he was always a welcome companion who could beguile you with pleasant talk for long hours. Learning in suffering what they teach in song, he always respected the feelings of others and sympathised with their sorrows, and always had a ready helping hand for them, whatever their status in life and society. He was familiar with various phases of life and never considered any one too low for being tapped for information. The knowledge he thus gained of men and things kept many in dread of him. It was impossible to know the Captain without loving and esteeming him for his many virtues, chief amongst which was a sturdy independence of character. Nor would Captain Hearsey confine himself to individual concerns or small and unimportant matters. Imperial interests as much occupied his attention. He was the first to suggest a Cheap Reserve for the Indian Army which was followed by the formation of the Imperial Service Corps. With better education and opportunities, he could have left behind him a more enduring name.

With an agile frame, a hardy constitution, ever active, of abstemious habits, who could have thought that he would not survive his 60th year? But hard work had undermined his robust health. He was suffering during his stay at Ranchee; he would not, however, mind it and, in his buoyancy of spirits, caring for no physic or physician, neglected himself, and, rejecting all offers of medical help, died, untended, away from home and family. We grieve for him that is dead, and we grieve also for his widow, for she was always the worthy mate of a heroic husband. We offer our sincere condolences to her and her children. May God grant them strength to bear the blow!

A CORRESPONDENT writing on the 11th instant said—"In our part of the district of Burdwan the rainfall is quite insufficient up to date. Cultivation is carried on with some difficulty. Our village is so situated that a slight rise of the river Aljui carries inundation. The nights are very warm and the effect of the heat is rather unhealthy. It is damp heat that tells upon the constitution of persons who live in houses built in days when free ventilation was little understood."

On the 21st, he reports—"There was a copious fall of rain yesterday in this part of the country. It will do good to the crops."

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, July 25, 1896.

### WATER SUPPLY IN BENGAL.

THAT the question of water supply in Bengal should ever make an administration truly uneasy and impose on it the obligation of levying a special tax, is, perhaps, the best proof of the dissociation of true statesmanship from the rule under which we live. The geological formation of the country is such, and the soil, with the exception of Ranigunge and a few other tracts, is so interspersed by a network of rivers and rivulets, that a perennial supply of water may be found at only a small depth from the surface. A considerable portion of the country lies under water for nearly half the year, the usual means of locomotion at such times consisting of rafts and boats constructed on the most primitive principle. Speaking of even such districts as Jessore and Hooghly and Nadia and the Twenty-four Pergunnahs, the principal Provincial roads, for the greater part of their length, consist of embankments or *bunds* raised several feet above the general level of the soil. Capable of striking the most careless observer, it is this fact

that led the late Raja Degambar Mitter to express the opinion that Bengal stood more in need of canals than roads for all kinds of locomotion and traffic. Paradoxical as it might seem at the first sight, observation and reflection would show that there is considerable truth in what the Raja very often endeavoured to impress upon those with whom he talked upon the subject. Most of the villages in the interior of Bengal, in even years of average rainfall, look in the rainy season like islands in the midst of wide expanses of water all round. Every traveller who has seen the country during the season of rains has described this feature of the land. That a country so circumstanced should be in want of water in consequence of a drought extending over two or three years, is certainly a matter of surprise. Here no Artesian wells, requiring a depth of three to four thousand feet being reached before finding the sub-soil springs, are needed. In most districts an expenditure of Rupees four or five is needed for sinking a good well, and five or six times that amount for a thin wall of baked pottery for protecting the sides from slipping. A cost of Rupees one thousand only is sufficient for excavating an ordinary tank that will not be dry if un replenished for even three years by sufficient rain-fall. The cost was considerably less a century or so earlier. Tanks and wells have, in this country, been always excavated by the people themselves. Formerly, a permanent supply of water was regarded by every householder as a necessity as imperious as a house for sheltering his family from sun and rain. If a tank needed repairs, those repairs were attended to with as much promptness by the owner as the repairs of the house he lived in. It is not clear how far the Mussulman Government kept the question of water supply before it as an administrative problem. This, at any rate, is well known that particular Mussulman rulers took a pleasure in digging wells and tanks for the benefit of travellers. Shere Shah was not the only Mussulman ruler who distinguished himself in this direction. Mussulman noblemen, again, owning seats in the interior, vied with Hindu Zamindars in creating perennial sources of water supply for the use of the poorer people. Works that are good in themselves always engage the attention of the good even if religion does not utter its commands clearly. The Mussulman religion inculcates the virtue of benevolence as actively as the Hindu Scriptures. Only the forms of benevolence, instead of being definitely shaped as in the latter, have been left to the discretion of the individual. No Mussulman gentleman of means will deem it a waste if money be spent on such useful works as tanks and wells.

We have before this pointed out the causes in consequence of which the descendants of those men who did so much for giving the people permanent sources of water supply are no longer able to tread in the footsteps of their fathers. To those causes we should add one which we did not mention, *viz.*, the enormous increase that has occurred in population. It is a matter of deep regret that till now the question of water supply in Bengal has never engaged the attention of British administrators. If his predecessors had done their duty, Sir Alexander Mackenzie would not have been compelled to rack his brains to-day for finding the means needed to cope with the evil. There cannot be the slightest doubt that more money is needed than what the State can set apart from its present resources for achieving the end in view. The neg-

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lect of a century and a half has to be repaired. The imbecility of successive administrations has to be atoned for and redressed. We sympathise with Sir Alexander Mackenzie in the difficulties that confront him. The soundest advice we can give is that he should not attempt to do much. As the evil has been allowed to accumulate, it should be repaired gradually. Another three years' drought is not before him. His sound Scotch common sense, we hope, will save Sir Alexander Mackenzie from splitting his solid reputation for statesmanship upon any hasty and ill-considered measure. He should rely more on private liberality than on any scheme of taxation. Indeed, the particular scheme that has been proposed looks very much like a beggarly account of empty boxes, as we shall show, in view of the enormous expenditure needed for the mitigation of the calamity over a considerable area. National charity in Bengal should be restored to its old channels. No more diversions should be allowed under official pressure which cannot fail to be mischievous. Sir Alexander Mackenzie cannot possibly be ignorant of the demoralisation that has overtaken the wealthier classes as regards the direction of their charity. Since we last wrote, every body has heard of the handsome contribution, by a gentleman of Howrah, with a *carte blanche* to the Burdwan Commissioner to devote it to any purpose he chooses. No other country can present such a spectacle of utter intellectual helplessness.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie admits that a large sum is needed for achieving the end in view. We are surprised how with such a knowledge he could think of putting forth such an extremely inadequate scheme. We have no mind to refer to the violations of promise about the manner in which the Road Cess has come to be applied. When the Zemindars opposed its imposition on the ground of its being an infringement of the terms of the Permanent Settlement, the Secretary of State, for gilding the pill, declared that its proceeds would be devoted to purposes purely local, so that the rayyet contributing to it would have its benefits brought home to him. At that time, water supply was enumerated as one of the objects of the cess. That object, however, disappeared from the enumeration contained in the later Acts. We have no quarrel with Sir Alexander Mackenzie for a feat of legislative legerdemain perpetrated by a former administration, especially when he is fully willing to give us a portion of the proceeds of that very cess for water supply. Small as the entire proceeds are of the Road cess, a considerable fraction, it is believed, is spent on the maintenance of Provincial roads for relieving the Provincial revenue. The subject is under enquiry. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, however, tells us rather curtly that the enquiry will not lead to perceptible results. We fear this is not quite correct. We think there will be a considerable saving in the cess funds if these are relieved of the burden, wrongly thrust on them, of meeting the expenditure on Provincial roads whose maintenance should form a charge against the Provincial revenue. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that by making over the ferry receipts to the cess fund something appreciable will be gained though the Provincial revenue will have to bear the sacrifice. It is our deliberate opinion that of all forms of taxation, ferry imposts are, on principle, the most objectionable. Without referring to the state of several ferries in even the metropolitan districts that we know of, and where arrangements

the most primitive are allowed to exist not without danger to life itself, it may be fairly said that, under a civilised rule, such vexatious impediments on locomotion should not be permitted to continue. We fail to see what their justification is, beyond the fact that they have existed from a long time without being challenged by public opinion. This is, however, scarcely the time for agitating for their abolition. We cannot help expressing the hope that when receipts from ferries are looked upon as so important, something will be done to improve their primitive arrangements for the sake of those who contribute to them. Considerable time has to be wasted at most of the ferry ghats before the State lessee appears with his old and rickety raft to row you over to the other side, often in company the most disgusting. No legislative enactment is needed for introducing the reforms we contend for. Magistrates can do much by timely inspections.

Nobody can find fault with the reasons which Sir Alexander Mackenzie urges against the imposition of any further liabilities on the Provincial revenues, even for the sake of rural water supply, than a complete surrender of the ferry receipts. Possibilities are pointed out of a permanent increase of administrative expenditure on the one hand and a permanent reduction of income on the other. Existing resources being shown to be inadequate, Sir Alexander Mackenzie thinks that some comprehensive scheme of further local taxation has become a necessity if real progress is to be made towards solving the difficulty of rural water supply. The project, however, that has been actually put forward is objectionable. It has not even the merit of being adequate for the purpose. It will produce discontent without accomplishing anything material. The Government of Bengal should certainly pause before taking the leap in the direction contemplated.

#### THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICE TOWARDS THE PEOPLE,

or,

##### A GLIMPSE INTO MOFUSSIL ADMINISTRATION.

CONSIDERING how large the powers are that are exercised by District Superintendents of Police, it is very desirable to have none but first class men in the post. At present it is not definitely known whence these officers are drafted. It is generally believed that they are cousins, near or remote, of English families having Indian connections. Unable to pass the Civil Service Examination, and destitute of the means also of going through the Universities, they are provided with appointments in India on the strength of a very little knowledge of the Criminal law. Most of them, even when they have seen service, have little or no conception of what evidence is admissible or what not in a criminal trial. They are noted for the thoroughly good understanding they always succeed in maintaining with Assistant and Joint and District Magistrates. They consider Native Deputy Magistrates as officers of an altogether inferior status or grade. In consequence of the perfect harmony of their relations with the Civilian Magistracy, they manage to sit in judgment upon the Deputy Magistracy of their respective districts. As their own fame and prospects depend upon their success in obtaining convictions, and as they are the inseparable companions of European Magistrates, native Deputy Magistrates, if they value the good opinion of their superiors, must have to be exceptionally bold before they can let off an accused person against whom there is some show of evidence. The state of affairs in this direction, under the late regime, had assumed an alarming aspect. Even Secretaries to

Government used to instruct Deputy Magistrates that theirs was not to weigh evidence and come to correct conclusions, but only to convict if the Police prosecuted. It is believed that things have improved under the present administration. Until, however, a complete separation takes place between judicial and executive functions in India, unjust convictions cannot be expected to stop, whatever the vigilance of the superior courts and of the head of the administration for the time being, and however actively the press might exert for exposing the wrong-doings of the inferior Magistracy.

Readers of this journal know the facts connected with the two cases in which Mr. Shirres, the District Magistrate of Dacca, recently signalled himself by pronouncing judgments utterly inconsistent with the law. The High Court, on motion, has set them aside. In the prosecution of Babu Preonath Bysack against the Police for wrongful arrest, the Magistrate, admitting that force had been used, refused to summon the accused. He simply dismissed the complaint as frivolous, evidently thinking that when acts of violence proceed from the Police, it is the duty of every native subject of the Crown to submit to them. The Magistrate has been ordered by the High Court to take up the complaint and proceed with it according to the law. In the other case, *viz.*, that which the Police had brought against the two Bysack brothers and which was followed by a conviction and punishment, the High Court has set aside the conviction as the record is exceedingly defective. If the prosecutors wish, they are at liberty to proceed against the defendants again.

Behind these three cases is a pretty history in which the District Superintendent of Police, who was mainly responsible for the arrest of Babu Preonath Bysack and who had directed the prosecution of the Bysack brothers for having let off fireworks and obstructed the public thoroughfare, figures not very creditably. The facts lie within a nutshell. So far as its Hindu population is concerned, Dacca may be said to be the stronghold of Vaishnavism in East Bengal. The anniversary of Krishna's birth is celebrated by grand shows. All Dacca and his wife takes an interest in them. People flock to the town from far and near. The enthusiasm of the managers of the show is kept up by party-spirit that, in such connection, is not unwholesome, for there are two parties, *viz.*, one of Nawabpur and the other of Tantibazar, who vie with each other in securing as much pomp as possible. The two parties parade their processions on two consecutive days. Richly trapped elephants form a prominent feature of the show. Last year, it was arranged that the Nawabpur procession should come out first. The date fixed by the Magistrate, Mr. Beatson-Bell, was the 15th August 1895. There was heavy rain the whole of the previous night which continued till 9 o'clock of the morning of the appointed day. The procession, therefore, could not issue. The Magistrate, informed of this, appointed the next day, intimating at the same time that a fresh petition might be made if the weather proved foul. There was rain on that day also, with the consequence that many articles of exhibition were very much damaged, made as they were of coloured paper. The Government elephants that had been brought out had to be sent back. No embroidered housings could be put on them for fear of damage from the heavy rain.

After the rain had ceased, Mr. Orr, the District Superintendent of Police, and Mr. Beatson-Bell, the Magistrate, seated on one elephant, called upon the leaders of the Nawabpur party to make fresh arrangements for taking out their procession that very day. As the damage done could not be repaired within less than three days, it was not possible to obey the Magistrate. On the morning, however, of the next day, *viz.*, the 17th, Mr. Orr sent word through a Police officer that the procession should be brought out that day. At the same time, it was said that they would not have Government elephants if they failed to do what he directed. They requested the Police officer to see for himself and report as to whether it was possible for them to obey the direction or order. They sub-

mitted a petition to the Magistrate for fixing the next Monday. Their prayer was rejected. Mr. Orr again tried to have his order carried out, using the potent threat about the Government elephants. The District Superintendent was then in charge of the Khedda. He added that if the Tantibazar party also failed to bring out their procession on the day that would be appointed for them, they also would not get the elephants. Being only men the Nawabpur party could not work a miracle. The threats of Mr. Orr notwithstanding, they failed to do his bid. Their prayer for Monday having been rejected by the Magistrate, the Divisional Commissioner was appealed to. Removed from the atmosphere of local prejudices, the Commissioner asked the Magistrate to give the applicants one more chance, with which the latter complied with reluctance, fixing Monday the 19th August as had been prayed for. There was a fresh attempt to propitiate Mr. Orr for the sake of the Government elephants. He, however, was immovable. Accordingly, on Monday, the Nawabpur procession came out, shorn of its grandest attraction, *viz.*, a goodly array of elephants in rich drapery. The following day had been appointed for the Tantibazar procession. But it too could not come out owing to the unfavourable weather. It, however, issued the day after, with a good number of Government elephants. This distinction caused much heart-burning. The local newspapers grew furious and assailed Mr. Orr with bitter reproaches. He was much moved and, it is said, expressed his feelings openly.

There are men who connect this story of Mr. Orr's vexation and wrath with the two cases in which Mr. Shirres has signalled himself. The defendants in the case instituted by the Police are Dharani Nath Bysack and Preonath Bysack, belonging to the Nawabpur party. It is scarcely necessary to recapitulate the facts. Only one incident need be recorded here. These gentlemen had applied for Government elephants for the processions they paraded on the occasion of their children's weddings. The District Superintendent of Police refused their prayer. They appealed to the Magistrate, who referred the matter back to Mr. Orr, asking him to state if there were any precedent of Government animals having been given to private parties on such occasions. Indignant with the Bysacks for the attacks on him in the local press with which they had nothing to do, he hastily, without due enquiry, wrote to the Magistrate, stating that elephants were never allowed to the gentlemen of the town on such or similar occasions, with the result that the Bysacks did not get the animals.

#### OUR LONDON LETTER.

[The extracts from the *Times* referred to in the concluding paragraph of this letter, we are unable to reproduce for want of space. ---Ed. R. & R.] July 3.

*Great Britain. Imperial Parliament.* After an all-night sitting of seventeen hours on Monday, the 29th ultimo, the Report stage of the Agricultural Rating Bill was passed, and finally, on the 1st instant, it was read a third time, and now finds its way to the House of Lords. It is interesting to note that in the course of Monday night, nineteen divisions took place, consuming from 4 to 6 hours in the mere act of walking through the Division lobbies. The Speaker remained in the chair the whole time from 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon to 20 minutes past 8 on Tuesday morning, and the only good word to be said in favour of the numerous divisions is, they enabled the Speaker to leave the Chair from time to time, and keep up his strength with potent libations of beef tea! It is to be hoped the remaining weeks of the session will be devoted to good real and useful work. Now that Sir W. Harcourt, supported by Mr. Lloyd George, Dr. Tanner, and Mr. Dilziel, has discovered the Speaker and the large Government majority too strong for him, he will probably endeavour to rehabilitate his character as a Parliamentary Leader.

*Indian Troops at Suakin.* The debate on this matter is fixed for Monday next, the 6th instant.

I am sorry to see from today's papers the Home Government will not yield to the strong protest of the Viceroy and his Council supported as the latter are by 999 out of every 1,000 of those who have served in India, Civilians, Military and Mercantile, and, strange as it may appear, against the personal opinion of Lord Salisbury expressed quarter of a century ago.

*Venezuela.* The sensational story of a serious conflict between

the Local Government and a British surveying party has dwindled down to a very small affair. Mr. Harrison has been liberated, and apparently the main question of the boundaries is in a fair way to be amicably settled.

*Crete.* A Christian Governor has been appointed by the Porte. So far good. But the Cretans have been so often put off in the past, with delusive promises, nothing will satisfy them now but a guarantee of protection from the Great Powers. These are apparently acting, so far, in perfect harmony. But the turbulent feeling of unrest is still showing itself not only in Crete, but in Macedonia and Van as well.

*United States.* Every one is waiting for the issue of the Democratic caucus to be held at Chicago. The final battle in the Electoral College will be on the question of currency, gold *versus* silver. The silverites will put forth all their strength, but, unfortunately for them, the party is in a dislocated state, and they have no outstanding leader to nominate for the Presidency. The future of the States is an unknown quantity, and it will be a relief, not only to them but to commercial Europe as well, when the choice of the future President is actually determined. All seem agreed Mr. McKinley will be a very weak President, should he be elected. With no strength of character of his own, he will be a mere tool in the hands of the masterful wire-pullers at Washington, and the immediate outlook, financially, is more than sufficient to damp the spirits and energies of the most astute Senator or Congressman.

*France.* The principal event has been the death of the Duc de Nemours, second son of King Louis Philippe. When the royal family of France had to fly from Paris in 1848, our Queen gave the life use of Claremont to the King, and Bushey Park to the late Duke. Claremont is now occupied by the Duchess of Albany, widow of Prince Leopold. The residence at Bushey Park now falls again to the gift of the Queen.

*Russia.* I am sorry to see the Czar is still an invalid, and the State entry into St. Petersburg is indefinitely postponed. It would appear he has not got over the severe nervous shock he sustained by the terrible catastrophe at Moscow during the Coronation fetes.

*Austria-Hungary.* The Liberal party is rousing itself just as Cardinal Rampolla is endeavouring to impose mediæval shackles on the Empire. A great demonstration has been made at Prague, and if the Cardinal thinks he can resuscitate the worst features of Roman Catholicism, he will find himself cruelly bancked. The fine old Emperor will hold things together during his life time, but after him, what a deluge! Hungary and the Liberals throughout the dual Empire must win, and if the Cardinal wishes to avert a terrible disaster, he will yield betimes. Now it would be an act of grace and high policy, if deferred it will end in a catastrophe for the Roman Church that will rouse Mr. Gladstone's sincere sympathy, to say nothing of the wailing of his great friend Lord Acton.

*The Revolt against Clerical Intolerance.* There is no subject more deserving of attentive watchfulness than the uprising of the laity against the arrogance of the clergy. In Austria, Hungary, Canada and in our own House of Commons, the same battle is being fought. In Canada, a Roman Catholic (Mr. Laurier) secures a majority of 40 to 45 over the Protestants, in spite of the electorate having been ordered by the Catholic priests to support the latter. In Austria and Hungary Cardinal Rampolla is trying to carry his extreme ultramontane views, to a point, where, in Hungary at least, if he do not exercise extreme caution, the Roman Church will be worsted in the conflict. It would appear the Hungarian priests are patriots first, and will not sacrifice their national independence to a Cardinal who, without the intellectual forces, is endeavouring to play the rôle of a Richelieu or a Mazarin. The future of Austria-Hungary depends very greatly on the personal popularity of the present Emperor, who is the object of exceptional devotion to all his people. Whatever Austria may do Hungary will never yield to Rome, and the struggle, if forced upon it by the vaulting ambition of the Romish Jesuits, will eventuate in a crushing defeat to the latter. Here in England, in a milder form, we have to deal with the same enemy. The great majority of the clergy of the Church of England are sacerdotalists. They claim to be a separate part of the body politic, and in right of their "apostolical succession," to stand aloof from the laity, as a body entitled to dictate to the laity, even in matters of general politics. And this is just what the laity of England will

never tolerate. I do not speak of men like the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Halifax or Mr. Athelstane Riley. They are little better than Roman priests. But the great mass of the English laity, the aristocracy, the gentry, landed and commercial, and, above all, the intelligent working man are determined the clergy shall keep to their own sphere. The revolt in Canada, especially in the Province of Quebec, is altogether startling. "The people have broken out into open mutiny against their clerical chiefs." The Church has been losing, of late, something of her old power over the laity. The Roman Catholic laity of the Province have contumaciously defied and beaten the episcopacy at the polls." I take these sentences from a leading article in the "Times". It is unfortunate for the Church of England that, just at this moment of unrest, Dr. Temple, the Bishop of London, should be guilty of perpetrating a very gross job. Some years ago the Diocese of London was greatly reduced in territorial extent. Bishop Blomfield, the predecessor of Bishop Tait, had enjoyed an enormous income nearer £20,000 than £10,000. Bishop Tait accepted the see on the reduced scale and that is the income now enjoyed by Bishop Temple, with a town palace in St. James' Square and another at Fulham on the banks of the Thames. When suffragan Bishops were introduced to relieve the Bishops of much of their episcopal work, it was understood the former would be provided for out of the Bishops' personal revenues. But Dr. Temple has discovered a better method. He plants his suffragans in rich livings, and so spares his own purse. The living of St. Botolph's in the city is a very rich one with £3,000 a year. When the late popular incumbent, Mr. Rogers, died, Bishop Temple, instead of conferring the living on some hard worked priest who would devote all his time to the interests of the parish, has, against the protests of the parishioners, foisted upon them one of his suffragans, the Bishop of Marlborough, who already has a wealthy living at Kensington. The job is a very scandalous one. The Bishop himself and his suffragans now absorb over £16,000 a year, so we are getting back to the state of things in Bishop Blomfield's time. It is this audacious disregard of the interests of the different parishes, with a view to enhance the wealth of his suffragans, that causes the very name of Dr. Temple to "stink in the nostrils" of the commonalty of his diocese. At the first meeting of the vestry of St. Botolph's, at which Dr. Earle (Bishop of Marlborough) presided, the following resolution was carried by 14 votes to 6, in spite of the Bishop's protest:

"Mr. Evans said that it showed how impossible it would be for the chairman to perform his parochial duties without detriment to his duties as suffragan to the Bishop of London. Until Dr. Earle's name was mentioned as rector of the parish it was common knowledge that if any poor incumbent or vicar had been brought to the parish from a distance, where he had had to work himself to death, the living would have been reduced to £700 a year; but because the nominee was a friend of the Bishop of London, the full tithe they agreed to make was to be handed over to him, in addition to the £2,000 per annum he received from the glebe---Dashwood-house. He regarded the appointment as a scandal to the Church of England, and he moved:---'That the parishioners in vestry assembled hereby express their public protest against the arbitrary action of the Bishop of London in presenting to the rectory of St. Botolph Without, Bishopsgate, the Right Rev. Dr. Earle, without consulting their needs or the requirements of the parish, and also their profound indignation at his studied omission to answer letters bearing on the subject, or to receive a deputation to discuss the situation; they also desire to place on record their opinion that the preferment of Dr. Earle is an abuse of episcopal patronage, and that the Bishop's public statement that his suffragan was the man best fitted for the position is a gross libel on the hardworking vicars and curates of his diocese.'"

The Bishops rarely attend the House of Lords. They turned up, however, to resist the second reading of the Bill for legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister, only to be ignominiously beaten. The Archbishop of Canterbury said in unctuous phrase "we speak for the poor, we go out and in among the poor." A correspondent of the "Times" very happily points out that neither the Archbishop nor the Bishop of London has done a day's parish work. They worked their way to the episcopal Bench through Rugby and Wellington schools, and know no more of the wants and wishes of the poor than do the members of the Jockey Club. A few more Temples to perpetrate gross job, and the clergy will continue to lose more and more of the respect and deference of the people. The power of the clergy both in England and Scotland---established and disestablished alike---is, I am glad to say, on the wane. Young city clerks, counter jumpers, and servant girls are entranced with the loud-sounding eloquence of a Rogers, a Clifford, a Hughes or a Berry, but educated men and the thoughtful among the working classes give them a wide berth. And this last remark applies equally to Scotland. The men of the "higher criticism" who sign the "Confession of Faith" with Jesuitical reserve, and sacerdotalists, like the excellent Dr. Macleod of Govan, are alike losing their hold on all that is best in a thinking and intelligent laity.

**DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED!** Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

*The Opening of the Indian Institute at Oxford.* I enclose a full report of the speech of the Secretary of State for India, at the formal opening of the Indian Institute, as also a most interesting and instructive leading article, both from the "Times." These should prove of great interest to your readers, and I am sure you Sir, representing the vanguard of intellectual Bengal will very cordially join in congratulating Sir Monier Williams on the completion of his great work. India has no truer friend than Sir M. Williams, and, although he cannot hope to see much fruit in the remaining years allotted to him, future generations of civilians, both British-born and native, will "arise to call him blessed" for the eminent services he has rendered to the advancement of the best interests of India—moral and intellectual.

#### THE LATE DR. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.\*

In his Dedication to Sir William Hunter, Mr. Skrine takes occasion to defend the Bengalis from their detractors. "It is a remarkable fact," he writes, "that one seldom finds this attitude of contempt in Englishmen who are intimately acquainted with the Bengali language and character. . . . The Bengalis have their faults, and serious ones. Most of their failings, however, are due to defective education, an absence of healthy home-life, and of the thorough training for thews and sinews which English lads enjoy." It is in this spirit that Mr. Skrine tells the life story of his distinguished Bengali friend.

Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee came of the purest Brahman stock. His remote ancestor, dating back five centuries, was a man of letters, and the reputed author of a celebrated Indian Epic Poem. But his father was a manufacturer and trader in the Calcutta Bazaar, and his mother the daughter of a Brahman who sold fire-wood and oil seeds at Chitpore. Sambhu Chunder was born in 1839, at his father's house in Barnagore. He was an only son, and a very wayward one. By a mere accident he was led to join the local missionary school, but his father's orthodox fears becoming excited, he was removed to the Oriental Seminary in Calcutta, where he took a studious turn. In 1853, the Hindu Metropolitan College was opened. Its first Principal was Captain D. L. Richardson, one of the most cultured Englishmen who had made India their home, whose influence over the youths of that period was a power for good. Here Sambhu Chunder's chosen associates were Kristodas Pal—destined like him to be a pillar of Indian journalism—and Romesh Chunder and Soorash Chunder, of the Wellington Square Dutt family. While at this college Sambhu Chunder made his first plunge into the troubled sea of journalism. In association with Kristodas Pal, he started a periodical called the *Calcutta Monthly Magazine*, which had but a short life. In 1857 he was married. "This event," writes Mr. Skrine, "was far from having the sinister influence on his mental development, which is assigned to early marriages by self-styled friends in India. . . . Marriages in early life," he adds, "are good in themselves, and a cause of good to Society; and would-be reformers should ponder well the lessons afforded by countless ruined careers the outcome of an undue postponement of the nuptial rites." It is not "undue postponement" that reformers advocate, but undue haste that they deprecate, especially on the female side.

Hereafter, Mookerjee's career was a varied one. "He continued to pursue an even tenor of study, while seeking for honourable and independent employment." He joined the staff of the *Hindoo Patriot*, "and became one of a little knot of brilliant youths who held the banner of Indian journalism higher than any of their successors have done"—a rather broad assertion, when we note the journalism of the present day, not merely in the hands of brilliant youths, but often of highly-educated and tried men.

Mookerjee was not an ascetic; his was essentially a convivial temperament. At a wedding party, "a surfeit of oranges and green cocoanuts, followed by a severe chill, brought on an attack of asthma, which undoubtedly curtailed his life." He took opium as a palliative, and joined the mighty army of consumers of the seductive drug; but he never became its slave. He next took to the study of Homœopathy, and in recognition of his researches received the degree of M. D. from an American University. After two years' work on the *Hindoo Patriot*, he joined a lawyer's office as articled clerk; but finding the profession unsuited to his genius, he returned to the newspaper, and was formally appointed sub-editor. After three years in that position, he took an appointment in Lucknow as secretary of the Taluqdars' Association, where he edited a weekly journal in English, called *Samachar Hindustani*. His next appointment was that of Dewan to the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, where he found himself in a vortex of intrigue, from which he was summoned to perform his father's funeral rites, and returned no more to the scene of his first essay in administration.

\* An Indian Journalist: Being the Life, Letters, and Correspondence of Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee, late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, Calcutta. By F. H. Skrine, I.C.S. Thacker & Co.

He was next offered the head-mastership of the Calcutta Training Academy, but his career as a dominie was a brief one; and, by the advice of his friend Nawab Abdool Luteef, he accepted the post of secretary to the Raja Sheoraj Singh of Kashipur. His next post was that of personal assistant to the Nawab of Rampore, which, owing to the jealousy of the leading courtiers, he was obliged to leave. He was then appointed Minister of Hill Tipperah, "a congeries of low hills, clad with trackless jungle, then on the easternmost confines of British territory"—a most unenviable position for a man of culture and honesty. He did not hold his position long, but returned to Calcutta, and, in 1882, "founded the well-known weekly paper, *Reis and Rayyet*, which has always been conspicuous for literary finish, and generally for breadth of view."

It will be evident that Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee's was a very complex nature. "The ground-work was, of course, his Hindu origin. . . . His inherited prejudices were continually at war with those liberal impulses which were the growth of a life-long devotion to letters." But "his entire life was a protest against that foolish and, indeed, suicidal doctrine that there is no excellence of life or thought beyond the Hindu pale." His correspondence with all sorts and conditions of men, even with those holding the highest offices in the State, shows the high esteem in which he was held and the respect paid to his opinions.

The hand of death fell upon him in February 1894. Mr. Skrine's kindly tribute to his memory will be acceptable to all who knew him and his work.

J. B. KNIGHT.

---The Indian Magazine and Review, July 1896.

#### WHAT IS THAT ONE THING?

IT seems like an absurdity, yet it is true all the same. I mean that you might have a cellar full of wood and coal and still shiver with cold; and you *would* if it were not for one thing. "Oh, that is so obvious," you may say. "It was hardly worth while to hint at it. Anybody can see it with his eyes shut. All the better for me then; I shan't have to explain. And by the same sharpness you will be able to pick out the important point in two short letters I am about to copy for you."

The first runs thus: "In December 1890, my daughter (Mrs. M. J. Muther,) got into a low, weak, nervous condition. Do what she would she could not get up her strength. Gradually she wasted away until everyone thought she was in a decline, and had not long to live. In fact, she was so low and dejected *she did not care whether she lived or not*. She was under a doctor for six months, but his medicines did her no good. My husband then said, 'My daughter, I will now see what I can do for you.' What he meant was that he would have her take a medicine called 'Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup.' He had used it himself when he was ill, and thought it might prove as beneficial to her as it had to him."

"Mrs. Muther said she was willing to try the Syrup, although she had little or no faith in its helping one as bad as she was. For if she really had consumption we know there is no cure for that. My husband, however, got a bottle from Mr. Hulme, the chemist, in Rochdale Road, and my daughter began taking it. After the first bottle we saw a great improvement. She could eat, and the food caused her no pain. She continued with this remedy, and gradually gained strength, but it took some time to bring her round, she was so very low and weak. After a time she was able to get about, and never looked behind her. Since then she has been strong and well. We have told many persons how Mother Seigel's Syrup restored her to sound health, and are willing you should publish this statement of the facts. (Signed) (Mrs.) Margaret Watson, 11, Ruby Street, Bury, Oct. 8th, 1895."

"In March, 1893," says the second letter, "I began to fail in health. I could not say exactly what ailed me. I felt low, weak, and tired, and had no strength for anything. My appetite fell away, and what little food I ate gave me great pain at the chest and side. My hands and feet were cold, and nearly all the colour left me. I was often in so great pain I could hardly do any work. I was frequently sick, and could keep no kind of food down."

"I got weaker and weaker, in spite of all that was done, and had to be off my work for seventeen weeks. In this way I went on until November of the same year—1893. Then I happened to read about Mother Seigel's Syrup and what it had done for others suffering like me. I got a bottle of this medicine from Mr. W. Heywood, grocer, in Oldham Road, and after taking only the half of it I felt much better. I could eat without pain, and was stronger and brighter every day. When I had finished the bottle I was quite cured, and have had no return of the complaint since. I have told many others about what the Syrup did for me, and out of thankfulness I am willing my letter should be made public. (Signed) Miss Lydia E. Morton, 1, Greaves Street, Middleton Junction, near Manchester, October 10th, 1895."

Both these ladies say that they were very weak, and that their food—of which they could take but little—did them no good. In the midst of plenty they were actually starving. So much wasted was one of them that it was believed she had consumption. The event showed that they both suffered from dyspepsia, and nothing else. But that was quite enough; and besides it often runs into consumption and other fatal maladies. By setting the stomach right Mother Seigel's Syrup fully cured them both.

Coals and wood are useless without means to light a fire; and bread and meat are as nothing unless we can digest them and make them part of our flesh and bone. That is easy to see and important to remember. And it is its power to help nature work this transformation that makes Mother Seigel's Syrup so wonderful a remedy.



**CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.****LOAN NOTIFICATION.**

THE Commissioners of Calcutta are prepared, with the sanction of the Governor-General-in-Council given under Section 404 of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888, to open a Debenture Loan for Rs. 20,00,000 (twenty lakhs) on the security of the rates, taxes and dues imposed and levied under the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1888.

2. The debentures will have a currency of fifteen years from the 1st December, 1896, and will bear interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st June and 1st December of each year.

3. The form of the Debentures will be that given in the twelfth schedule of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888.

4. No Debentures will be issued for any sum less than Rs. 500, and above that amount Debentures will be issued only for complete sums of Rs. 100.

5. Tenders for the whole or any part of the above Loan of Rs. 20,00,000 will be received by the Secretary to the Corporation up to 2 o'clock P. M. of Friday, the 7th August, 1896.

6. Each tender must be made out in the form annexed to this Notification, and enclosed in a sealed cover addressed to the Secretary to the Corporation, and superscribed "Tender for Municipal Loan of 1896-97."

7. Each tender must be accompanied by Government Promissory Notes, Calcutta Municipal Debentures, currency-notes or cheques for not less than 3 per cent. of the amount tendered.

8. When a tender is accepted, the deposit, when made in currency-notes or cheques, will be held as a payment in part of the amount tendered, and will bear interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum from the date of acceptance of the tender, provided that the whole amount tendered is paid up in the manner hereinafter prescribed; but no debenture will issue for the sum so deposited so long as the entire amount of the tender is not paid.

9. The deposits on tenders, which may not be accepted, will be returned on application, and no interest will be payable on such deposits. If an allotment after being made is not taken up, and the full amount allotted is not paid as hereinafter prescribed, the deposit will be forfeited.

10. The rate at which a tender is made must be specified in rupees, or rupees and annas; a tender in which the rate is not so specified will be rejected as null and void.

11. The rates stated in a tender must not contain any fraction of an anna. If a rate containing a fraction of an anna is inserted in any tender, such fraction will be struck out, and the tender treated as if the rate did not contain such fraction of an anna.

12. The amount of the accepted tenders must be paid into the Bank of Bengal in the following instalments:—

One-third by the 21st August.  
Do. by the 21st September.  
Do. by the 26th October.

Parties, whose tenders are accepted, will have the option of paying all or any of the instalments before the dates specified above, and will receive interest from the date of such payment.

13. Anticipation interest will be paid on all instalments from the respective dates on which such instalments are paid into the Bank of Bengal to the 30th November, 1896.

14. In the case of two or more tenders at the same rate a *pro rata* allotment will be made (if the tenders are accepted), but no allotment will be issued if the amount distributable on any tender is less than Rs. 500.

15. A minimum having been previously fixed, tenders will be opened by the Loan Committee of the Commissioners at 2-30 P. M., on Friday, the 7th August, 1896, at the Municipal Office.

W. R. MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE:  
Calcutta, 29th June, 1896.

**FORM OF APPLICATION FOR DEBENTURES.**

I hereby tender for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Municipal three and half (3½) per cent.

Debenture Loan for 1896-97, and agree to pay for the same subject to the conditions notified at the rate of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ annas

for every Hundred Rupees allotted to me. I enclose Government Promissory Notes, Calcutta Municipal Debentures, currency notes, or a cheque for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed

Dated

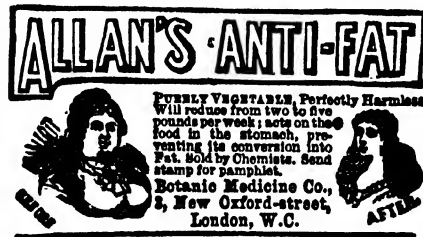
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Manufacturers, Importers, Repairers and Tuners of all sorts of Harmoniums, Organs and Pianos, &c., 30, Colootollah Street, Calcutta, import materials direct from England and guarantee the best workmanship and finish; are the express manufacturers of

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has never been known to disappoint the Public, and we have accordingly requested him to send out a further shipment of the Portfolios which is due here in September. It is requested that all orders should be registered at an early date, as the Portfolios will be forwarded in rotation, and no further quantity will be available when the second shipment is sold out.

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**AN INDIAN JOURNALIST:**

Life, Letters and Correspondence

OF

**Dr. SAMBHU C MOOKERJEE,**

late Editor of "Reis and Rayyet."

BY

F. H. SKRINE, I.C.S.,

(Collector of Customs, Calcutta, now Offg. Commissioner, Chittagong Division.)

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to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J.C.,  
to Atkinson the late Mr. E.F.T., C.S.  
to Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.  
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.  
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodhprasad.  
from Bell, the late Major Evans.  
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.  
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.  
to Chitr, Rai Bahadur Ananda.  
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.  
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.  
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.  
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.  
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.  
to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.  
to Ghose, Babu Nibho Kissen.  
to Ghosh, Babu Kuli Prosanna.  
to Graham, Mr. W.  
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.  
from Guha, Babu Suoda Kant.  
to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.  
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.  
from Hunter, Sir W. W.  
to Jenkins, Mr. Edward.  
to Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.  
to Knight, Mr. Paul.  
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.  
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.  
to Loo, Kumar Kustodas.  
to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.  
to Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.  
to Malik, Mr. H. C.  
to Muston, Miss Ann.  
from Mehta, Mr. R. D.  
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.  
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakhinarajan.  
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.  
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).  
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bina-door of.  
from Nayaratna, Mahamahopadhyaya M. C.  
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.  
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Aopa.  
to Rao, the late Sir T. Madhava.  
to Rattigan, Sir William H.  
from Rosebery, Earl of.  
to, from Ruedge, Mr. Jones.  
from Russell, Sir W. H.  
to Row, Mr. G. Svanata.  
to Sistri, the Hon'ble A. Sushiah.  
to Sinha, Babu Brahmamunda.  
from Sircar, Dr. Mangendralal.  
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.  
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.  
to Underwood, Captain T. O.  
to, from Vampéry, Professor Armand.  
to Venkataramam, Mr. G.  
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.  
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.  
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.  
LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from  
Aodus Sudhan, Moulvi A. K. M.  
Ameer Hossein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.  
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.  
Banerjee, Babu Mammath math.  
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Sub Chunder.  
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#### OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. B. Huntington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corfi, K.C.L.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Saubhin Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 736.

## POETS.

BY JAMES GREGOR GRANT.

Poets are a joyous race !  
O'er the laughing earth they go,  
Shedding charms o'er many a place  
Nature never favoured so ;  
Still to each divinest spot  
Led by some auspicious star,  
Scattering flowers where flowers are not  
Making lovelier those that are.

Poets are a mournful race !  
O'er the weary earth they go,  
Darkening many a sunny place  
Nature never darkened so ;  
Still to each sepulchral spot  
Called by spectral lips afar,  
Fancying tombs where tombs are not,  
Making gloomier those which are.

Poets are a gifted race !  
If their gifts aright they knew ;  
Fallen splendour, perished grace,  
Their enchantments can renew :  
They have power o'er day and night ;  
Life, with all its joy and cares—  
Earth, with all its bloom and blight—  
Tears and transport—all are theirs !

Poets are a wayward race !  
Loneliest still when least alone,  
They can find in every place  
Joys and sorrows of their own :  
Grieved or glad by fitful starts,  
Pangs they feel that no one shares,  
And a joy can fill their hearts  
That can fill no hearts but theirs.

Poets are a mighty race !  
They can reach to times unborn ;  
They can brand the vile and base  
With undying hate and scorn ;  
They can ward detraction's blow ;  
'They oblivion's tide can stem ;  
And the good and brave must owe  
Immortality to them !

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## WEEKLYANA.

THE official estimate of the loss of life and property caused by the tidal wave visiting the North-East Coast of Japan on June 15 is :—

In the Prefecture of Awomori, 346 lives lost, 840 houses washed away, and 213 persons injured.

In the Prefecture of Iwate, 23,300 lives lost, 5,920 houses washed away, and 23,840 persons injured.

In the Prefecture of Miyagi 3,344 lives, 715 houses, and 1,184 persons.

\*\*\*

NORMA—a light grey mare, of English race, imported from Hanover, the favourite of her master when he was heir-apparent,—carried the Czar when he rode to Moscow to be crowned. On that day, Norma was shod with silver shoes and has since earned her pension. She will not be saddled again and will be cared for at the expense of the Empire.

That is true Imperialism as still understood in the East, as will be apparent from the following occurrence in a Bengal Province within living memory. The chief executive of a Maharaja, finding one of his master's horses aged and unserviceable, to save him the charge of its keep, sold it to the highest bidder, unknown to the master. While driving in the streets one evening, the Maharaja found the horse yoked to the carriage of a stranger. He immediately came to the gate of the Dewan's house and put himself up to auction. The Dewan being informed hastened to the Maharaja who told him that he, the Raja, being old was a burden on the Raj and should be disposed of to the best advantage possible. The Dewan understood the reproach and got back the horse he had sold.

...

IN the Ramsgate Police Court, Mrs. Ruby Spalding, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Spalding, of Kelvin House, was prosecuted, by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, for having caused unnecessary suffering to her child Walter, aged eleven. The evidence of six domestic servants formerly in the service of the defendant was to the effect that she frequently imprisoned the lad in a dark cellar, sometimes kept him without food, had struck him with a dog-whip, threatened him with a poker, had thrown a flower-vase at his head, and had said she would be hanged for him. It was also deposed that she was frequently under the influence of drink and that her language was most violent and obscene. The husband, a witness for the defence, generally denied the allegations of cruelty and declared the wife was exceedingly fond of the boy. He admitted the occurrence of frequent storms in the house, but denied that the defendant's conduct was attributable to drink. Dr. Hicks gave evidence that she suffered from blood-poisoning and hysteria and was a weak woman. She was not an habitual drunkard, but took some quantity of drink sometimes. The boy Walter said that he had not been ill-treated and was happy at home. But the language of his mother towards him was sometimes dreadful and that she had threatened to kill him, saying she would be hanged for him yet. The case was heard two days. On the first, during Counsel's opening remarks, the defendant called him a liar and urged him to "pile on the agony and produce the victim."

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She also repeatedly interrupted and abused the witnesses and called upon the magistrates to order the lawyer to cease lying. When, after two hours, the patience of the court was exhausted, she was ordered to stand up in the dock, for she was allowed a chair, she refused, resisted the efforts of the police, abused the presiding magistrate as an old devil and used other violent language. When forced into the dock, she stood with her back towards the Court. At this stage she was ordered to the cells, when there was another struggle with the Police and the chief constable was struck in the face. Ultimately, she was dragged screaming from the Court. Next day she was calm and deferential to the Police, only casting reproachful glances at the prosecuting counsel. The Justices, while sympathising with the husband, sentenced the wife to a fine of 25*l.*, including costs, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment, and advised Colonel Spalding to place the boy in the hands of some friends.

\*\*

SPEAKING in support of the East London Church Fund, Lord Salisbury is reported to have "remarked on the fact that mundane attractions had to be supplied in the shape of bazaars, dinners, balls and garden parties, before many people would contribute to charities; and he agreed that this showed something wrong in the state of Christian feeling among the laity. In the action of religion he saw the only hope of solving the numerous social questions that beset politicians, and of dealing effectively with the increasing amount of moral and spiritual destitution in London."

\*\*

THE Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure has agreed to examine Dr. K. N. Bahadurji on the question of the separation of the civil branch of the Indian Medical Service from the military.

\*\*

ACCORDING to a parliamentary paper, the total debt of India, bearing and not bearing interest, outstanding on March 31, 1896, was 103,788,928 *rx.*, the corresponding total on Oct. 1, 1895 being 104,093,127 *rx.* Of the outstanding debt, the amount not bearing interest was 867,880 *rx.*, and the total debt bearing interest was 102,921,048 *rx.* The amount of debt discharged during the half-year ended March 31, 1896, was 304,199 *rx.*

\*\*

THE N.-W. Provinces Legislature has passed a Bill for Honorary Muniffs. The Courts are overworked and the finances of the country are unequal to the demand for additional paid judges. So the Government has gone in for *bagar*. Except Pandit Bishambhur Nath, all the honourable members of the Council, including the Governor-President, were for the measure suggested by the hon'ble Mr. Mahmood, late a Judge of the High Court of the United Provinces, now practising as an advocate in the Oudh Courts.

\*\*

THE Maharaja's College, Jeypore, has been affiliated to the Calcutta University in Arts up to the B. A. standard.

\*\*

"MARMADUKE" has raised the question in *Truth* whether it is not time that the custom of burying murderers in unconsecrated ground should cease? He says "when the criminal has paid the extreme penalty of the law, it is ludicrous for the State to pretend that it can in any way affect him in the next world; whilst, even if it were in its power, it would be abominable to do so."

\*\*

WE have shewn up the policy of the Government in this country of outraging the dead bodies of fanatical Mahomedans condemned to death for assassination of British functionaries, high and low, by burning them in pigskins. We are glad to find "R. B." writing soberly in the *Pioneer* on "the Ghazi and how to deal with him":—

"The honourable term 'Ghazi,' which means 'a slayer of infidels,' seems of late to be applied rather indiscriminately. In our frontier expeditions every man who shows fight against us is described by the war correspondent as a Ghazi. Every attack on single British Officers moving about the country with insufficient escort during the progress of the expedition is described as a Ghazi outrage, and even an attack on a guard or escort composed entirely of Mahomedan soldiers is considered worthy of the same name. Ghazis crowd on the hills, sangars are full of them, they pick off sentries from a secure position, they cut up stray followers, they hamstring mules and camels; in fact the actors in any and every military operation of the enemy when the expedition is against Mahomedan tribes are termed Ghazis. But the Ghazi must have his kafir or infidel, and the British officer is generally cast for this part. Now though Christians are not kafirs to orthodox Mahomedans, it is perhaps from the manners and customs of those of the latter who live in India that the

idea has arisen that they are. My experience has led me to believe that if an Englishman asks a Mahomedan of the Punjab or of the N.-W. Provinces for a drink of water, it will be brought to him in an earthen vessel, which will be broken and thrown away after it has been used, but the Pathan, that is of the Afridi or Enzafai tribes, will share his food and drink with the sahib like a Christian, always presuming that the said sahib has not been openly having a rasher of bacon for breakfast. The Red Cross Society has no branches across the Indus, and the Pathan disposes of the many delivered into his hands summarily, as he would expect to be treated himself were the position reversed; but he makes no difference between a Christian and a man of another Pathan tribe with which his own might happen to have a temporary misunderstanding. Now the so-called Ghazi of peace time, who only seems to reach perfect development in the southern Pathan tribes under the Baluchistan Agency, and of whom the Sheranis produce particularly fine specimens, will murder any one under Government, no matter what his creed be, provided always there is a reasonable chance of escape afterwards and no danger to be apprehended from the victim. I do not mean to affirm that there are no murders committed from purely religious motives. The one that lately took place at Peshawar seems to fall under that category in the absence of any other discoverable motive—but I think I am right in stating that generally they are committed by men who have a real or fancied grievance either personal or tribal against the Government. It is a question whether our rather hysterical method of dealing with these criminals, no matter what the motive for the crime may be, does not tend to raise them in the estimation of their fellow tribesmen, and thus indirectly encourages the crimes. The hanging of Mahomedans in pigskins with the avowed idea of destroying their hopes of Paradise, has, I think, been given up of late years. It was a practice indefensible from a Christian point of view, for the punishment of the criminal after death might surely be left to a Higher Power, and equally so as a matter of good policy, for the greater the indignity heaped upon the martyr the greater his reward hereafter. Of course to a man of refined tastes the smell of a pigskin would be unpleasant, but only in a slight degree more so the hand-shake which I understand is the last personal attention of the executioner at home. Then again the celerity with which, as a rule, the execution follows the sentence gives the Ghazi a distinct advantage over his more humble fellow criminal. I have had many condemned prisoners in my charge and never knew one who, when all hope of a commutation of his sentence was gone, did not wish the end to come quickly. The crime the man has committed falls under Section 300, I. P. C., and the extreme punishment for that crime is death, and to add any trimmings to that punishment for a particular class of murder seems to me to detract from the majesty of the Law. I do not know if it be true, but I heard that on a recent occasion the troops were paraded to witness the execution of a Ghazi, and that he said that if he had only been taken round the town on view he would have had no fault to find with the arrangements. Now supposing this to be true, would it not have come home, not only to him, but to many of the lawless among the spectators, that it was an infinitely finer deed to kill a sahib, and end, if caught, in a way that would be an honour to the family, than to murder a poor little child for its ornaments and be turned off at the usual jail delivery on a Monday with only an audience of a few policemen with jaded appetites for that kind of show. I have heard that when Lord Mayo was assassinated in the Andaman Islands the present Field-Marshal Sir Donald Stewart was the chief commissioner. Although he had power to try and execute the extreme sentence summarily, he directed the ordinary procedure to be followed. Sher Ali was therefore brought before a Magistrate and committed for trial at the Sessions. When tried and convicted the sentence was sent for confirmation to the High Court at Calcutta. Sher Ali was bitterly disappointed at the little stir he thought he had made, and used to ask if he was not to have some special punishment. When he was told that if the High Court approved of the sentence he would be hanged, he said:—"Yes I should have been hanged if I had only killed a coolie, but I have killed the Mulki Lord Shah." I am told that owing to no difference having been made between this man and any other murderer, the spot where the murder took place is now not known to the convicts, and, in the opinion of the officials, had not the plain and simple routine been followed Sher Ali's crime would have been succeeded by others of a like nature. If distinction follows the declaration that an attempt, say to kill a policeman, was prompted by 'Ghaza,' what wonder is it that so many crimes are apparently committed by Ghazis. This being a purely personal motive, no other need be looked for, which simplifies the inquiry. A short time ago you published an article on this subject in which the writer advised the search for the mullah. Now, I think, it would be good policy to make, whenever possible, not only the mullah but the whole village responsible. The mullah does not confine himself to his religious duties, he is also an authority in the village council. No doubt, when the community feels that something must really be done, to direct the attention of the Sarkar to some unredressed grievance or to mark the public disapproval of some decision the mullah will find and prepare the instrument and will see that the intellect of the man selected is not too sharp, but he is only acting in the interests of the community at large. I would, therefore, suggest that on information being received that a man had gone a-Ghazising a fine of Rs. 1,000 should be at once levied on his village. If the candidate for the martyr's crown should be caught by his fellow villagers and handed over to justice before any attempt at murder were committed, the fine should be returned; but it should be forfeited if the man were apprehended by the police, or if murder or attempt at murder were committed, and in the latter case paid to the victim or his family. Of course in the case of men from beyond our frontier the above suggestion could not be acted on often, but the glaring evil is the number of crimes committed by men of tribes in our territory, and I feel confident that when the whole village suffers from the desire of one member for notoriety, his soul would be turned into a less costly channel."



A wholesale punishment by fine not saving the innocent is inconsistent with strict justice. But it is in keeping with the law of the Indian Penal Code which punishes all the proprietors of a property where certain offences are committed. Still it is a barbarous law and ought not to be enforced except in times of commotion or where disturbances are a normal condition. Prevention of crimes is as much a part of good rule as their punishment. But general condemnation, irrespective of the guilty and the innocent, while evidencing strong rule betrays incapacity to detect crime. Such a law is a confession of weakness and is not justified at all times. There may be places and occasions where and when such a preventive measure is a necessity, but, surely, it ought not to have a place in the permanent Penal Code.

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ON the 17th April, at Elsenthal, Austria, at 7-35 A.M., three trees were sawn down; at 9-34 A.M., the wood was stripped of its bark, cut up, made into pulp, and converted into paper. At 10 A.M. the paper had passed from the factory to the press and issued out of it printed and folded. So in two hours and a quarter the tree was made into a printed sheet. The lazy Indian can only look on and wonder at the rapidity of work, without being stirred into activity.

..

PROFESSOR Heramba Chandra Maitra, of the City College, has obtained, from the Chief Magistrate, a summons against the Editor Kali Prasanna Kayabisharad, of the *Hitabadi*, a Bengali weekly journal, on a charge of defamation, based on satirical poems published in that paper reflecting on the character of Mrs. Maitra—Sreemati Kusum Kumari. The application was made by Mr. S. P. Sinha, instructed by Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose. If this case is not settled out of court or compromised, we may expect another against another Bengali journal.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES,

### OUR OWN NEWS

&amp;

### THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

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THE Jameson trial concluded on July 28. Sir Edward Clarke submitted that Pitsani was not within the British dominions, and that no force had been fitted out at Mafeking, nor had Dr. Jameson any idea of hostile intent against a foreign State. The appeal of the Johannesburg Reform Committee for aid, he said, justified Dr. Jameson's action. Sir Richard Webster, in reply, said that both Mafeking and Pitsani were under British law, and he ridiculed the idea of the raid being a peaceful one, as the evidence showed it was premeditated.

Lord Chief Justice Russell, in summing up, was strongly against the arguments of Counsel for the defence. The Jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the following sentences were passed:—

Dr. Jameson, fifteen months' imprisonment without hard labour.

Sir John Willoughby, ten months' imprisonment.

Major White, seven months' imprisonment.

Captain Coventry, Mr. Grey and Colonel White each five months' imprisonment.

The sentences on the military prisoners involve loss of commissions.

All the prisoners were conveyed to Holloway Prison, to be treated as first class misdemeanants. They have since been removed to Wormwood Scrubs Prison as second class misdemeanants.

One of the most important State trials of recent years has ended, let us hope, gloriously to all parties concerned. President Kruger has no reason to be dissatisfied with the result. British law has been vindicated. Dr. Jameson and his compatriots are heroes still. Though they lose liberty as citizens for a time, they do not suffer in honour. British Civilization would have suffered if the contention of the heroic raiders had succeeded. The trial is remarkable in many ways.

The House of Commons has since appointed a Select Committee to enquire into the administration of the Chartered Company, including the responsibility of its officials. The solicitor of the Company has written a letter to the solicitor of the Treasury to say that Mr. Cecil Rhodes is ready to come to London and stand his trial if his prosecution is desired.

THE operations against the Matabele in the Matoppo Hills are regarded as indecisive. It is stated that Sir F. Carrington will not re-enter them, but build forts all round them. Captain Nicholson made two unsuccessful attempts on Friday and Sunday to carry one of the Matabele positions in a narrow gorge at the northern end of the Hills. The British lost several in killed.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that, acting on the advice of Sir Frederick Carrington, Government did not propose sending out further troops to the Cape. A force from General Carrington's camp, on July 28, relieved Fort Mile to the north of the Matoppo Hills.

THE Uganda Railway Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Commons by a majority of 150.

A DESPATCH from the Porte to Greece complains of the latter sending arms and munitions to Crete, and of the entry of Greek bands into Macedonia. The despatch adds that the concessions granted to the Cretans represent the maximum. The Powers are sending a collective note to Athens stating that unless Greece follows the previous advice given to her they will allow the Sultan to restore order. They demand that Greece takes steps to prevent the despatch of volunteers and munitions to Crete.

THE finding of the court of enquiry into the loss of the Drummond Castle shows that it was caused through excessive speed and inadequate allowance for current, and that the catastrophe might have been averted had the Captain used the lead sufficiently.

THE German gunboat Seltis has been lost in a typhoon off Shantung Promontory. The number of drowned amounts to sixty-eight.

THE International Socialist Labour Congress opened on July 26, in Hyde Park, where a monster meeting took place. Resolutions were passed favouring International peace. Deputies from France and Germany were present, but it all ended in a fizzle owing to a deluge of rain.

THE House of Commons has passed the Irish Land Bill.

LORD Wolseley, in his evidence before the Royal Commission on the Indian Civil and Military Expenditure, said that he did not think the organisation of the Indian Army was far beyond what experience had shown was necessary. The present system of recruiting for India, was, he said, infinitely superior to the old system of recruiting for the India Army, and indirectly strengthened the home force, but the British Army really was a great reserve for the Army in India. He also thought that India ought to pay everything connected with the maintenance of an army there, for everything worth having to India had been derived from the British rule. Mr. Crine remarked that surely the Indian Army was quite as much a reserve for British emergencies as the British Army. Lord Wolseley in reply said that he should not like to put Indian troops in front of European soldiers, and should not like to fight France or Germany or any other army with Indian troops. He scouted the idea that Eurasian regiments could take the place of the British. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, alluding to Lord Wolseley's statement that England had made India, said that India had made England the richest and greatest country in the world. He added that England had done the greatest possible material injury to India.

Lord Wolseley's remarks are considered at Simla as extremely ill-judged and have been received with a universal chorus of indignation by the military element. It is apprehended they will give rise to discontent in the Native Army. The general feeling is that Lord Wolseley's opinion is worthless, as he has practically no experience of Indian troops.

THE morning papers publish the following telegram:

"Bearing in mind the offer from Australia, volunteering men as well as money to Her Majesty's Government and as an earnest proof of his deprecation of any agitation against the decision arrived at by the Government concerning all offensive and defensive measures of the united Empires of England and India, His Highness the Maharaja of Vizianagram has offered a lakh of rupees toward the expenses of the Suakin expedition."

The cost has been estimated by the Government of India at 24 lakhs. Following the lead of Vizianagram, other chiefs and princes of India may make up the amount. But the question is, Will Government accept the offer?

THE *Somaprakasa* is responsible for the following:—

"We are being undone by our own servility. In course of his tour through Behar the Lieutenant-Governor went to Gya and wished to have a sight of the celebrated foot-print of Vishnu. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, before entering the temple, hesitated as to whether he should do so with his shoes on. Seeing this, two priests (*Gayalis*) insisted upon Sir Alexander's entering the *sanctum sanctorum* with shod feet. Sir Alexander's hesitation disappeared and he obliged the priests by acting according to their wishes. After this any English or Mussalman Magistrate or high official, with the precedent of Sir Alexander Mackenzie before him, will freely enter the temple of any deity, with shoes on. Our countrymen, however, in view of such an act of desecration, will not fail to take up the cry of 'Religion outraged' and make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of sensible Englishmen."

Why find fault with the Gyalis of Behar when the more orthodox Madrasis threw open their temples to Lord Dufferin? The Sikh guardians of the Golden Temple in the Punjab had, with greater wisdom, provided silk shoes for Lord Elgin and his party.

Knowing Europeans shew more regard for Indian religious feelings than Natives. Satranjay, Siddhachal, is the principal place of pilgrimage in Palitana with over 2,000 Jain temples with an income of a lakh of rupees. 200 persons are employed for worship and 1,000 persons are fed twice a day. The late Keshub Chunder Sen visited the place in great state but had to be stopped and taken through the several gates without his shoes and the paraphernalia in his train.

SIR Alexander Mackenzie's sojourn to Gya has not been entirely fruitless. The Municipality and the District Board presented him a joint address in which, after the usual formalities, the Lieutenant-Governor was asked to sanction the imposition of a tax on all Railway tickets issued from and to Gya for relieving the severe strain felt by the Commissioners in keeping up the sanitary arrangements of the town. The precedent of the Benares Municipality was cited. Sir Alexander Mackenzie's reply was plain and straightforward. He pointed out the difference between the laws of the North-West Provinces and Bengal. Benares is able to levy the pilgrim tax because of a special provision in the Upper India Municipal Act. There is not the least chance of such an enactment finding favour with the Bengal Council. In the Bengal law provisions exist for a water-rate which Sir Alexander Mackenzie advised the Gya Municipality to make the most of. The address contained a reference also to the question of the separation of Behar from Bengal. It is an impractical cry taken up without any forethought. The *Pioneer* is mainly responsible for the hollow agitation on this question. In the address it was said that "certain events have led thoughtful men in the Province to advocate the separation of Behar from Bengal for administrative purposes. This is no doubt a very wide question which, we feel certain, will receive the attention of Government at the proper time, but so long as the separation of the two Provinces is not deemed practicable, we venture to express the earnest hope that the reasonable claim of Beharis, that their interest, as a separate people, is liable to separate treatment in several matters of legislation and administration, be not lost sight of." However reasonable the Beharis may think their claim to be, we fear it has not been expressed very reasonably in the language before us. The fault is, no doubt, the scribe's, but the gentlemen who presented the address ought to have employed some one better able to dress that claim in words. Sir Alexander Mackenzie's reply deserves to be quoted in full:—

"In your next point you refer to the fact that thoughtful men in the Province are advocating the separation of Behar from Bengal for administrative purposes. Now, 'thoughtful' is not precisely the term I should apply to the gentlemen who are working this agitation, which is a mere balloon without any substance whatever in it. It is undoubtedly purely a newspaper agitation of the kind at present in vogue. It appears to me very much like the newspaper agitations at home in what is called 'the silly season'—when Parliament is not sitting, and newspapers have to exercise their ingenuity to furnish something sensational for their readers, and they start some such discussion as 'Is Marriage a Failure?' or describe the proportions of some portentous gooseberry. I have observed that this discussion about the separation of Behar started while the Bengal Council was not sitting. It must have been a silly season for the Behar and other papers to take up the question. They had apparently nothing more

useful to discuss. It is the last thing in the world likely to happen within our time or which the Government of India or the Secretary of State is likely to propose, *vis.*, the creation of another local Government in Upper India."

We hope the thoughtful men will, after this, direct their thoughts to something more worthy of themselves. If Behar is to have a separate administration, Orissa also should have one. The reasons urged are of the flimsiest.

IN his reply to the municipal address at Faridpur, the Lieutenant-Governor gave a hope for the extension of the system of trial by jury. He said:—

"The last point to which you refer is the extension of the jury system to this district. As to that I need only say that I am at present considering, in communication with the High Court, the possibility of extending the jury system to some of the more important districts, but I cannot say from my recollection whether Faridpur is in the list of districts to which we propose to extend it, in the first instance, but I hope to receive the High Court's views and opinions on the general question of extension very shortly, and the intelligence and advanced education which prevail in Faridpur will necessarily entitle it to consideration when the question comes up. Without making any specific promise, I can only say that I am generally in favour of extending the jury system to those districts which are suited for it."

SIR Alexander Mackenzie, in his tour, has been indulgent, merciful and harsh. At Bankipore, he snubbed a forward busybody. At Rampore Beaulia he remitted the punishment inflicted by the Director of Public Instruction on the Rajshahi College students by curtailment of their holidays for their rowdyism. He was put out of temper at Dacca. He had a sharp reproof for the Municipal Commissioners who could not unite to give him a welcome. He threatened them with extinction unless they shewed a better appreciation of duty to themselves, to Government and to the public they represent; unless they improved the sanitation of the town; put their finances on a satisfactory footing and learnt self-sacrifice.

To make up the omission of the Municipal Commissioners, the Brahman Zemindar of Dacca, Raja Rajendra Narayan Rny, has, as a memorial of the visit of the Lieutenant-Governor, made donations amounting to Rs. 40,000 for works of public utility and usefulness.

MAJOR-GENERAL Sir Carrington directing the Matabele war has found it necessary to issue the following order:—

"The General Officer Commanding desires it to be distinctly understood by all ranks under command of him that during the continuance of hostile operations against the rebels, clemency is to be shewn to the wounded. Women and children are not to be injured, and prisoners are to be taken whenever possible. Officers Commanding Corps will be held responsible that this order is strictly carried out."

The British soldier has been equally brutal in the Kaffir war. Read the following:—

"I had a long conversation with Captain H—about the Cape, where he has been recently quartered and engaged with the Kaffirs, whom he represents as nearer to animal existence than anything he ever saw. They seem as lithe as serpents, and capable of concealing themselves from observation on almost bare ground as a hare. * * *

"I have this moment returned from dining with Captain H— and hearing a long account of Kaffirland and incidents of Cape warfare. On the whole they are very horrible, and make war more a matter of shambles than it appears in books. The Kaffirs torture all their prisoners. Our officers were tied up to the trees, and the young Kaffirs practised at them with the assegai, the mothers looking on and clapping their hands at a good shot. Some were flayed alive, others burnt with hot sticks; then there is a bullock-goad, a specimen of which he showed me, a favourite instrument of torture. Horrible as all this is, H—said that they are not so ferocious as our English soldiers. A Kaffir one day pointed to one of the men in a state of intoxication, and then significantly to himself, saying, 'You would make us like that.' They treat our women, too, with delicate respect, which our men never imitate. H—has seen a soldier deliberately place his musket to a woman's breast, that he might kill both herself and the child at her back with the same shot; the English officer, a subaltern, took no notice of this barbarity, and H—was obliged to put him under arrest. Indeed, it seems that officers and men become brutalised there. He mentioned one colonel, at whom a Kaffir fired, and singed his face. The colonel knocked the Kaffir down, strode over him, and coolly took out his knife and jagged it across his throat, instead of stabbing or shooting him. From his account, I confess, I felt strongly on the side of the Kaffirs. They feel that they will become as degraded as Hottentots by being subject to the English. At present they do not drink, and have a much finer sense of honour than the brutal soldier."

For a long time it was a mystery where the Kaffirs got their arms and ammunition. At last, when the war was ended, the secret came out. Every captured musket had the Tower of London stamp upon it—that is, the condemned muskets, which are bought up by mer-

chants, had been shipped off to the Cape and sold to the savages. Nor did they ever want powder; steamers were fitted out by dealers at the Cape, and sent up the shore with ammunition. Can you conceive selfishness and treason of a darker turpitude than this? And the Kaffirs afterwards said, in Soylock's vein, 'These be your Christian merchants!'

He showed me a number of coloured drawings, vividly representing Kaffir life—one a very hideous but strangely fascinating one, in which an English officer, stripped to his shirt, is kneeling in the hands of the torturer, whose exultation and refinements in cruelty are diabolical.

This is man! and these things are going on, while we sit by our fireside and complain of *ennui*, or weariness, or religious persecution or scandal, or some other trifling gut-bite. There was a bundle of assagais, which H—showed me, of various kinds. It is about six feet long, taper, about as thick as your finger at the thickest part where the iron blade joins it, and feathering off like a reed at the other end. This they use on all occasions to cut their food, shape their pipes, gash their prisoners, and as a javelin, capable of being thrown a hundred yards with wonderful precision.

They are a fine manly race of men, the women beautiful in figure, but all plain or ugly. I should except a few—in officer told me that one was the most beautiful woman he ever saw."—*Life and Letters of the Revd. Frederick W. Robertson*, incumbent of Trinity Chapel, Brighton, edited by Stopford A. Brooke, Honorary Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen.

THE *Tribune* writes:—

"There is an individual in Lahore who is the victim of a strange fancy. He belongs to the labouring class, and before beginning his day he must go to the railway workshops, in all weathers, to hear the 'syren' buzz and to have a look at the Superintendent of the shop. He feels miserable, he says, if he is not in time to see the Saheb drive in or hear, from a spot as near to it as possible, the big whistle 'sing.' The best means of bringing a smile on his face is to tell him that the pay of his idol has been increased or that he has come in for something good in any other shape. He is quite sound in mind and body excepting this one crank and does not himself know what the mysterious force is that draws him to his accustomed haunt every morning before sunrise."

In our city, a young man of respectable family in the country, given to rain-gambling, has just lost his balance of mind. He sees nothing but clouds presaging rain that will bring him rupees. One evening he paid down rupees one thousand and came back home in a high state of excitement. Since then he is being treated as a lunatic. Another fact to be noted in this connection is that of the Rs. 1,000 paid down at an unusual hour, Rs. 900 has been returned.

Rain-gambling, like all gambling, is against law. Still it flourishes. The Police is concerned with only petty and street gambling. Betting on horses and like exciting amusements in clubs and big houses where heavy sums pass hands are not to be taken into account. Oh for an hour of Sir George Campbell!

We have before us a curious prospectus of a new school with a boarding establishment in this city. It is in English, but opens with two Bengali words meaning "Gurus." The connection between this pious statement and what follows in English is not obvious. No explanation, again, is offered of the name given to the school "the Atmoddhar Institution," another jumble of languages. The meaning of the Sanskrit word is "self-rescuing." Are the teachers or the pupils, or both, to rescue themselves by their own exertions, without any outside help? Or, is the school a memorial of the Supreme Swan, named Atmoddhar, another compound, it is said, of races and religions, who, passing through various stages, usual and unusual, of existence, has turned up in the metropolis for the benefit of all and sundry that visit him and wait upon him with reverence? A Supreme Swan is expected to do wonders, and this black Indian Swan has already performed some. To begin with, though looking not oldish, and full of vigour and activity his age is given variously at 100; 300; 1,000 and 2,000 years. It has not transpired whether he has regenerated other continents than India or is familiar with other worlds than our own. For the present he has gone to Benares to negotiate for a house. Older than Methuselah, he may be a man of God—in incarnation of Brahma with Brahma's years. This walking Age, speaking Bengali but knowing English and undoubtedly other languages, since he has chosen to come to India, ought to be in demand with our Government for their various purposes. Under his advice, a person in the last stage of phthisis has recovered by disregard of all restrictions about food, drink, and other indulgences—the favourite recipe of the great Divine. Another regained the sight he had lost. One of his principal disciples has been cured of galloping diabetes. He has no end of following, his flock is larger than Professor Richard's who

had a high price for every treatment he undertook, who laid no claim to divinity, and had no salvation to offer. The Swan is all catholicity, Sanctity himself, and more Islamic than Hindu, he has no prejudices of any kind; everybody, man or woman or child, is welcome to him; no food or drink, however or by whomsoever prepared, is distasteful, and he shares it with all that surround him. He detests gold and burnt a bundle of currency notes that had been offered him by one of his admiring followers. A manifestation of divinity, it is his prerogative to live on others. He moves freely with his numerous following, visiting the great when asked to give them salvation and fulfil their wishes by partaking of their hospitality. But the charm has begun to break. The education of our schools and colleges being godless, students, under-graduates and graduates, run to such idols of veneration. The High Court has just reduced, by half, a sentence of 10 days' imprisonment passed, by a Deputy Magistrate of Hwrah, on a student named Gunkrishna Gswami, for having trespassed into the house of one Annoda Prasad Chowdry and assaulted him, because he had doubted that the object of the student's adoration was not a Hindu but a Mahomedan. Many of his disciples suspected that he was not what he seemed, and they have ferreted out and circulated some ugly antecedents. Those who still stuck to him have not yet regenerated him by a biography explaining the incidents of his previous birth or earlier life, as so many manifestations of power or open acts to ward off the vulgar gaze from the inner saintliness. Lord Rinkrishna too had become a Supreme Swan. Two such Swans at one time would have been too much of a good thing. Hence the appearance of one after the other in the firmament. But why the outcry against him for Mahomedan predilections, or the peep at the past? His age sanctifies him and he has proved his divine mission by miracles. Older than Adam and come to the world before Mahomed was born, how can you doubt that he is not a Hindu but a Mahomedan? A saint, again, is a saint, whether Hindu or Mahomedan. Swanship is the thing, never mind how obtained, though there is a belief that none but a Hindu can possibly attain to that holy eminence.

THANKS to the Chief Magistrate, Religion has triumphed. In the prosecution of E. A. Culloden charged with abetment of assault on the Pastor of the Union Chapel and of highway robbery, the victory is the Revd. F. Moyle-Stewart's. After a lengthy trial, in a lengthy judgment, Mr. T. A. Pearson has found that Mr. Stewart, as a man of religion and a gentleman of education, was worthy of all belief and that he was not guilty of falsehood in his evidence, which Mr. Cranenburg, pleader for the prisoner, worked so hard to establish; that the identification by only his clothes of Culloden was complete by the evidence of Mr. Stewart; that Mr. Stewart's inconsistent statements were explained away by him or were explainable and were of little help to the defence; that the Police had been very much opposed to Mr. Stewart and that a denial by him of a statement made by the Police was to be accepted; that Mrs. Culloden, Mrs. Piper and William Culloden had lied in saying that the prisoner Culloden, who was indeed suffering, was ill in bed on the day of commission of the offence and that the attempt to establish an *alibi*, which thus failed, established the offence if it did not aggravate it; that not a word of the evidence of the coachman and syce was to be believed, as they uttered or were made to utter an abominable charge against the reverend gentleman; that the witnesses for the prosecution who supported the defence were not to be trusted, because one was a dismissed servant of Mr. Stewart and another, though still in his service, had been coaxed from that service and had come into court and told deliberate lies with consistent cut and dried stories; that, though too poor to hire badmashes, they could be had by the prisoner for his purpose; and that "the robbery of Mr. Stewart on the highway was a probable consequence of the aid intentionally given to the badmashes by the accused." Mr. Pearson would, therefore, to mark his indignation against highway robbery in the heart of Calcutta and of a parson, punish the prisoner heavily. But, as Culloden was in delicate health, the Magistrate ordered for him 9 months' labour.

The Magistrate also decided a linguistic difference in Mr. Stewart's two statements in his favour. He has held that the second statement "I am morally sure he is the man," is a legally complete identification and carried greater certainty than the previous statement "I am sure

he is the man." To us, it seems, a simple statement of a man of truth and religion is as strong as that statement coupled with any number of emphatic words, or as a proof of holy writ.

THE four Bengali legislators of the Province, three of them also practising law, taking to heart certain remarks made in the *Indian Daily News*, called upon the editor to apologize for the remarks which they said were absolutely without foundation and distinctly libellous. The editor has replied in his paper. It is perhaps too early to speak on the matter till we know how the reply has been received. In the meantime we publish the call and the response :—

"3, Hastings Street,
Calcutta, 29th July, 1896.

To the Editor, *Indian Daily News*.

Sir,—The attention of my clients the Hon'ble Rai Eshan Chunder Mitter, Bahadur, the Hon'ble Babu Gura Prosad Sen, the Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Bose and the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee who are the elected Bengalee members of the Council of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations has been drawn to two editorial paragraphs—one commencing 'It is, perhaps, natural' and ending 'should have a substantial value,' and the other 'Talking of substantial values' and ending 'to say the least of it, to further advance,' in the issue of the *Indian Daily News* of the 16th instant. The second of these paragraphs insinuates, that questions in Council are put by my clients for the sake of what is called 'honoraria' in the paragraph. I do not know on what information the accusation against my clients is based, but I am instructed to tell you that it is absolutely without any foundation whatever, and my clients are advised that the 2nd paragraph to which I have referred is distinctly libellous. I am therefore instructed by them to call upon you which I hereby do, to retract and withdraw the accusation made by you against my clients and to apologize to them openly and publicly in your newspaper for the false insinuation made by you, and unless you do so within a reasonable time from date, my clients will institute a suit against you in the High Court for the vindication of their character without further reference.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) Bhupendranath Basu,
Attorney-at-Law."

The *Indian Daily News* replied on the 31st :—

"We have received a communication emanating from the four elected Bengali members of the Provincial Council, informing us that an 'accusation' alleged to have been made against them in these columns to the effect that they put questions in Council 'for the sake of what is called honoraria' is 'absolutely without any foundation whatever.' Now these gentlemen should read the papers more carefully before they proceed to defend themselves from attacks which they conjure up therein. Such an accusation would be as indiscreet as unkind, but as we never made it, we are logically unable to withdraw it, a feat which they call upon us to perform. We are glad to accept from these four gentlemen, however, the assurance that such a charge would have no foundation whatever, and have much pleasure in giving publicity to the fact. We regret to have been the cause of wounded feelings in the matter, but must again take occasion to observe that so long as the Bengali members insist on occupying themselves with affairs having a distinctly personal bias and an obvious irrelevance to public interests, so long will rumour be busy with assignable motives. The paragraph complained of in this journal was a warning not a reproach, and the rumour mentioned in it, with all reserve, was one which the present regrettable license in Council makes less surprising than would otherwise be the case."

THE Oriental University Institute, Woking, advertises a photo-zincograph of the manuscript of the Koran of Hufiz Osman, written in 1094 A. H. and famous for its accuracy and beautiful caligraphy. This process of reproduction has been adopted to make the work more generally known while not running counter to the wish of the good Mahomedans to preserve in its strict entirety, as far as possible, "the word of God."

THE next Oriental Congress meets in September 1897, at Paris, where it was founded in 1873.

A PRIVATE letter dated Cooch Behar, the 28th July, says :

"We have had no rain for 9 or 10 days and the weather is hot and close."

THERE have been disastrous storms in Bombay, flooding Poona and causing serious damages on the G. I. P. railway line in the neighbourhood of Bombay.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address: THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, August 1, 1896.

TIPPERAH.

THE STATE AND THE SUCCESSION.

TIPPERAH is an old principality, the kings claiming descent from Yayati of the Lunar Race, sovereigns of Hastinapur, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Magadha. Once its limits extended from the river Hughli on the west to Burma on the east, and from Burma on the south to Kamrup on the north. At present its area is no more than 4,086 square miles with a population of 1,37,442, chiefly Hindus including about one-fourth Mahomedans. There is still a Christian village called Mariamnagar. In all sanads or official documents from Delhi, the Tipperah Rajas were addressed at "Rajdhani Hastinapur, Sirkar Oodeypur." Tipperah has an era of its own, the present year being 1306. It was commenced, in commemoration of his conquests in the country watered by the Ganges by Raja Bir Raj, 92nd in ascent from the present Raja. This gives an average of about 15 years to each reign. Like the *Rajmala* of Kashmir, Tipperah has a chronicle of its kings called *Raj-ratnakar*. It has also a sacred spot. The temple of Tripureswari is as holy as the temple of Kalighat in this city and a place of pilgrimage. The Tipperahs have Mongolian features. There is remarkable affinity and even identity between the Tipperah and Manipuri languages. The races inhabiting the State in the order of civilization from lower to higher, are : Kuki, Halam, Rieng, Newatya, Jamatya, Tipperah. Another race, the Chakma, has recently crossed over from the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The Kukis are divided into eight lots—Dalong or Dalong ; Darhula ; Hawoa ; Sainial ; Chingthang ; Bong ; Beto ; and Dothing. They all speak the same language, with difference of accent and intonation, but not enough to prevent mutual understanding, except perhaps the Dalongs, who, if speaking radically the same language yet speak it in a rather incomprehensible way. The accent and intonation of the Northern Kukis approximate to the Sylhet Bengali accent and intonation, while in the Udeypur division the speech assimilates with the Chittagong Bengali. These divisions of the Tipperah State Kukis are, therefore, clans rather than tribes. Some of the names seem to be those of Chiefs, such as Darhula, Chingthang, etc. The different divisions occasionally intermarry.

Except the Dalong, all the Kuki tribes can speak Bengali ; it is believed that even the Dalongs know Bengali and can speak it, though generally they do not, out of spite or wickedness, or from a point of honour. When they find it necessary, however, they are ready to speak that language. All the Kukis, except the Dalongs, pay a tax to the Maharaja, a kind of house tax, called *gharcherki*. Some

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 6th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. Subject : The Protozoa. Coelenterata.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Friday, the 7th Inst., at 7 P.M. Subject : Thermometers concluded.

Lecture by Babu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 8th Inst., at 5-30 P.M., Subject : Morphology of Plants—Stems.

Lecture by Dr. Nilratan Sarkar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 8th Inst., at 6-30 P.M., Subject : Histology—Blood.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,

Honorary Secretary.

Aug. 1, 1896.

are taxed by the clan or tribe.

The Kukis are popularly divided into Kancha and Paka, the Kancha being the wilder ones who live or are supposed to live on raw flesh, the true Kukis in fact, and the Pakas, the more civilized, who cook their meat. The genuine Kukis, that is the wild tribes popularly called in Tipperah kancha (raw) and in Bengal Proper nangta or naked, are not now within the Tipperah State.

The High Priest of the Tipperahs, the Archbishop of the Temple of the Fourteen Gods, the presiding deities of the hill men of Tipperah, is called the Chantai, who on ceremonial occasions wears a gold poita (sacred thread of the twice-born.) The inferior priests are called Galims who are also sacrificing *kamars* or *karmakars*, slaying the animals offered for sacrifice. The Chantai is selected by the Maharaja from among the Galims. The Maharaja is everything, the head of both State and Church. His position is higher than that of the Sultan of Turkey, for though the Sultan appoints the Sheikh-ul-Islam, he is bound by the law of Islam. There is no law—no scriptures to control the Raja of Tipperah.

The principal sources of income of the State are the tax on forest produce, tax on cotton and oilseeds, family tax in the hills and the zemindaries commonly known as Chakla Raushnabad, in the British districts of Noakhally, Tipperah, and Sylhet. The Tipperah Province was settled in the Bengali years 1189-93, the last corresponding with 1786-87, of the Christian era.

The permanent settlement of Chakla Raushnabad was made by the East India Company with Rajdhar Manikya, and Ramganga Manikya gave an agreement. Mr. Bignell, Agent of the Raja, indeed a kind of Minister for Tipperah, resident at Calcutta, who was the medium of communication with the British Government, states that after the Mogul "conquest, the Mogul sovereigns received no revenue, they left the ancient rulers in possession of the country and an annual tribute of 30 elephants was all that was required by the Emperors of Delhi, to which a small sum of money (Rs. 1,001) was subsequently added." The old capital was Udeypur and the new is Agartala, old and new. The rule of succession is that the reigning Maharaja appoints the heir-apparent who is known as Jubaraj and the next heir with the title of Burra Thakur. On the death of the Maharaja, the Jubaraj succeeds him and the Burra Thakur, without further appointment, becomes Jubaraj. The new Maharaja then nominates the Burra Thakur. But the Raja being a zemindar in British territory the succession is sometimes dependent upon the decision of British courts, when rival claimants to the throne of Tipperah cannot agree among themselves and when one of them applies to the Comilla courts for a declaration of his right to the zemindary.

The present Maharaja Bir Chandra Manikya is a son of Maharaja Kristokishore Manikya, and brother of the last Maharaja Ishan Chandra. On Maharaja Kristokishore's death by lightning (deaths by lightning are common in Hill Tipperah, at least that is the popular notion,—or the death of one of their Maharajas from that cause may have intensified the dread of lightning), Jubaraj Ishan Chandra became Maharaja. He ruled about a dozen years, during the greater part of which Prabhu Bepin Vihari Goswami was Minister or Mooktear, as the chief functionary was called. Maharaja Ishan was extremely religious and had little or no time to devote

to the business of the State which went from bad to worse. He had inherited a large debt from the previous reign. Maharaja Kristokishore had simple but active habits, would wear coarse linen and had no turn for business, being inordinately fond of sports, particularly shooting kora, a game bird, in the swamps. He was an early riser and daily took his walk at dawn or earlier, and was frequently met by people in all sorts of out-of-the-way places. Many are the adventures told of him, such as being stopped by a sentry who did not know his person. When a sentry found out their man, he got alarmed, but the Raja reassured him and he walked on. He was a Persian scholar and liked the company of Moulvis. Haquim Imamuddin was the chief courtier at Court as well as the chief adviser in the State. He was a judge likewise. No wonder, under such influence, the Maharaja, with all his simplicity of habits, smoked out of a great snake pipe. During his reign the State ran into debt. There was a progressive decay of resources. Ishan Chandra came into a heavily encumbered inheritance. He wept at his condition—was deeply alarmed at the prospect. Raushnabad was put up for sale. The Raja himself proceeded to Comilla to try if he could save it. He could not raise enough money, but he called on the British Officers and laid before them his condition, urged his newness to the Raj, and they relented. The sale was arrested. The Raja was granted time.

But the revenue difficulty was regularly periodical. Twice in the year the estate was coming to the hammer of the Collector. The Up-country creditors of the State increased, the rate of interest was exorbitant. The situation grew desperate. The climax was reached when one day the daily two rupees with which the Raja worshipped the feet of his guru, spiritual guide, the Prabhu, was not forthcoming. Of course, it had daily become a difficulty to procure the sum. That day there was a deadlock. Two rupees were not to be had for the Raja.

That evening the Prabhu assumed the Mooktearship. Although the Prabhu was supreme, he was wholly illiterate and rude and unacquainted with State affairs. So in matters of important business he consulted Brajamohan Thakur. The Prabhu made wholesale retrenchments in every department and, by a little sharp practice, brought down the Up-country creditors to his feet. Thus he paid the whole debt of twelve lakhs and accumulated some three lakhs of rupees.

The Prabhu reminds one of the Cardinal Fleury, Premier to Louis XV. Like him he was a virtuous ecclesiastic of high character who reduced expenses and paid off debts and brought money by various expedients to the Treasury.

Latterly the Raja was attacked with paralysis from which he suffered for some years.

When, in 1862, Maharaja Ishan Chandra died, there appeared many claimants to the throne. Maharaja Kristokishore had, besides the last Maharaja and his brother, other sons by a different wife and the eldest of them was Nilkristo Bahadoor, and Maharaja Ishan Chandra had two sons, the youngest being Nivadwip Chandra Bahadoor. During the sovereignty of Maharaja Ishan Chandra, probably finding Agartala too hot for him, Nilkristo had transferred himself from the Maharaja's to the British jurisdiction at Comilla. Contending that Maharaja Ishan Chandra at his death had left no nominated heirs to succeed him, he filed a suit in the Court of the Sub-Judge of Comilla

for the Zamindary in British territory. He gained the suit in that Court, but both the High Court at Calcutta and the Privy Council decided against him and decreed the suit in favour of the present Maharaja Bir Chandra. The late Justice Dwarkanath Mitter, then practising, was the Pleader for the Maharaja. During the continuance of the suit, and for seven years, Maharaja Bir Chandra reigned as Jubaraj under the ministry of Brajamohan Thakur. And it was not till after the order of Her Majesty, on the report of the Privy Council, that he ascended the throne. There were great rejoicings on the occasion and the cost of coronation is stated to be 5 lakhs of rupees. Lord Ulick Browne represented the British Government and went round the throne the prescribed number of times.

While the suit was still pending, Maharaja Ishan Chunder's eldest son died, and it was expected that, at the coronation of Maharaja Bir Chandra, Navadwip Chandra Bahadar would be allowed to hold the umbrella, the badge and the privilege of the Jubaraj, but he was given no part then, nor made Jubaraj afterwards. One year after, Navadwip Chandra Bahadar, having lost all hope, came over to Comilla to prepare for a fight with the Maharaja through the British Courts.

Nilkristo Bahadoor is dead. After he lost his case and while he lived, Maharaja Bir Chandra paid him a monthly allowance of Rs. 600.

Navadwip Chandra Bahadur now filed a suit claiming both the Raj and the Zamindary, which failing, he put in a claim for Jubarajship. In this suit the Sub-Judge decreed a monthly allowance of Rs. 600 against the Maharaja. On appeal by both the parties, the High Court held that Hill Tipperah being an independent Sovereign State, the suit could not lie in British Courts. But the Maharaja himself fixed the same monthly allowance on Navadwip Chandra Bahadur that he had paid to Nilkristo Bahadoor, besides paying him a lump sum of Rs. 20,000.

The full name and title of the Maharaja is—Bisam Samarvijay Mahamahodayi Pancha Sri Sriyut Maharaja Bir Chandra Deb Barman Manikya Bahadoor. The present Jubaraj is Radhakishore Deb Barman Bahadoor and the Burra Thakur Samarendra Chandra Deb Barman Bahadoor. The Jubaraj is Head of the Military Department and Chief Judge of the Khas Appellate Court at Agartala.

The court language is Bengali and British Indian currency the currency of the Raj. There was a separate Political Agent at Agartala, the last being the present Chief Secretary of the Bengal Government, Mr. C. W. Bolton. Since 1879, the Collector of Tipperah is the *ex-officio* Political Agent and a Deputy Magistrate is in charge of the Agency office at Agartala.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

July 10.

Imperial Parliament. On reading the debate in the House of Commons on the employment of Indian Troops at Suakin, one is involuntarily reminded of the hackneyed quotation:

"It is excellent to have a giant's strength;
But it is tyrannous to use it like a giant."

Mr. Balfour's *sic volo sic jubeo* has carried the day and a majority of 85 rejected Mr. Morley's amendment to the resolution of the Secretary of State. 85 is of itself a grand majority, but seeing the Government may calculate their forces at the nominal figure of 147 over the Radical and Irish members combined, you see at once how many of their followers must have refused to "pass through Coventry." The severest cut at Mr. Balfour appears

in the "Times." It is worth quoting: "Mr. Balfour, with characteristic courage, put the whole matter in a nutshell, when he said that the root of the opposition to Lord George Hamilton's resolution lies in a general feeling that the policy of the Government is mean. That is a perfectly accurate diagnosis, and we would only amplify it slightly by stating that the policy is thought mean first because it is unjust, and second because it is on so paltry a scale that it cannot command even the respect yielded to vigorous and masculine error." That is sufficiently strong.

Mr. Chamberlain and Municipal Institutions. The Colonial Secretary delivered an interesting speech on municipal life, at Birmingham, on the evening of the 8th instant. The occasion was a congratulatory dinner to the Mayor who by favour of Her Majesty has now blossomed into the full dignity of Lord Mayor and henceforward is "My Lord" in place of "Your Worship." Mr. Chamberlain presided. You are aware it was as Mayor of Birmingham, he first "won his spurs" in public life. And the three years' training he then had in the conduct of the municipal affairs of a great city, has been the very best education for him in fulfilling the duties of a member of the House of Commons and becoming, as he now is, one of the foremost statesmen in England. When one looks back on his House of Commons' career you cannot but be struck that this representative Englishman owes no debt to either of the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, but has qualified himself for his present high position by assiduous self-training and by the insight he obtained into the working of our municipal life as a member of the Birmingham Town Council and eventually its Mayor for three eventful years. Among his old colleagues of the Gladstonian regime, there is no one so cordially hated. In Mr. Gladstone's Ministry—1892-94—there were only two members of the Cabinet that had not had the benefit of a University training, while in Lord Rosebery's short-lived Cabinet, there was only one—Sir Henry Fowler. To these Oxford *Double Firsts* and Cambridge *Wranglers*, it is too awful to find a Birmingham screw-manufacturer outdistancing them all, as he most assuredly does, both as a Parliamentary debater and a first class administrator. Your fellow townsmen have now a municipality, and it is well you should hear the practical advice Mr. Chamberlain has to give. According to him, there are three indispensable conditions of successful local administration. The elected representatives of the citizens must be capable and honest. There must be no room for questioning either the integrity or the ability of the permanent servants of the municipality whose independence must be guaranteed by an assured position and by salaries that will command the services of the best men. But, most important of all, the electors in general must take an active and intelligent interest in the public affairs of the local community."

These three propositions will command the assent, I think, of your leading public men. I am aware you are handicapped by the tutelage of the Government, and by the fact that the Chairman of your municipality is, of necessity, the nominee of the Government of Bengal. But there might at times, it seems to me, be less friction, and more useful solid work accomplished for the general good of Calcutta, were your leading citizens to take part in the government of the city, especially those leisured members of native society, who, from ancestral wealth are relieved of the necessity of following a profession. The second condition, as to the satisfactory remuneration of the permanent officials is one eminently fitted to be dealt with by the class of native gentlemen I have referred to, and they could do it much more efficiently than any member of the I. C. S. unless you secured one of the latter as your Chairman.

Your new Chief Justice of the High Court is to be Mr. Francis William Maclean, Q. C. He sat in the House of Commons from 1886-1891, as a Liberal Unionist. He was then appointed a Master in Lunacy, on a salary of £2,000 a year, and many will think that in these days of a depreciated rupee he would have been better at home with a life appointment worth £2,000 a year. It is no secret the Secretary of State has had great difficulty in finding a member of the Bar to fill the high office, once adorned by Sir Barnes Peacock. At the present rate of exchange its money value cannot be more than about £4,000 *per annum* unless the new Chief Justice has arranged to have his income paid in sterling. Now no member of the Bar with a home career before him would, for a moment, think of being tempted to such a climate as Calcutta for £4,000 a year. I do not say Mr. Maclean may not turn out a second Sir Barnes Peacock, but the chances are all against him, as he has been out of practice for over five years. It is much to be regretted in the public interests that such a high and responsible office has to go a-begging among second rate men at the Bar. I am glad to see Sir Thoby Prinsep is emulating Macaulay, Maine, Hobhouse and Fitzstephen, by presiding over a law commission at Simla. I think he shows forty years' service, and it speaks well for the climate of Calcutta, that he is so hale and hearty.

The United States. The Democratic Convention has been sitting

this week at Chicago, and the silverites have dished the monometallists. But, although the silverites may at Chicago name the candidate for the Presidency, it does not follow they will be any near the goal of their ambition, to secure the election of President Cleveland's successor. When the Electoral College meets in November for the final act, it seems to be the universal opinion Mr. McKinley will have a large majority. We shall know better next week the exact outcome of the Democratic Convention. If it could control the Electoral College there would indeed be evil days in store for the United States in the immediate future. The plank adopted by the large majority includes neither less nor more than the repudiation of national obligations. That is to say, future indebtedness to Great Britain and other European States is to be discharged in silver and not in gold. When the wire-pullers go in for socialism pure and simple, it is a profoundly distressing outlook for the Democratic party. All the best men in it, President Cleveland, Senator Hill and such like, are on the side of sound finance, but outvoted by the turbulent and reckless advocates of silver, the worst elements of the party come to the front.

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE AT OXFORD.

[The Secretary of State for India, Lord George Hamilton, formally opened the completed buildings in the presence of a large and distinguished company including the Thakur Sahib of Gondal, who has contributed two donations amounting to £4,500, and the Maharani of Gondal. The Keeper and originator of the Institute, Sir M. Monier-Williams, first addressed the gathering and made over the completed building to the Vice-Chancellor, who, on behalf of the University, gratefully accepted it, and asked the Secretary of State for India to open the Institute.]

Lord George Hamilton, who was heartily received, said he willingly responded to the Vice-Chancellor's request to declare the building open, but before he did so perhaps they would allow him to preface that ceremony with a very few observations. In the first place, let him heartily re-echo the congratulations which the Vice-Chancellor had already expressed to Sir M. Monier-Williams upon the successful completion, after 21 years' work, of his self-imposed task. (Cheers.) He had worked at this object with unflagging assiduity during that period; he had drawn upon his time, his energy, and his own financial resources without stint, and he thought he now might be proud of the result of his exertions. (Cheers.) It was, he thought, 13 years ago since the foundation stone of the institute was laid by the Prince of Wales, and he had been looking at the list of the distinguished men and scholars who were then present. He was sorry that that 13 years had deprived them of so many well-known names. Jowett, Northcote, Green, Toynbee, Stanley, and many others were no longer among them. But this sorrowful reflection he thought at least was tempered by the proof, if any proof were necessary, that if once a beneficent and far-reaching enterprise was started and its utility was proved, that work would go on and prosper, even although the original workers might be changed and have disappeared. But Sir Monier's energy and enterprise would of themselves have been insufficient to accomplish this great task unless he had been able to appeal to the liberality of Indian princes, noblemen, and the British public. And well had they responded. Such had been the successful result of the operations of Sir M. Monier-Williams, but he thought there was one observation which fell from him in his address which was noteworthy. He thought, he said, that this was the only institute in the United Kingdom which was solely devoted to Indian objects and studies. They were proud of their performances as a nation in different parts of the globe, but he thought none of their feats were comparable to that which they had accomplished in India. In other parts of the world they had done equal deeds of heroism, and perhaps equal administrative ability might have been shown, but the remarkable result of their performances in India was that the exploits of the few had benefited the existence of many, and that the Government, a progressive and enlightened Government as it was, had had its foundation securely laid upon the shoulders and labours of a few individuals. There were many distinguished persons present there, and the Indian Civil Service was well represented. He was no hero worshipper, and he did not say it out of any wish to flatter them, but if there was any body of men to whom he would willingly take up his hat as benefactors of humanity, it was the Indian Civil Service. (Cheers.) It was very difficult for any of them who had never been in India to conceive, or even to realize, what the nature and magnitude of their work was. Just let them try and conceive it by reversing the picture. Let them assume for a moment that Europe was India and that a small portion of that India was England. There were diversities of race, of religion, of customs, and institutions on the continent of Europe, but these varieties were not one whit greater than those which abounded in the continent of India. Let them conceive the whole Government and administration of Europe, with all these diversities, to be carried on by a few natives from India, who were annually recruited by a draft of young men from that country. The task,

they would say, was an impossible task and beyond the capacity of human administration; and yet the Indian Civil Service had undertaken that task, and they had performed it so equitably, so thoroughly, and so incorruptibly that within a few generations the Indian Government had developed into one of the most perfect executive machines the world had ever seen. (Cheers.) Well, then, anything that could affect the education or training of men who were intrusted with duties of such supreme importance was a matter, he would not say of national, but of Imperial interest, and the Vice-Chancellor, in thanking Sir M. Monier-Williams for transferring this building to the University, spoke of the inestimable value which the institute might be to those who had to discharge duties of administration in India. Let them for a moment look at what the institute might do from an educational point of view. High as was his appreciation of the work done in India, incalculable as were the benefits which our Government conferred upon the people, still, sometimes a qualm passed through his mind that those who were so admirably performing this work were not increasing in popularity on the scene of their labours, and that the *hiatus* between the governed and the governing was not being as sensibly diminished as they could wish. The Indian civilian now had to work under widely different conditions from those which surrounded his predecessor. Facilities of communication and of locomotion had brought with them great benefits. But, in his judgment, they had not been a wholly unmixed benefit so far as the administration of India was concerned. (Her hear.) England now was so accessible from India that India was not so great a home of the Indian civilian as in the past. The facilities of communication placed upon Indian administrators an enormous additional amount of work. Year by year the mechanical, he would say the automatic, part of their duties was taking more and more of their time, and they had less spare time for intercourse with the outside or unofficial natives; and it was, as they knew, a rudimentary maxim in government that no man or body of men could hope to thoroughly succeed in governing any people unless they could understand the people whom they governed. If they would allow him a minute or two he would ask their attention to this particular point, for it was of supreme importance, so far as the future was concerned. Many years ago, when he first had the honour of being Under-Secretary of State for India, there was on the Council a most remarkable man, whose name was well known to all his Indian colleagues who were present—Sir George Clark. Perhaps he was the last of those great patriarchal pro-Consuls, if he might so call them, who governed large portions of India through the magnetic influence of a strong moral character based on a thorough knowledge of those with whom he came in contact. He retired, being then upwards of 80 years of age, from the India Council, and on his retirement he was good enough to come and see him, and he spoke very frankly his mind on this particular subject. He said, "You are a young man, and what I want you to do is to devote your energy to destroying the Suez Canal and cutting every telegraph wire that connects England with India, and all the telegraph wires inside India, and when you have done that you must reduce your European army in India to 20,000 men, and then you will be able to test the young Englishman how far he has gone." He asked Sir George Clark to explain these rather bold and vandalistic theories, and he in a very few words put before him his experience and contrasted it with that of those who came after him. He said that when he was a young man he was sent to India with a knowledge only of the vernacular, and after a short time was sent up to a district where there was not a European within many miles of him. He had to keep that district quiet and to govern it by his own resources. And the only way he accomplished that task was by making friends of the notables of the district, governing to a large extent through them and by their opinions. And then Sir George went on to say—"In our days you send out young men far superior to myself in mental equipment, and they go out to a district with a Code under one arm and a telegraph wire under the other. They have to enforce their Code, and if they cannot all they have to do is to telegraph for somebody to help them to do so. That is not the way to make good administrators." There was a good deal of force in those observations. They could not put the clock back; they must take the increased facilities of locomotion with its advantages and disadvantages. They could not alter the conditions which surrounded the Indian civilian, and, if they could not, might they not do something to meet the difficulties which Sir George Clark predicted during their training in this country? It was, he thought, this Institute and its associations which might be of the utmost educational service. (Cheers.) He thought Oxford might be proud of the fact that, since the probationers for the Indian Civil Service were permitted to take up residence in the University, Oxford had, he thought, absorbed something like two-thirds of the total number of those probationers. (Cheers.) Therefore, upon the University of Oxford was imposed the task, which he was sure they would readily accept, of, to a certain extent, moulding the minds and dispositions of those who went to administer and to govern India. They got them at a plastic period of life, and might this Institute not

have a very beneficial effect upon them? Early in life he thought they had a rather exaggerated idea of what they could do. If any young English probationer had an opinion of his inherent power of governing, because he was descended from a conquering and self-governing race, many there would be able to show him that by certain accepted linguistic affinities India could claim a race of men of whom they might be proud. If he was proud of the intellectual past of his countrymen and their literature inside the walls of that institute, he would be shown that at the time when his ancestors were unclothed savages there was a literature in India well worthy of being preserved. And if he was proud of the utilitarian tendencies of his countrymen, of their architectural works, and of the great works of public utility which had been carried out in this country, inside that institute he would know that, notwithstanding all the mechanical appliances they had now, they had not been able to surpass the enterprise and architecture which they found in existence when they went to India. The evidence therefore of the old civilization, and the great feats which, under that civilization, the various Indian nationalities achieved, could not fail to bring home to the mind of any young man a respect and regard for such nationalities, and out of that respect and that regard must naturally grow sympathy and esteem. And sympathy and sentiment, as facilities of communication increased, were becoming more and more important factors in consolidating communities and races. Of the many great men whom England had recently sent to India, there was none perhaps who devoted more time to this problem which he had just sketched out than that distinguished jurist and thinker, Sir Henry Maine. They could not stop, because there would be no reform; they must not go too fast, or there would be no security; they must move, but they must take full cognizance of counteractive force behind. It was because these difficulties existed, and might increase, that he looked with pleasure upon any movement or any enterprise which would tend in any way to solve them. He did not wish to exaggerate the possibilities of any movement with which he might be associated as he was now, but he could not help thinking that, if this institute were fully utilized and properly directed, it might tend to gauge and possibly surmount some of the difficulties he had enumerated, and that it might succeed in producing even closer and more sympathetic relations than those which now existed between the English and Indian peoples. He thought they might be sure that the principles which would always regulate and underlie the Government of India would be those of justice and beneficence and progress, but it was upon the disposition and the demeanour of those who had the administration of those principles that the popularity of the Government must largely depend. He hoped and believed that year by year the roots of their administration in India would strike deeper among the sentiments and affections of the Indian people, and he hoped that the University of Oxford through the medium of that institute might play no small part in bringing about this most desirable result. (Cheers.) He had to thank the Vice-Chancellor for having, in the name of the University, invited him and other members of the India Council to be present. He highly prized that invitation, and for his own part he should always look back with pleasure upon having in his official capacity been associated for a brief period with them in a great work, the consummation of which he now celebrated by declaring the institute to be open. (Cheers.)

Sir M. E. Grant Duff proposed a vote of thanks to Lord George Hamilton for attending and for his address.

Sir William Hunter said it gave him very great pleasure to second the vote of thanks, because he saw before him many men who had taken part in the administration of that great world of colonies and dependencies which made up Great Britain; and as one of the humblest of them he should like to say how very deeply they were touched by the kind words which fell from Lord George Hamilton's lips. He had truly said that the difficulties of administering India had increased. There was a time when a panacea was proposed by Sir George Clark of abolishing the Suez Canal and cutting the Indo-European telegraph. Well, the Suez Canal was useful for short leave, and the telegraph to India was very useful for the announcing of domestic occurrences; but if Sir George Clark had really had the courage to propose so drastic a remedy, he thought he would have proposed to abolish the Secretary of State. (Laughter.) The Secretary of State was really more than the Suez Canal and the telegraph put together, because just as the telegraph and the Suez Canal represented the Imperial connexion between England and India, so the Secretary of State represented that much more than Imperial connexion—that great spiritual force by which Great Britain governed India. There came every now and again an opportunity when the Secretary of State or Parliament might make Indians feel that the connexion between India and England was not merely one of governing but also of sympathy; and the Thakur Saheb of Gondal would be able to convey to the tributary Princes, and Mr. Bhownaggee, who was there that day and who represented in a very special manner the people of India, would be able to convey to those who were

really his constituents and were really his clients, their grateful sense of what Lord George had said to them that day.

The proposition having been heartily adopted,

Lord George Hamilton, in acknowledgment, said that the great charm of being associated with the India Office was that rarely, if ever, were questions connected with Indian government discussed from a purely partisan point of view. Sir Mount Stuart Grant-Duff was always a kind friend and generous opponent. Indian questions were discussed upon their merits, and they did not sit up all night fighting over trivial things. He could assure them it was a genuine relief to visit Oxford and discuss something of utility. He hoped that the anticipations of the various speakers of what the institute might do might hereafter be realized.

Some Indian melodies composed by the Raja Sir Sourindro Mohan Tagore were then sung in Sanskrit by Mr. Ferguson, of Magdalen College, and a reception by Sir Monier and Lady Monier-Williams was subsequently held at the institute.

By a fortunate coincidence, Balliol College held in the evening the annual dinner given by the Master and Fellows to past and present members. The guests included Viscount Peel, Sir William Hunter, Sir M. Grant-Duff, and Sir M. Monier-Williams.—*The Times*.

THEY WONDERED TO SEE HIM.

"I could not move a yard without help. I can now walk for miles."

There is certainly a very sharp contrast between these two statements. When we see a person who, because of illness, is unable to move a yard without help, we do not expect to meet him on the road and on foot miles from home, soon thereafter; if indeed, we meet him at all. At least we should regard these extremes, considered as within the experience of the *same man*, and enclosed within a comparatively brief period of time, as something to wonder at and ask questions about. And people *did* wonder at and inquire about it. Many said the circumstances recalled the age of miracles, supposed to have passed forever away. The facts (briefly set forth in a letter from the man himself) are as follows. We may add that Mr. Henry Jackson is a farmer, well known and respected in his district, and his case is familiar to neighbours and friends of his throughout the vicinity.

"In the early part of 1892," says Mr. Jackson, "I began to feel weak and ailing. I was low in spirits, and my bodily strength seemed to be leaving me. There was a bad and nauseous taste in my mouth; my appetite, which had always been good, failed until I had no real desire for food whatever, and after eating I had much pain at the chest and a fulness around the sides. My stomach always felt *burning hot*, and I had a gnawing pain at the pit of it.

"I remained in this general condition until August of the same year, when I was taken worse. My legs began to swell, and rheumatism set in all over me, more particularly in the hips and back. No local treatment had any effect upon it. It grew worse and worse, until I was no longer able to rise from my chair without assistance. In truth, I had no power over myself, and *could not move a yard without help*.

"I suffered so with *mere pain* that I could not lie in bed, and for over *two months I never had my clothes off*.

"During this time I was attended day and night, being literally unable to do anything of importance for myself. All the sleep I got was taken in naps and snatches while I was bolstered up in my usual place in an easy chair. Under the terrible strain of the pain and loss of proper rest my nerves broke down so that any uncommon event in the house or noise was more than I could bear. My heart was very bad, and thumped until I could scarcely stay in the chair and endure it.

"The doctor who had charge of my case said my condition was critical. He said that my lungs and liver were badly affected, and that I had Bright's disease of the kidneys. Still his medicines did me no good, and after attending me ten months he said he could do no more for me.

"I then got a doctor from Bolton to see me, and he held out but slender hopes of my ever getting any better. I thought the same, and so did all who saw me.

"In October, 1893, my daughter, Mrs. Dickinson, of Bolton, told me how she had been benefited by taking Mother Selgel's Curative Syrup, and thought it might possibly help me. I had small faith, but there could be no harm in trying. So we sent at once to Mr. Pare, the chemist, in Fold Road, Bolton, for enough to decide whether it would do me good or not. After taking it a short time I was better. I could sleep better, and had some appetite for food, and what I ate agreed with me. This was hopeful and cheering indeed.

"I kept on with the Syrup and it acted wonderfully with me. The worst symptoms abated, and I gained strength. Soon all the water in my legs passed off, and the rheumatism troubled me but little. Still using the Syrup, my condition continued to improve in every respect, until I once more stood on my feet, and felt like a man of this world. *I can now walk for miles* and have no pain. All my friends think as I do—that under the circumstances my recovery was nothing short of marvellous. You are at liberty to publish this statement, and refer any interested persons to me. (Signed) Henry Jackson, Powett Hill Farm, Culcheth, near Warrington, October 9th 1895."

No words of ours can add to the convincing force of Mr. Jackson's plain statement. His disease was originally and radically of the digestion. The attack was sharp and profound, and developed into the resulting conditions he so well describes. He may not have had Bright's disease, but that he was directly progressing towards that fatal malady there is no doubt. The effect of Mother Selgel's Syrup in his case only serves to show afresh its rare and remarkable power. Scarcely is so great a victory to be looked for from any medicine. Yet the facts are undeniable. We congratulate Mr. Jackson on his escape from a danger which was much more serious than even he probably imagined.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

LOAN NOTIFICATION.

THE Commissioners of Calcutta are prepared, with the sanction of the Governor-General-in-Council given under Section 404 of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888, to open a Debenture Loan for Rs. 20,00,000 (twenty lakhs) on the security of the rates, taxes and dues imposed and levied under the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1888.

2. The debentures will have a currency of fifteen years from the 1st December, 1896, and will bear interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st June and 1st December of each year.

3. The form of the Debentures will be that given in the twelfth schedule of Act II. (B. C.) of 1888.

4. No Debentures will be issued for any sum less than Rs. 500, and above that amount Debentures will be issued only for complete sums of Rs. 100.

5. Tenders for the whole or any part of the above Loan of Rs. 20,00,000 will be received by the Secretary to the Corporation up to 2 o'clock P. M. of Friday, the 7th August, 1896.

6. Each tender must be made out in the form annexed to this Notification, and enclosed in a sealed cover addressed to the Secretary to the Corporation, and superscribed "Tender for Municipal Loan of 1896-97."

7. Each tender must be accompanied by Government Promissory Notes, Calcutta Municipal Debentures, currency-notes or cheques for not less than 3 per cent. of the amount tendered.

8. When a tender is accepted, the deposit, when made in currency-notes or cheques, will be held as a payment in part of the amount tendered, and will bear interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum from the date of acceptance of the tender, provided that the whole amount tendered is paid up in the manner hereinafter prescribed; but no debenture will issue for the sum so deposited so long as the entire amount of the tender is not paid.

9. The deposits on tenders, which may not be accepted, will be returned on application, and no interest will be payable on such deposits. If an allotment after being made is not taken up, and the full amount allotted is not paid as hereinafter prescribed, the deposit will be forfeited.

10. The rate at which a tender is made must be specified in rupees, or rupees and annas: a tender in which the rate is not so specified will be rejected as null and void.

11. The rates stated in a tender must not contain any fraction of an anna. If a rate containing a fraction of an anna is inserted in any tender, such fraction will be struck out, and the tender treated as if the rate did not contain such fraction of an anna.

12. The amount of the accepted tenders must be paid into the Bank of Bengal in the following instalments:—

One-third by the 21st August.

Do. by the 21st September.

Do. by the 26th October.

Parties, whose tenders are accepted, will have the option of paying all or any of the instalments before the dates specified above, and will receive interest from the date of such payment.

13. Anticipation interest will be paid on all instalments from the respective dates on which such instalments are paid into the Bank of Bengal to the 30th November, 1896.

14. In the case of two or more tenders at the same rate a *pro rata* allotment will be made (if the tenders are accepted), but no allotment will be issued if the amount distributable on any tender is less than Rs. 500.

15. A minimum having been previously fixed, tenders will be opened by the Loan Committee of the Commissioners at 2-30 P. M., on Friday, the 7th August, 1896, at the Municipal Office.

W. R. MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE:

Calcutta, 29th June, 1896.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR DEBENTURES.

I hereby tender for Rs. _____ of the Municipal three and half ($3\frac{1}{2}$) per cent.

Debenture Loan for 1896-97, and agree to pay for the same subject to the conditions notified at the rate of Rs. _____ annas

for every Hundred Rupees allotted to me. I enclose Government Promissory Notes, Calcutta Municipal Debentures, currency notes, or a cheque for Rs. _____

Signed

Dated

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AN INDIAN JOURNALIST:

Life, Letters and Correspondence OF

Dr. SAMBHU C MOOKERJEE,

late Editor of "*Reis and Rayyet*."

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CORRESPONDENCE OF DR. S. C. MOOKERJEE.

LETTERS

to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J.C.,
to Atkinson the late Mr. E.F.T., C.S.
to Banerjee, Babu Jyoush Chunder.
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.
to Banerjee, Babu Sudodrasad.
from Bell, the late Major Evans.
from Bhaddant, Chief of.
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.
to Chelu, Rai Bahadur Ananda.
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.
to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.
to Ghose, Babu Nino Kissen.
to Ghosh, Babu Kuthi Prasanna.
to Graham, Mr. W.
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.
from Guha, Babu Sudod Kant.
to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.
from Hunter, Sir W. W.
to Jenkins, Mr. Edward.
to Jong, the late Nawab Sir Silar.
to Knight, Mr. Paul.
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.
to Law, Kumar Kristodas.
to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.
to Mohamed, Mulvi Syed.
to Malik, Mr. H. C.
to Muston, Miss Ann.
from Mehta, Mr. R. D.
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.
to Mookerjee, late Raja Diksharanjan.
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.
from Nayratna, Mahanathopadhyaya M. C.
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.
to Rao, the late Sir T. Madhava.
to Rattigan, Sir William H.
from Rosebery, Earl of.
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.
from Russell, Sir W. H.
to Row, Mr. G. Swamala.
to Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.
to Sinha, Babu Brahmamunda.
from Sircar, Dr. Manendralal.
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.
to Underwood, Captain T. O.
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.
to Vencataramanah, Mr. G.
to Vizianagram, Mahant of.
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCES, from

Abdus Subhan, Mouvi A. K. M.
Ameer Hossein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.
Banerjee, Babu Minumath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur, Sub Chunder.
Barth, M. A.
Belchambers, Mr. R.
Deh, Babu Manahar.
Dutt, Mr. O. C.
Dutt, Babu Prosadoss.
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Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.
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Iyer, Mr. A. Krishnaswami.
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Mitra, Mr. B. C.
Mutter, Babu Sidheshur.
Mookerjee, Raja Peary Mahan.
Mookerjee, Babu Surendra Nath.
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OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.L.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sonbhui Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 237.

FAREWELL TO OLE BULL.

BY A. C. LYNCH.

THERE was a fountain in my heart
Whose deeps had not been stirred—
A thirst for music in my soul
My ear had never heard.

A feeling of the incomplete,
To all bright things allied—
A sense of something beautiful
Unfilled, unsatisfied.

But, waked beneath thy master hand,
Those trembling chords have given
A foretaste of that deep full life
That I shall know in heaven.

In that resistless spell, for once
The Vulture of Unrest,
That whets its beak upon my heart,
Lies, charmed, within my breast.

Pale Memory and flushed Hope forget,
Ambition sinks to sleep,
And o'er my spirit falls a bliss
So perfect that I weep.

Oh, stranger, though thy farewell notes
Now on the breeze may sigh,
Yet treasured in our thrilling hearts
Their echo shall not die.

Thou'st brought us, from thy northern home,
Old Norway's forest tones ;
Wild melodies, from ancient lands,
Of palaces and thrones.

Take back the "prairie's solitude"—
The voice of that dry sea,
Whose billowy breast is dyed with flowers,
Made audible by thee.

Take back with thee what ne'er before
To music's voice was given—
The anthem that "Niagara" chants
Unceasingly to heaven ;

The spirit of a people, waked
By freedom's battle cry—
The "Memory of their Washington"—
Their song of victory.

Take back with thee a loftier fame,
A prouder niche in art—
Fresh laurels from our virgin soil,
And—take a nation's heart !

WEEKLYANA.

THE titles of the Czar Nicholas II., as proclaimed by an archdeacon at the coronation, are—

"The orthodox, most pious and Christ-loving, most autocratic, most mighty Sovereign, crowned by God, exalted Autocrat of all the Russias, Moscow, Kieff, Vladimir, and Novgorod, Czar of Astrochan, Czar of Poland, Czar of Siberia, Czar of Kherson-Taurido, Czar of Georgia, Lord of Peskoff, and Grand Prince Smolensk of Lithuania, of Volhynia, of Podolia, and of Finland ; Prince of Estland, of Lfland, of Courland, of Semigalia, of Samogithis, of Korelia, of Tver, of Youngoria, of Perm, of Viatka, of Bulgaria on the Volga, and other places ; Lord and Grand Prince of the Lowland of Novgorod, of Ichnigoff, of Ryazan, of Polotsk, of Rostoff, of Jaroslaffe, of Byelozersk, of Oudork, of Obdorsd, of Konndisk, of Vitelgk, of Mstislavsk, and Ruler of all countries of the North ; Lord of the territories of Iberia, Kartalinsk, and Karnardinsk, and the district of Armenia ; hereditary Lord and Sovereign of Circasian and mountain princes and others ; Lord of Turkistan, of the Tcherkesses, Duke of Dithmarsen, and of Oldenburg, Heir to the throne of Norway, Duke of Schleswig-Holstein, of Stornmarn, etc., etc., etc."

The many claims preferred through titles by a weak prince may raise a laugh. In a strong and ambitious ruler they are a source of alarm. A title may justify an annexation.

ACCORDING to official returns, published this year, there are no less than 129,177,000 men, women and children living in the Russian Empire. Sub-divided into their nationality, the subjects of the Czar are : 82,000,000 Russian Slavs, 8,000,000 Poles, 5,000,000 Finns, 4,500,000 Lithuanians, 4,000,000 Hebrews, 4,000,000 Germans, 9,000,000 Tartars, 2,000,000 Caucasian mountaineers, and 7,000,000 other races and tribes.

..

HERE is the latest list of New York's millionaires, and the amounts they are worth :—

John D. Rockefeller...	£25,000,000	Robert Goellet	... £5,000,000
William Waldorf Astor	24,000,000	Scheimehorn Estate...	5,000,000
Jay Gould Estate	20,000,000	Ogden Goellet	... 4,000,000
Russell Sage	18,000,000	Collis P. Huntington...	4,000,000
Cornelius Vanderbilt...	16,000,000	David Dows Estate	... 4,000,000
William K. Vanderbilt	15,000,000	Elbridge T. Gerry and	
Henry M. Flagler	12,000,000	Mrs. Gerry	... 4,000,000
William Rockefeller...	12,000,000	Jabez A. Bostwick Es-	
John Jacob Astor	10,000,000	tate	... 4,000,000
Moses Taylor Estate	10,000,000	Theodore A. Have-	
Friedrick W. Vander-		meyer	... 4,000,000
bilt	7,000,000	W. Sloane Estate	... 4,000,000
George W. Vanderbilt	6,000,000	Henry Hilton	... 4,000,000
Percy R. Pyne & Mrs.		Andrew Carnegie	... 4,000,000
Pyne	6,000,000	Amos R. Enn	... 4,000,000
Henry O. Havemeyer		William C. Whitney	... 4,000,000
and Mrs. Havemeyer	6,000,000	Wm P. Furness Estate	... 4,000,000
M. Singer Estate	6,000,000	D. O. Mills	... 4,000,000
J. Pierpont Morgan	5,000,000	H. Victor Newcomb...	3,000,000
		Henry Hart	... 2,000,000

RONTGEN'S rays, like the rays of the sun, have been found to burn the skin. An engineer, named Leppin, who used his left hand in some experiments, afterwards noticed on it a singular reddening and swelling with a blister between two fingers which, however, disappeared on the application of aqua plumbi or Goulard's lotion. Experiments by Professor Grummach and Dr. Du Bois Reymond in the Physiological Institute of the Berlin University shew that not only the bones of the human

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body but also some of the softer parts, such as the *os hyoid*, the larynx and the diaphragm are pervious to the X rays. An examination by these rays of the wound caused to Li-Hung-Chang by a bullet penetrating the base of his left eye, shewed that the bullet was lodged in a safe corner. The mystery about the X rays is being unravelled. Sir G. Stokes thinks and in his address as President of the Victoria Institute at the Society of Arts, has explained his reasons for thinking that the Röntgen's rays consisted of transverse vibrations, a hundredfold more potent than in ordinary light.

THE Cobden Club celebrated, on Saturday, the 27th June, the fiftieth anniversary of the repeal of the corn laws. Mr. Leonard Courtney was in the chair. He said "it was true that France, Germany and the United States prospered, but that was in spite of protection and not because of it. The disciples of the principles of Cobden claimed that if those nations had been free-traders they would have been still more prosperous. History proved that as soon as nations adopted a protective régime progress and development were at once checked, and so it happened that people who were free traders yesterday were free traders to-day and free traders for ever."

At the dinner, Mr. J. B. Potter, an old associate of Cobden, was present. The great free trader used to say to Mr. Potter, "Never assume that the motives of the man who is opposed to you in policy or in argument, are one whit less pure and disinterested than your own."

Free trade may be very good for advanced nations, but it is not so for those whose arts and manufactures are in a backward state. To a dependent country like India the principle has worked ruin to a certain extent. International exhibitions, instead of proving beneficial, have proved disastrous to her.

AT La Platau, Maryland, America, indignant at the law's delay in the trial of a man named Joseph Cocking, charged with the murder of his wife and sister-in-law, a mob took him out of the jail and lynched him.

THE Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund has received a telegram from Dr. Fredrickbliss, stating that permission for continuance of the excavations at Jerusalem has been granted by the Sublime Porte. Still the Turk is "unspeakable."

The Army and Navy Gazette remarks:—

"By constant effort over every sea and in every clime, by the combination of commercial enterprise and maritime skill, wise investment and individual courage, prudent calculation and military daring, our people have spread their dominions over the globe. We have not startled mankind by sudden or fitful eruption, by some descent in the form of a horde on our neighbours, like the waves of invasion conducted by conquerors like Alaric or Napoleon. Nor have we transferred by a vast and elaborate military organisation, to which the whole life of a nation has been subordinated, a million of folk across a frontier to overwhelm a foe and gain a couple of provinces. But since the days of Elizabeth our struggles have been as ceaseless, our energy as restless, as the seas which protect our shores, and over which we gained an uncontrolled command. We have had a higher mission than heroes such as Alexander, Cæsar, and Timurlane, or organisers of victory such as Carnot and Moltke. We have won greatness not by the occasional lavish destruction of agglomerated myriads, but by the unremitting bravery and skill of detachments. Britain's position in the world is not due to the commanders of many corps, but to captains of ships and to colonels of regiments.

The schoolmaster and the pedant ignore the British Empire and weary their victims with tiresome iteration about Roman legions and German *corps d'armée*. But the wisest students of humanity, whether continental or insular, turn from all other histories eagerly to inquire how it is that a nation which has only 120,000 square miles in its two islands and had only some 15,000,000 of people about a century ago, now rules over 11,399,000 square miles and 402,000,000 subjects. This is the 'greatest birth of time.' How to preserve this inheritance is vital to us as the breath of our nostrils. The fall of this mighty edifice would overwhelm our metropolis with a Babylonian desolation and our rulers with infamy. This being so, all our studies should directly tend to ascertaining how most effectively to preserve our Empire, and our very curiosity should take the shape of gathering up information to illustrate its development. Education and patriotism should go hand in hand."

Again:—

"The future of the European races depends much more upon Asia and Africa than upon manœuvres by the Vistula or the Moselle. If Britain can hold command of the sea and continue to extend her Empire by success in small wars we may smile at the organisations of a Broussard von Schellendorff."

So, hurrah for small wars! The journal of the Reserve and Auxiliary Forces is led into these reflections by Captain Callwell's "Small Wars: their Principles and Practice" published by the Intelligence Department. "Seeing that our Empire," continues the *Gazette*, "has had twenty small wars for one such campaign as the Crimean, and fights perpetually outside the European continent, it is no exaggeration to assert that this unpretentious effort by Captain Callwell is more valuable to our Army as at present constituted than any translation of any work by either French or German Staff officers. Moreover, it is a patriotic monument. Why should the prowess of our warriors amidst torrid deserts and eternal snows never be commemorated? Why should our industrial toilers at home know nothing about the labours of their kin who are opening up markets for their wares by the banks of the Swat, and the Zambesi and the Irrawaddy, and by the slopes of the Suleiman range? If the Germans had a colonial Empire like ours—an Indian Empire like ours—would not German small wars be duly chronicled and fully criticized?" Historians make heroes. If it were not for the chroniclers, heroes would not exist. It has been sung "Peace hath her victories no less renown'd than war." The next peaceful advice is—Small wars are as heroic as a long campaign.

THE *Times'* correspondent writing from the camp at Ferket, writes of the magnificent courage of the Mahdists otherwise called Dervishes:

"All the numerous British officers who have taken part in former campaigns against the Mahdists, all allow that the Dervishes have lost nothing of their old valour. They heed death as little as ever. I saw them stand undismayed in the open and fight with dogged determination in the face of our deadly volley fire; they fought on with rifle and spear and knife when charged by the cavalry; they even did what some authorities have denied that any troops, however brave, would ever do—they stood in groups firing steadily into our ranks while our Maxim guns poured their streams of bullets on them, mowing them down like grass. I doubt whether any other men in the world would have stood, as these men stood, for nearly two hours against such fearful odds as were opposed to them. If trained and disciplined (but it is very doubtful whether that savage beast of prey, the Baggara, ever could be tamed), these men would make magnificent infantry. They display now as much amazing coolness when acting on the defensive as they did wild *élan* in their furious charges of former campaigns. During one part of the fight I was with the men of the 9th Soudanese Battalion, who were clearing the hills to the east of Ferket, and I saw a handful of twenty-five of the enemy's riflemen stand firm and fire into us until we were twenty yards from them, when they in vain sought safety in flight. The majority of these riflemen were blacks of the same stock as the men of our Soudanese battalions; it is therefore possible to form some idea of how the latter will fight if caught in a 'tight corner.'"

In the Russo-Turkish war, the Turk showed equal disregard of danger.

PANDY, Abdul, or Singh do not care a pie where the money comes from as long as they are paid, but the native Press, Hindu, Mussulman, and Sikh, will assuredly join in the chorus of protest and remonstrance which has been raised here and in India against taking the rate in aid for the expenses of the Suakin garrison contribution from Indian revenues. The saving may prove to be costly in the end.—*The Army and Navy Gazette*.

THE Jodhpur Cavalry, Bikaner Cavalry Corps, and several other Imperial service troops have applied to be allowed to proceed to Suakin to assist the Indian contingent.

A MADRAS paper is "extremely pleased to learn that Mr. K. P. Krishna Menon, Barrister-at-Law and practising at Coimbatore will shortly be appointed a first or second class Munsiff." Why? Because Mr. Menon becomes a judge? We have Barrister Munsiffs in Bengal, and we distinctly remember that the first appointment was a surprise and the barrister was not congratulated for the judgeship. It was a sinkage of the kind when a Commissioner of a Division or a Member of the Board of Revenue in British India, becomes Superintendent in a Native State, or a Governor in India accepts an office of Secretary in the India Office.

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At the general meeting of the sixth annual convention of the European section of the Theosophical Society, held at the Queen's Hall, Langham-place, Colonel H. S. Olcott, the president-founder, said that "It was a dangerous thing to allow to be spread about the idea that the society represented a body with dogmas and a sect. It was formed in the interest of collectivism and its first principle was that it held no retainer to represent the interest of any one body of religionists. It was organised in the interest of religious research and inquiry, and it had no more dogmas than the great societies existing in England."

39,477 or a daily average of 1,879 persons visited the Indian Museum during the 21 open days of July, namely, 462 male and 121 female Europeans, and 30,137 male and 8,757 female Natives of India.

NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS & THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

SIR Mathew White Ridley having advised the Queen to extend her clemency to Dr. Jameson and his fellow prisoners and grant them the treatment of first class misdemeanants, they have all been returned to Holloway Jail from Wormwood Scrubs.

It appears to be settled that the Czar and Czarina will visit Paris about the middle of September, and will reside at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

GENERAL Carrington has abandoned the plan to carry the Matoppo hills by assault, as the new forts will prevent the natives sowing grain and herding their cattle and thus force them into submission to the British. This is more a Chinese than an English method of warfare. Perhaps, it is the new English principle and practice of small wars. Ill-armed rude rebels in the open field may be shot down like beasts. A savage enemy in fortified hills must be brought down to submission not by storming but by cutting off the supply of provisions. In the meantime, the patrol parties continue to harry the Matabele rebels, and are driving them into the hills—to their grave? Matabele impis are vulnerable and Colonel Plumer's column has routed five of them with loss on the British side of Major Kershaw and four others killed, and fifteen, mostly officers, wounded.

A TIDAL wave at Laichau on 26th July destroyed many villages and drowned four thousand persons.

THE Convention of Democratic Goldites meets at Chicago on 1st September. The Tammany executive have approved of the nomination of Mr. Bryan for the Presidency.

FRANCE, Russia, Germany, Italy and Austria are in favour of the blockade of Crete so as to prevent the landing of Greek Volunteers and arms, leaving the Turks free to restore order in the Island. Great Britain dissents from such an arrangement, though agreeing to joint mediation to induce Greece to fulfil her duties towards the Porte and bring the Cretans to accept a reasonable compromise. The German and Austrian press accuse Great Britain of selfish isolation, thus disturbing the concert of the Powers in the matter. Troubles in Crete are now extended to the southern part of the Island. The proposed blockade has apparently been abandoned, the Sultan intimating that he would regard a foreign blockade as an infringement of his Sovereign rights. The *Times* expresses indignation at the diatribes of the German press against the perfidy of Great Britain, and explains that Lord Salisbury simply declines the crude proposal of the Powers to blockade until he is properly informed of its scope and object. The Sultan has vetoed the sending of a despatch to Greece reported last week.

LORD Cromer in his evidence before the Welby Commission deprecated anything likely to transfer the power of financial control over India from England, and thought it inadvisable to weaken the power of the Secretary of State who was the natural ally of the Indian Council, and that it would be unwise to impair the power of the Viceroy. Every

Member of Council should, he thought, be empowered to write a confidential memorandum to the Secretary of State, but he deprecated managing Indian details in London. He advised a court of arbitration to settle matters of economy, such as England's proportion of the cost of Aden, and declined to give an opinion on the landing of Indian troops as being still a burning question.

The intervention of Parliament in some Indian matters, he thought, was harmful, and he instanced the cases of the Opium and the Contagious Diseases Acts.

THE Nile railway has reached Kosheh.

THE Transvaal Volksraad have passed a Bill providing for the education of the children of the Uitlanders in their own language.

THE Irish Labour Bill relates chiefly to the question of Irish labourers. The amendment to it had passed the Lords, and then the House restored the contentious clause which was abandoned by the Government. The defeat of the Government is considered unimportant, but it augurs badly for the fate of the Irish Land Bill. In the House of Lords Government was defeated on the amendment to the Irish Land Bill. Mr. Balfour immediately held a conference of some length with the Duke of Devonshire. The Government has been twice defeated in the Lords by a majority of 50, while in Committee on the Irish Land Bill. It is believed the measure will be shelved to prevent a conflict between the Lords and the Commons. The Commons have passed the Land Rating Bill.

THE reception of the Chinese Envoy in England has been of the simplest character. On August 5, he had an audience of the Queen at Osborne. Next day he had tea with the Prince and Princess of Wales, and afterwards went on board the Royal Yacht *Alberta* and inspected a splendid squadron of forty-seven men-of-war at Spithead. He has received the Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order. The same day that he went to Osborne the Chinese envoy had an hour's private interview with Lord Salisbury and afterwards visited the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The *Times* states that the real object of Li-Hung-Chang's visit to England is to obtain British sanction to an increase in the Chinese tariff, basis whereof through the fall in silver is now radically altered. Russia, France and Germany have already given their assent, but the real decision rests with Great Britain, whose trade with China is eighty per cent. of the whole. The *Times* remarks that England before consenting to the doubling of tariff must secure an adequate commercial *quid pro quo*. The article further states that it has been definitely decided that China is to have a new Army and Navy, but the extent of reform depends on the amount derivable from the increased tariff. Li-Hung-Chang has virtually ordered artillery from Germany and rifles from France, but has resolved to have a Navy constructed in England upon the English lines, with English officers.

TELEGRAPHIC communication with Mashonaland has been restored. The situation there has improved. Laager at Fort Salisbury has broken up, and the people have returned to their homes. Mr. Hartley has also been relieved.

IN the last two months, five barometric depressions formed at the head of the Bay of Bengal and they all deflected towards Orissa, Chota Nagpur, Midnapur, Hooghly, Bardwan, the Presidency and the Nadia Divisions. As a result, the Central, the Southern and Western Bengal and Orissa had plenty of rain. The Mahanadi, the Subarnarekha, the Katjuri, the Barmani, the Brahmani and the Damuda overflowed their banks. In Northern and Eastern Bengal the people are complaining of scanty rainfall. Damage has been caused by the water of the Damuda, in the district of Bardwan, flowing through the Lakra breach. This is one of the cuts in the Damuda embankment on the right bank for the protection of the E. I. Railway. Several villages—Hajahna; Bantir; Berugram, the home of the Bhangabasi Boses; Maral, the home of the Dewan Sahab of Cooch Behar—were under water. Lower down, Khanakul, Krishnagar, the seat of Raja Rammohun Roy, with surrounding villages was one sheet of water. The flood also overwhelmed many villages facing Anja on the opposite bank. The left bank has entirely escaped the visitation.

The outbreak of the monsoon has been severely felt in the

Konkan district in the Bombay Presidency. A series of excessive downpours of rain caused large tracts of land below the Ghats to be flooded, causing breaches in the G. I. P., B. B. and C. I. railways, interrupting traffic, and closing the three approaches to the western capital. The Tapi was in full flood presenting a magnificent sight.

There is cry for rain in the Punjab, the clouds having expended themselves in the N.-W. P. At Lahore, a report says, "on Monday morning several Brahmans went to the river Ravi and recited *mantras* standing in the water. Some of the Hindus in the city collected about Rs. 40 and gave a feast to the poor on the parade ground near the fort while a prayer was afterwards made for rain. The Mahomedans also have been giving *niyas* for the same purpose for some days."

A private letter dated Allahabad, the 5th August, reports :

"Up to this we have very scanty rain here, and the cultivation is very much retarded. There is fear of the standing crops suffering more if heavier downpour does not come sharp. This morning, however, I found the river Jumna in full swing from which I anticipate that there has been heavy rain in the upper districts of the N.-W. P., such as Agra, Muttra, &c. We will hear about it in a day or two."

There is not much news for the present, for Allahabad is yet empty, the big folk being still at Naini Tal. Our Lieutenant-Governor however was lately visiting several places in Oudh and was soothing the ear of the people with sweet words and honeyed phrases. The present important topic is about the Judicial Commissioner's Court of Oudh regarding which various opinions are expressed. Some are for amalgamating it with the Allahabad High Court, but the Oudh people want its removal to Lucknow, or a separate chief court as in the Punjab. Let us see how Government decides the matter."

THE discussion of the question of water supply for rural Bengal has diverted native liberality to its old channel. Raja Rujendra Naryan Roy of Bhowal, as a part of the memorial of the visit of the Lieutenant-Governor to Dacca, has given Rs. 15,000 for excavation, in the pargana of Bhowal, of tanks to be styled the Mackenzie tanks; the Rajs of Bhagyakul contribute Rs. 5,000 for two tanks along the road from Srinager to Taltolla, the road for visitors to the Brahmaputra Fair. Raja Ranajit Sinha of Nashipur, in the Moorsheadabad district, while subscribing Rs. 5,000 to the Countess of Dufferin Fund, Bengal branch, offered to the local municipality Rs. 1,500 for a tank at Nashipur to be called the Jamuna Mackenzie tank.

SIR John Lambert has got his third extension of service. The first was for two years, and when he applied for another couple of years, he was granted only one year which expires next November. In prospect of that expiration, he applied and has received another term of one year which will take him to November 1897.

A MORNING paper publishes the following judgment of D. M. Shendra Lul Sircar as Honorary Magistrate :—

"In this case the defendant is charged under Section 417, Act 11 of 1888, B. C. with infringing the provisions of the Bye-law by erecting a building not according to the plan sanctioned by the Commissioners in so far that he erected certain bath-rooms not shown in the sanctioned plan. The prosecuting overseer admits in his deposition that this is a case of addition and alteration to an existing building. Bahu Kinye Lal Mukerjee, the pleader for the Corporation, contends that one of the bath-rooms, which has been constructed from the very foundation, is a building by itself for which the Commissioners had authority to grant or refuse sanction. I regret I cannot accept this view of the law as correct. I hold that the bath-rooms were only additions to the existing building and not a new house and the Commissioners are nowhere empowered by the Act to sanction or refuse such additions (*vide* sections 237 and 238 of the Municipal Act) and if the Commissioners took upon themselves to grant or refuse sanction in cases where the granting or refusal of sanction is not necessary, such granting or refusal of sanction is wholly inoperative in law, and is in no way binding on defendant. The defendant has fully complied with the law by making an application. I therefore dismiss the case and discharge the defendant."

The building regulations of the Municipality, adopted after much delay and discussion, have become a dead letter. Honorary Magistrates are averse from punishing breaches of the bye-law, the law itself not being very clear. The native Commissioners who rule the Municipality are, as a rule, opposed to building regulations. They made a great stir when a roofed veranda was constructed, in anticipation of sanction, in one of the Government House buildings, but they usually encourage in the native town constructions not according to the sanctioned plan, and have allowed houses to be built over public

roads and thoroughfares. Dr. Simpson may very well ask for a Building Act.

Let us see what the law is. Section 235 requires

"Before beginning to build any new house or to convert any hut or any temporary structure into a house, the person intending so to do shall obtain the sanction of the Commissioners to the site on which he proposes to build." The next section (236) says "Before beginning to build any new house on a site approved of under the last preceding section, or to rebuild or materially alter the structure of any house, the person intending so to do shall make an application to the Commissioners in a printed form...setting forth the description of the building, the purposes for which it is intended, its dimensions, such plan of the building as the form may specify, and such other details as may be deemed requisite to enable the Commissioners to pass orders on such application."

The next direction is

Sec. 237. "On receipt of such application the Commissioners shall within thirty days, by a written order, either sanction the building of the new house, or for any one or more of the reasons set forth in the next succeeding section disallow it,..."

Sec. 238. Within thirty days after the receipt of the details, . . . the Commissioners shall pass orders in writing, either approving of the proposed buildings or disapproving thereof for any of the following reasons :—

- (a) that it will be unsafe; or
- (b) that it encroaches upon or over municipal land; or
- (c) that its construction contravenes some specified provision of this Act; or some specified bye-law made under this Act."

It will be observed that while Sec. 236 speaks of both "beginning to build any new house" and "to rebuild or materially alter the structure of any house," section 237 is limited to "the building of the new house." The Magistrates think that by sending in a plan a person is absolved from all further responsibility and that he is free to make, according to the plan, any addition or alteration to a house, without waiting for sanction.

Sec. 240 gives the Commissioners power,

"if any building such as is referred to in Sec. 235 be commenced without sending in the ground plan...or after such ground plan has been sent in, before the site has been approved of," "to cause such house, or so much of it as has been constructed, to be demolished." Again, Section 241. "If any building or alteration such as is referred to in Sec. 236 be commenced without the application required by that section being sent to the Commissioners, or before the expiration of the thirty days....., or otherwise than in accordance with the information furnished in the application.....or in contravention of any lawful orders issued by the Commissioners under Sec. 238, the Commissioners may cause such work as has been done to be demolished or altered in such manner as they may think fit, and the expenses thereby incurred shall be paid by the person failing to comply with the requirements of the Act." Further, Sec. 242. "The Commissioners may, in addition to, or in lieu of, exercising the powers conferred on them by Sec. 240 and the last preceding section, prosecute any person who shall build a new house without sending in the ground plan required by Sec. 235, or who shall build or re-build or materially alter the structure of any house without making the application required by Section 236, and such person shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 100 and to a further fine not exceeding Rs. 20 for every day during which the offence is continued after he has been convicted of such offence."

There is the same difference between sections 241 and 242 as between sections 236 and 237. In Sec. 241 the prohibition extends to any building or alteration and till the expiration of 30 days. In Sec. 242 the prohibition expires with the sending in of the plan or the application.

The Magistrates argue that there can be no conviction under Sec. 242 when the accused has submitted the plan or made the application, even though he has not awaited, as laid down in section 241, the prescribed time for orders of the Commissioners and commenced the construction simultaneously with submission of the plan. Supposing that is the true interpretation of the law, it is curious that while the Commissioners are free to act, under Sec. 241, on their own responsibility and demolish the construction, the Magistrates are precluded from convicting—a less harsh course. The Commissioners have the power of demolishing when they choose, out of deference to constituted courts and kindness to the offending applicant, to ask a Magistrate to enquire into his act. That reference is to the advantage of the public. For a conviction is not necessarily an order for demolition, though it may lead to it. The house owner is given an opportunity of rectifying an omission or taking fresh orders. If the Magistrates throw the Commissioners overboard, the Commissioners may be tempted to be strict. The Bengal Council Acts are usually a curious jumble of prohibitions and penalties without order or consistency. They prohibit certain acts but sometimes omit to prescribe the penalty. It is not unfrequently difficult to find out what the intention of the Legislature is. There is another

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section on the same subject, namely, 243, which along with other provisions, lays down that every building shall be provided with adequate ventilation. In addition, the Commissioners are empowered (Sec. 412) to make bye-laws with regard to, among others, the height and mode of construction of buildings; ventilation and the extent to which space must be left for the free circulation of air as required by Sec. 243. If, however, the law is defective, bye-laws under it cannot supply the deficiencies.

Another cause of obscurity and uncertainty is the promiscuous use of the words "house" and "building."

THE Calcutta Corporation 3½ per cent. 20 lakhs debenture loan with a currency of 15 years, has been very successfully floated. There were 243 tenders amounting to Rs. 1,06,59,500; Rs. 19,00,500 were offered at rates varying from Rs. 107-1 to Rs. 106-3; tenders for the balance Rs. 99,500 were accepted at Rs. 106-2, the average rate of accepted tender being Rs. 106-6. The premium thus comes up to Rs. 1,27,500, which covers the interest on the loan for about 2 years. In other words, the interest on the loan is reduced to about 3-1/16 per cent.

THE Lieutenant-Governor will be back to Calcutta on Tuesday. He arrived at Barisal on the 6th and, halting there the next day, leaves it to-day for Khulna, and thence comes to Calcutta. At Barisal, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, while replying to the addresses presented to him by the District Board, the Municipality, the Anjuman Islamia and the People, took occasion to speak on the frequency of serious crime in the district. He informed his hearers that the object of his going to Barisal was principally to discuss with local officers the appalling state of things. He would not anticipate the conference, but he was free to say that, unless the public feeling improved and zemindars and others assisted the Police, no increase of Police would check the crime. He was prepared to ask the Government of India to strengthen the law and for strong measures for Backerganj as were adopted for Upper Burma. There is a simpler and more expeditious way of clearing Backerganj of its crime. Why not ask for loan of the services of the Sessions Judge of Cawnpore? For one dead body found, Mr. J. E. Gill will not hesitate to sentence a whole village or any number of villagers to death. He has revived, after forty years, the bloody memory of the massacre at Cawnpore and a dark chapter of Indian history. For two deaths in the course of a quarrel over a field, he has passed capital sentence on 13 persons who formed an unlawful assembly.

A EUROPEAN starter, named Scott, of the Calcutta Tramway Company, charged with assaulting a native girl of 8 years, has, on a verdict of guilty by the jury, by a majority of four to one, been sentenced, by Mr. Giedt, at the Alipore Criminal Sessions, to 18 months' rigorous imprisonment. The jury consisted of 3 Europeans and 2 natives.

MR. Justice Reid of the Punjab Chief Court has sentenced F. E. Roy, for assaulting his (*dhobi*) washerman to death, to 2 years and 10 months' hard labour. He was charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder or manslaughter. The jury unanimously found him guilty of only grievous hurt and strongly recommended him for mercy on account of his family who would be uncared for in his absence. The *post mortem* examination disclosed that the body had four bruises on the face, two bruises on the right side of the chest with very indefinite margins and other external injuries. The left eye was swollen and blackened. Seven ribs were fractured, the soft parts in the neighbourhood of the fractures were lacerated, the breast-bone (sternum) was also fractured transversely. The defence had contended that the injuries were inflicted after death, after the native fashion in the Punjab to make a stronger case for the prosecution.

THE manner in which the country Police are allowed to deal with suspicious deaths very often fills us with surprise. About three weeks ago, the dead body of a woman was found with a bamboo pole tied to it with ropes, lying in a bush beside the grounds of a gentleman of Janai, in Thana Chauditalah, Sub-division Serampore. Jackals had devoured a portion of the belly and some other parts, but identification was not at all difficult. The poor woman, named Lakshmi, was a maid servant in the family of one Sarodaprasad Banerjee. After discovery of the corpse, in the morning, the *chowkidar* of the boat was called in and despatched to the

Police station. The Sub-Inspector in charge came towards the evening, after a delay of several hours. No attempt was made to discover the direction from which the body had been borne. The rains have made the soil soft and ordinary detective sagacity would have led, from observation of foot-prints, to this discovery. Instead, the body was *challaned* to Serampore for medical examination. It is not known what the medical opinion is. But whatever it is, there can be little doubt that there has been some foul play. Where did the woman breathe her last? Who were the persons that became desirous of concealing the body, or, at any rate, of removing it from the place where death had occurred? Why did they not bear it to the village crematorium and openly dispose of it by fire? It is said that, though a widow, the woman was big with child. Either she was killed, or death followed as the result of some drug administered for bringing about a miscarriage. It is not known of what village the deceased was a native, or whether she has left behind any relatives. No enquiry has been made for tracing these particulars and, consequently, to this day her parents or brothers or sisters, if any, do not know her fate. It is said that evidence is procurable of the purchase of ropes at an unusual hour of the night previous to the morning when the corpse was discovered. May not this furnish a clue? Already much valuable time has been lost. The inhabitants are agape with wonder at the insouciance of the Sub-Inspector of the local Police.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, August 8, 1896.

HINDU AND MAHOMEDAN LAW AND ENGLISH JUDGES.

LORD Stanley of Alderley has laid the people of India, specially the Mahomedan community, under a fresh obligation. He brought to the notice of the Upper House of Parliament the virtual abrogation of the Mahomedan Law relating to endowment for children, through the application, by the Privy Council, of a principle of English jurisprudence. According to juridical authorities accepted and long acted upon by the followers of Mahomed, a *wakf* or trust for the benefit of the children of the grantor is clearly valid, though it may not conform to the English law which abhors perpetuity. Whether the

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Monday, the 10th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Distinction between Chemical and Physical Forces. Tuesday, the 11th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Chemical Affinity. Classification of the Elements. Thursday, the 13th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Chemical nomenclature. Weights and Measures. Laws of Chemical combinations.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday the 12th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subject*: Hydrostatic Paradox—Equilibrium of Liquids.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 13th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subjects*: The Protozoa. Coelenterata.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Friday, the 14th Inst., at 7 P.M. *Subject*: Expansion by Heat in detail.

Lecture by Babu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 15th Inst., at 5-30 P.M., *Subject*: Morphology of Plants.—Leaves.

Lecture by Dr. Nilratan Sircar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 15th Inst., at 6-30 P.M., *Subject*: Histology—Epithelium.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,

Honorary Secretary.

Aug. 8, 1896.

Mahomedan law of *wakfs* is or is not consistent with the true interests of the Islamic community, it is a part of their law, and the decision that has made such trusts illegal has naturally caused great dissatisfaction among those most affected by it, as it has upset an established order of things, broken up many ties, and threatened utter ruin to many families.

In the debate (which we publish elsewhere) started by Lord Stanley, it was said that the decision was in strict accordance with Mahomedan Law. The noble Lord had also a good share of abuse and ridicule for presuming to impeach a judgment of the Privy Council. This was as might be expected. Similar and even worse interpretations of both Hindu and Mahomedan Law have been given notwithstanding the infallibility claimed by Lord Halsbury for his brother Judges of the Privy Council. Some remedy is surely called for. We cannot blame the Lords of the Privy Council for this or any other decision in which the law of the Shasters or of the Koran has been misinterpreted. They are foreign lawyers trained in systems of jurisprudence which have little in common with those that obtain in this country. With all their learning, legal acumen, experience of judicial work, and anxiety to correctly administer the laws laid down for Hindus and Mussulmans, they cannot always avoid making mistakes. Nor are they uniformly consistent in the interpretation of their own law. What the people of India complain of is that there is not a single native of this country in the Judicial Committee of their Sovereign's Privy Council, and that English lawyers are vested with supreme jurisdiction in matters with which they are scarcely familiar. The result is that, although theoretically the British Parliament and the Indian Legislature have given us the benefit of our own laws in matters relating to inheritance, succession, marriage and religious usages, yet, in practice, we are governed, not by our ancient codes, but, to a great extent, by a medley of dogmatic rules and untenable principles originally laid down in ignorance, and afterwards adhered to for the sake of consistency.

Take, for instance, the so-called Hindu law relating to wills. As a matter of fact there is nothing in the Hindu Shasters to warrant the recognition of testamentary disposition of property. The ancient codes, as also most of the modern digests, impose heavy restrictions on the power of the father to make sales and gifts *inter vivos* in the absence of necessity. As to testamentary disposition they are almost silent, because, according to one of their fundamental principles, the ownership of a person is by his death extinguished in favour of the heir. In a polygamous country like India, the danger of giving arbitrary power of disposition of property to the parents is so great that the Shasters placed the father and the son on an equal footing with regard to ancestral property. The Dayabhaga of Jimutavahana, who is followed in some parts of Bengal, first recognised the legal validity of sales and gifts *inter vivos* of ancestral property, and explained away the sacred text forbidding its alienation as a mere moral prohibition. But the authorities of the Bengal School maintain, quite as strongly as those of any other, that ownership is extinguished by death, and that there is nothing in any of the codes, ancient or modern, to give countenance to a testamentary disposition. Yet the validity of wills executed by Hindus has been recognised in such a large number of

cases that a Hindu, in Bengal at least, has now the same capacity for testamentary disposition as any Englishman. The Lords of the Privy Council themselves observe:—

It is too late to contend that because the ancient Hindu treatises make no mention of wills, a Hindu cannot make a testamentary disposition of his property. Decided cases too numerous to be now questioned, have determined that testamentary power exists, and may be exercised at least within the limits which the law prescribes to alienation by gifts *inter vivos*.

The power of testamentary disposition given to Hindus is owing partly to the practice of making wills which grew up in the early days of British rule, through the influence of English lawyers in the Presidency towns. The natural inclination of the father being not to recognise the son's right to control his acts, and testamentary dispositions without reference to the claims of the children being well calculated to check their spirit of insubordination, it is no wonder that the practice, once introduced, found great favour. But a custom which came into existence under such circumstances ought to have been checked, instead of being encouraged and recognised. As testamentary dispositions are held valid on the ground of custom, the sale of ancestral property, by a Hindu father of the Mitakshara School, without legal necessity, may be recognised as valid also, because such sales are frequent,—perhaps much more frequent than wills.

English Judges have given us not only the right of making wills but have also vested us with almost unlimited powers in dealing with every kind of property, ancestral or self-acquired. The doctrines that have grown round the subject are traceable to an erroneous translation by Colebrooke of a passage of the Dayabhaga. The author of that treatise which is followed in Bengal propounded for the first time the doctrine that the ownership of the son in the property of the father arises not at the birth of the son, but at the death of the father. This view, which made it impossible for the son to claim any right or title in the ancestral estate in the lifetime of the father, is, as we have already said, very much opposed to many sacred texts disqualifying the father from making a sale or gift of ancestral property without the consent of the sons. The author of the Dayabhaga explains away those texts by saying that they are mere moral prohibitions that may bind the conscience of good Hindus, but do not affect the legal validity of a sale actually made.

To get rid of these texts, Jimutavahana made an observation which was erroneously translated by Colebrooke as laying down that "a fact cannot be altered by a hundred texts." This has, as erroneously been identified by English lawyers and Judges with the doctrine of *factum valet* of Roman Law. As a matter of fact, the original does not sanction the view that when a person without absolute ownership makes a sale or gift, the transfer is valid in spite of the defect in his title. The true translation of the passage in the original is "a thing cannot be altered by a hundred texts," the purport being that the essential characteristic of an entity, like a legal right, can no more be affected by a text than that of a material object. The word *vastu* in the original can mean only "thing" or "substance," and such words as "fact," "event" or "act" cannot certainly be regarded as its equivalent in English. The meaning of the observation is that the father being absolute master of every description of property in his life time, he has the power of disposing of them

in any manner he likes. The essential character of a legal right being the power of absolute disposition, it cannot be said that he has such a right and yet is not competent to deal with his property. Hindu lawyers are of the Realistic School of philosophy, and, according to them, a legal right is an entity. Its essential characteristic being the power of absolute disposition, a text of the sacred codes, however authoritative, can no more deprive it of that characteristic than withdraw from a material object its weight.

To explain what Jiumtavahana means, one of his commentators goes on to add that the texts prohibiting the sale of ancestral property by the father without the consent of the son are of the same nature as those that forbid the killing of a Brahman. As in spite of the texts prohibiting the slaying, a Brahman may be put to death, so, in spite of the texts forbidding the sale, an ancestral property may be sold, and when sold the recovery of such property is as impossible for the sons, as the restoration to life of a Brahman who has been slain. English Judges and lawyers took this to be an illustration of the *factum valet* doctrine for which they had already found authority in the epigrammatic observation of Jiumtavahana. As a man who has been killed cannot be restored to life, so when any property is sold by the father the sons cannot claim the restoration thereof. This is the conclusion that the English Judges drew from the passage, and this is the foundation of the *factum valet* doctrine which they originally derived from the Dayabhaga, but which has been subsequently applied by them to persons and things that are admittedly not governed by the law of the Dayabhaga as to ancestral property. The doctrine has, in fact, been applied to illegal adoptions, illegal marriages, and to many things else in provinces where even the name of the Dayabhaga is unknown.

Having granted the power to make wills, the Privy Council would not sanction other advances made by Hindus towards English law. They disallow gifts to the unborn, and, having thus made it impossible for themselves to recognise in its entirety the English law relating to remoteness, have not yet been able to fix the extent to which they would give effect to a gift in favour of a class including unborn persons. They declared a completely disinherited son because of his conversion to an alien faith, as heir to the disinheriting father, after a life taker, and gave an earthquake shock to Hindu feeling by upholding the claim of the unchaste widow to her husband's property.

In the debate the Lord Chancellor claimed infallibility for his brother Judges and for himself. So far as English law is concerned, the claim may be well founded. But in respect of Hindu and Mahomedan law, it is impossible to repose such blind confidence in Judges who know not a syllable of Sanskrit or Arabic. The Lord Chancellor ridiculed Lord Stanley by advising him to study and understand the judgment of the Privy Council. We have too much regard for the Prádivak or Kazi-ul-Kuzzat of England and the keeper of our sovereign's conscience, to speak of him in a tone of levity. We, however, think that we may, in all seriousness, ask him and the other law Lords to study Hind and Mahomedan law more carefully before dogmatizing on any question of Shastric or Koranic jurisprudence.

The Lord Chancellor remarked that the judgment of the Privy Council as that of the highest Court of Appeal is the law, and that no one was competent to impeach its correctness, though it was open to him to try to have the law itself altered. It may be answered that unless one is free to criticize the judgment, one can have no grounds to ask for an alteration of the law laid down in it. The Lords who delivered it might refuse to argue with any lay Lord or any other subject of Her Majesty, whether that judgment is right or wrong. That does not necessarily take away the right to examine the decision, which is far-reaching in its consequences, or the reasons thereof. That examination is, indeed, useless as long as the decision is not withdrawn or is allowed to stand, that is, is not altered by the legislature. The question asked by Lord Stanley was the first step towards the rectification of the judgment delivered, or a return to the original law, as he understands it, and as the Mussalmans believe it to be. Lord Stanley, after his wont, was caustic, and he took special pains to acquaint himself with the law. It cannot be said that he lightly put the question. The judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was delivered on the 15th December 1894. The notice of question was put on the Minutes in August and September 1895. Many months, again, elapsed between the notice and the question. During this long period, while the noble Lord strengthened by enquiries his conviction that the Privy Council judgment was not according to Mahomedan Law, the Government slept over it and then made the usual answer basing it on the official principle of *dictum valet* that an order made was right and could not be altered. That is the doctrine which guides the Government of this country. An order made is unalterable. It may be utterly wrong or passed on wrong information, still it must stand. That is prestige. The autocracy of Russia is not more self-sufficient. It is a source of no end of injustice, which is borne in silence. In avoiding perpetuities, the Judicial Lords inflict a perpetual injustice on a large and important section of the Indian community, and the House of Lords calmly look on, because the highest Court has decided that *wakfs* must cease. Let that be the law, if it be thought expedient for the ends of government, but why robe it with the sanctity of religious law? Lord Stanley of Alderley in his sympathies with the weak people of this country, had the hardihood to appeal to the Queen's Proclamation. He should have remembered that the Privy Council Judges interpret the law. One of England's greatest lawyers, on a notable occasion, had declared that the Proclamation is no law, not being an Act of Parliament; and though one of the Viceroy's of India had tried to re-assure the people and princes of India that it should always be respected and obeyed by her servants in India, another Viceroy had thought that it was capable of other interpretations than those usually given to it and that it was not unalterable. Nothing puts the Government out of temper more than an allusion to that Charter of Indian rights and liberty, and Lord Stanley of Alderley touched a sore point to be voted out of order. But he did no more by his question than what he was declared competent to do. He admitted that the judgment has become law, and, while doubting its correctness, asked for a declaratory Act. All honour to Lord Stanley of Alderley for his stand on behalf of India!

OUR LONDON LETTER.

July 17.

Great Britain. Since the abandonment of the Education Bill and the passage of the Agricultural Rating Bill, things have been going on more smoothly in the House of Commons. But on Wednesday, the 15th, the pervading calm melted away, and the whole sitting was devoted, on the part of Sir W. Harcourt and his tag-rag of a following, to showing up what they are pleased to call the vagaries of the Government in relation to the Irish Land Bill. When I announced the introduction of this Bill some weeks ago, I ventured to say it deserved a large measure of success, just because it failed on the one hand to satisfy the extreme landlord party and the extreme tenant party on the other. The former is led in the House by Mr. Carson, the able Barrister and Mr. Lecky's colleague in the representation of Dublin University. The latter has for spokesman Mr. T. W. Russell, a man of fair but not commanding ability, who first brought himself into notoriety as a temperance lecturer and whose strident voice is more adapted to the clangour of an Irish platform, than to the dignity of the House of Commons. The difficulty has been to bring Mr. Carson and Mr. Russell to the terms of a compromise. But the most amusing incident in the debate of Wednesday was Tim Healey's public and scornful repudiation of poor Dillon. As everybody knows, Dillon is no statesman. His sole game is to play his own bat, and leave others to fall and flounder as they may. Immediately this Land Bill is introduced by Mr. Gerald Balfour in a speech of studied moderation, poor Dillon rushes over to Ireland, and denounces it as a "rotten sham and a bare-faced fraud." Finding he had made a colossal blunder—Healey and Redmond with their followers accepting the Bill as an "instalment," a payment to account—Dillon has ever since been endeavouring to wriggle out of his rash assertion. So on Wednesday Healey denounced him bitterly, and the split in the anti-Parnellite party is more pronounced than ever. This was really the most telling incident of Wednesday's debate. You know T. P. O'Connor of "Sun" notoriety, at least by name. An Irish adventurer of fair journalistic ability, he sits in the House of Commons as the nominee of the Irish rowdies of Manchester. He writes a daily account of what transpires in the House for his evening paper, the "Sun," which, with the equally scurrilous halfpenny print, the "Star," represents all the venom and malignancy of ultra Radicalism. In his account of Wednesday's proceedings, the wily "Tay Pay," as he is familiarly called, says not a word about the Dillon-Healey scandal, but devotes several paragraphs to what exist in his own brain, and nowhere else, to rumours of Mr. Russell having thrown up the subordinate position he occupies in the Government, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board.

The Lords passed the resolution as to the Suakin force last night by a majority of 52.

The "Times" gives them a good setting down in its leading article, and points out how the hereditary Chamber has lost a golden opportunity, of asserting itself as against the popular Chamber.

Mr. Balfour caught a slight chill on Saturday and his place as leader of the House has been temporarily filled by Mr. Chamberlain, much to the chagrin of Tay Pay, Harcourt, Morley and others of that ilk. In debate Mr. Chamberlain is a match for them all, "jointly and severally" as the lawyers have it.

Socially, the event of the week has been the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Monday evening, when some 4,000 or 5,000 people were present in an atmosphere that reminded one of September evening in lower Bengal. The heat has been most oppressive, but yesterday it gave way to a total change in the direction of the wind, accompanied by heavy rain. To-day we are back again to your September weather, close and muggy.

Early on Monday morning there was what might have been a most appalling accident to the L. & N. W. Scotch Express. For some reason as yet unexplained the front one of two powerful engines left the line just after running through Preston station. It took the other engine with it, and the entire train. Fortunately the accident was attended by the loss of only one life. It is asserted the loss of life was reduced to a minimum owing to the extraordinary strength of the new carriages. The unfortunate traveller who forfeited his life was returning to his parents at Aberdeen and on his body being searched it was found he had had the good Scotch prudence to take an insurance ticket for £1,000 and two coupons of a weekly paper for another £1,000 each, so his father and mother will procure £3,000 by the untimely death of their son.

On Wednesday, by a singular coincidence, posthumous honour was being paid to two of the most illustrious of Oxford's sons. Though wholly dissimilar in their personal idiosyncrasies, and in the impress they have made on the intellectual and moral life of England and on all lands where the mother tongue is spoken, Cardi-

nal Newman and Dr. Arnold are names that will live for all time. Of the two, I cannot help thinking the greater living force belongs to Arnold.

Men like Dean Lake, Lord Lingen and Mr. Bryce pay homage to the exalted gifts and graces of the Cardinal, the two former as representing those who came under his extraordinary personal influence as a teacher at Oxford, before his secession to Rome; Mr. Bryce as one of the most distinguished living representatives of the two colleges that claim Newman,—Trinity and Oriel. But, as a living force the Cardinal must, to my judgment, yield to Arnold. You have only to contrast the names of those present at the abbey, and at the oratory, to appreciate my contention. Actual pupils of the great Headmaster included the Dean himself (Bradley) Dean Lake of Durham, Mr. Seton-Karr (wellknown in Calcutta not only as a distinguished member of the Civil Service, but the real *fon* *et origo* of all the mischief entailed on poor Mr. Long by the publication of the famous "Nil Darpan," the Bishop of Gibraltar, Admiral Blake and Sir Gardner Engleheart. There were many others present belonging to the Rugby of later generation, but all indebted to the magic influence of the great Teacher as passed on by his successors and their colleagues.

And so Arnold's influence will be reflected to the end of time. Dean Bradley's words may well be quoted: "We are paying honour to the memory of the great Christian Reformer, as we may well call him, of the whole life of our English public schools, whose influence, direct and indirect, is felt far and wide. Even now that influence was felt in schools that were ancient and famous when Rugby was as yet unfounded or little known. It is felt far and wide in schools that owe their very birth, it may be said, to the effect, direct and indirect, of the work of Arnold."

I add some words from the *Standard*: "The world is still largely governed from Eton, Harrow, Winchester and Rugby; and the man who moulds the young Englishmen of his generation, and trains them in unshrinking courage, in lofty ideals, in love of truth, and in the higher patriotism, is conferring more good on the human race than all the theologians of the Vatican, and all the controversialists of the Sorbonne. Arnold taught hundreds of English gentlemen to be more gentle, more manly, more truthful, more just, more courageous than ever; and it is simply impossible to estimate the benefit he thereby conferred on his country, on the Empire, and on the human race. To Newman all the powers of intellect, and all the graces of style; but, Arnold may claim something higher than either or both—a passionate love of active virtue in a world conditioned as we know it, and an indefatigable determination to communicate this noble rage to others. That is the highest lot and noblest function of man."

What a day it would be for India if you had a native Arnold in every province, directing and stimulating the energies of your young countrymen so as to enable them to confer on their own Fatherland the priceless heritage bequeathed by Arnold to our public schools!

France. The attempt on the life of President Faure was the act of a harmless lunatic, and is of no consequence in itself. But the example is a very bad one when there are so many wild Anarchists ready at any moment to work confusion and disaster, as for example at Barcelona.

An interesting event is the engagement of the head of the House of Bourbon—the Duc d'Orleans—to an Austro-Hungarian Archduchess. This marriage will bring the House of Orleans into relationship with the royal families of England and Belgium, Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and Braganza.

This morning's papers announce the unexpected death of M. Edmond de Goncourt, at the house of his friend M. Alphonse Daudet. The publication of his will is looked forward to with immense interest in literary and artistic circles, as it is well known the brothers had determined to place their entire fortune, on the death of the survivor, in the hands of Trustees for the foundation of a Goncourt Academy, where illustrious *litterateurs* should receive pensions of £300 a year. It was intended to be a sort of rival to the celebrated Home of the Forts, into which admission is often granted to the undeserving, while illustrious names are boycotted, merely because of political or professional jealousy.

DEBATE ON MUSSULMAN LAW IN INDIA.

House of Lords—Session 1896, Monday, 29th June 1896.

Lord Stanley of Alderley rose to ask whether the Secretary of State for India was aware of the alarm prevailing among the Mussulman subjects of Her Majesty in India, owing to a recent decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the case of Abul Faiz Mahomed Ishak and others *versus* Russomoy Dhar Chowdry and others, the effect of which was to abrogate an important branch of the Mussulman Law—namely, that relating to family *wakfa*, or the law relating to the creation of benefactions for the endower's family, with the reversion for the

general poor; whether it was not the fact that the full enjoyment of their law and religious usages and institutions, so far as they did not conflict with any statutory enactment, has been guaranteed to the Indian Mussulmans by Her Majesty's Proclamation? The law in question related to one of their most cherished institutions, upon which depended the prosperity of their principal families, which had rendered important services to the State in times of danger; whether it was not the fact that numerous memorials had been presented to the Indian Government against this judicial decision; and whether they have not prayed for a declaratory Act declaring the validity of the law which had been held to be invalid; and what steps the Government propose to take to redress the wrongs inflicted by this decision of the Privy Council? The noble Lord said that he regretted having to differ from the opinions of the noble Lord (Lord Hobhouse), and he regretted having been told by him that he thought this question of vakfs was dead, since it was as lively as ever in the Indian press, and the noble Lord might have remembered that "the evil that men do lives after them." The Notice on the Minutes had been prepared about last July, at which time memorials against the Privy Council judgment had been sent in to the Indian Government. This Notice had been put on the Minutes in August and September last, so that there had been ample time for obtaining some of these memorials. He would, perhaps, be told that no memorials had been received at the India Office. This was most likely, if they had not been asked for; and after the notice last September, they ought to have been asked for; and the India Office ought to be ready with an answer to the question as to these memorials. The Mussulmans, however, were not the only persons aggrieved by the attitude recently taken by the Indian Administration, with regard to family settlements. The Hindus also had reason to complain of a decision in what was called the Tagore case. He had always felt the highest respect for the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and he voted against his inclination and against a Resolution moved in 1872 by the late Earl Stanhope, and supported by the noble Marquess now at the head of the Government, on the occasion of the appointment of the late Sir Robert Collier to a seat on that Bench; he had so voted because of the high opinion that was entertained at the time of the judicial capacity of that learned gentleman. He did not remember ever having read or heard of anything to diminish the judicial reputation of Sir Robert Collier during all the time that he sat in the Privy Council. During that Debate in 1872 the noble Marquess (the Prime Minister) had blamed the parsimony of Mr. Gladstone's Government, which had given too low a salary for the Privy Council Judgeships, and if the salaries then fixed were still insufficient, he hoped Her Majesty's Government would make them such as to secure a first-rate man for the next appointment to the Judicial Committee. It might, however, be the case that since the fall in value of land and funds, the salaries of 1872 might now be sufficient. He could not help thinking that the decision of the Privy Council, to which he was now calling attention, was likely to jeopardise the reputation of the Judicial Committee. Some decisions might err from the Judges not being sufficiently informed on the subject before them, but in this case the decision quoted several very good authorities, but only for the purpose of disregarding them. Syed Amir Aly was an authority before he became a High Court Judge at Calcutta. The judgment quoted from him frequently, and its reasons for differing with him were, to say the least, extraordinary. The judgment said:—

"The opinion of that learned Mahomedan lawyer is founded as their Lordships understand it, upon texts of an abstract character and upon precedents very imperfectly stated. For instance, he quotes a precept of the Prophet Mahomed himself, to the effect that, 'A pious offering to one's family to provide against their getting into want is more pious than giving alms to beggars.'"

Further on the judgment said:—

"These precepts may be excellent in their proper application. They may, for aught their Lordships know, have had their effect in moulding the law and practice of vakf as the learned Judge says they have."

This last sentence ought to have run as follows:—

"These precepts, as their Lordships very well knew, had moulded the law and practice of vakf."

This point as to which the Court professed ignorance was proved by language. The judgment used the word "Mahomedan" instead of "Mussulman" as to communities. He did not complain of this, since it was an ordinary English phrase; but, as a matter of fact, the adjective "Mahomedan" was never used in any Mussulman country or language except with reference to, and to describe the law founded by the Prophet, which was named "Sheriatti Muhammadiyeh," so that Mahomedan law was correct, and a Mahomedan community an incorrect expression. Besides the precepts quoted by Syed Amir Aly, other sayings of the Prophet showed that he recommended charity to

the family and dependents of a man in preference to more distant poor. A book called "Mishkat ul Musabih," translated by Captain Mathews of the Bengal Artillery, and printed at Calcutta 1809, contained this passage:—

"Abu Hurairah said a man came to his Highness (to ask about alms and charity) and said, 'I have got one dinar'; he said expend it upon yourself.' The man said, 'I have got another dinar'; the Prophet said, 'expend that upon your children.' The man said, 'I have got another dinar'; he said, expend that upon your relations, your women, father and mother.' He said, 'I have got another dinar'; the Prophet said, 'expend that upon your servants.' The man said, 'I have got another dinar'; he said, 'you know best the condition of the person most worthy of it, and whoever you know to be so give it.'"

This judgment of the Judicial Committee appeared to have gone wrong, because it failed to distinguish between gifts and vakfs. Gifts in perpetuity, it said, were forbidden by Mussulman law; that was true, but the essence of vakf was its perpetuity. The judgment quoted an opinion of Mr. Justice Farran which showed this. That Judge had described a settlement as

"a perpetuity of the worst kind, which would be invalid on that ground unless it can be supported as a vakfnamch."

The Privy Council judgment was very near arriving at a correct interpretation and decision when it declared:—

"Whether it is to be taken that the very same dispositions, which are illegal when made by ordinary words or gift, become legal if only the settlor says that they are made as vakf, in the name of God, or for the sake of the poor. To these questions no answer was given or attempted, nor can their Lordships see any."

This seemed to be a slur or a reflection upon Mr. Branson, who appeared before their Lordships in this case, and who could have answered this question if it had been put to him, and their Lordships ought to have seen the answer, since their judgment mentioned the law book "Hidaya." This book was translated and published by order of the Bengal Government in 1791, and a new edition of it was published in 1870. This authority said (p. 234):—

"An appropriation (or vakf) is not complete according to Hanifa, unless the appropriation destine its ultimate application to objects not liable to become extinct; as when for instance a man destines its application ultimately to the use of the poor (by saying, I appropriate this to such a person, and after him to the poor), because these never become extinct."

So that when the Judgment said:—

"Their Lordships agree that the poor have been put into this settlement merely to give it a colour of piety, and so to legalise arrangements meant to serve for the aggrandisement of a family,"

Their Lordships appeared to have been ignorant of what was laid down in a law-book, that was one of the best known in India, and to have imputed to the settlors as a colourable regard for the poor, what was in fact a legal technicality. Whatever fault might be found with this judgment, the merit of great candour must be conceded to it. It stated that this Board in Ahsan Ullah's case adopted the view of Mr. Justice Kemp to the effect that provision for the family out of the grantor's property might be consistent with the gift of it as vakf. It also cited the judicial opinion of Mr. Justice Amir Aly in Bikani Mia's case, a dictum of Sir Raymond West in the Bombay High Court, and a decision of Mr. Justice Farran in the same Court—all these contrary to this judgment. Mention had often been made of those who were *Plus Royalistes que le Roi*. In this case the India Office appeared to pose as a more strenuous supporter of Mussulman law than the Indian Mussulmans or the Turks of Constantinople, by denying the legality of such vakfs. The last time he was at Constantinople, which was six or seven years ago, before these cases had arisen in India, he had heard of similar vakfs, or family appropriations in Constantinople, and a few days ago he met a Turkish diplomatic agent who had confirmed the existence of many such vakfs at Constantinople. Some writers said that Mussulman law was not sufficiently elastic, and that it was only suited to primitive communities. The Indian Administration and the Privy Council Judges were in these cases endeavouring to deprive that law of the elasticity it did possess; and with regard to the latter accusation, all the malpractices of the Liverpool Produce Exchange were forbidden in "Mishkat ul Musabih," the book already mentioned. He had lately read a French historian's comment on judicial decisions during the reigns of the Stuarts, and their base subservience to the Government. He thought that a future historian reading the Privy Council judgment and the communication he had received from the India Office would infer similar pliancy on this occasion. For his own part he would be more inclined to impute obstinacy than pliancy to the noble Lord who had delivered the judgment. But whether the legal or executive officials in India were at fault in this matter, it would be easy to remedy it if the Secretary of State would order a Declaratory Act to be passed in the sense petitioned for in some of the memorials. He

thought he had shown that the judgment of the Judicial Committee was not in accordance with Mussulman law, neither was it in accordance with Christian law. When their Lordships so lightly dismissed the precepts quoted by Mr. Justice Amir Aly, they might have remembered that there was not much difference between them and the eighth verse of the fifth chapter of the 1st Epistle of Paul to Timothy---

"But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel."

Perhaps, as St. Paul lived 600 years earlier, the Privy Council judges who thought the precepts of the Prophet too old, would think still less of St. Paul's precept. Perhaps they would think that Gaius, who lived 100 years later than St. Paul, was also too old. A case had, however, been decided this year in one of Her Majesty's Law Courts in London, by which a will leaving some thirteen thousand pounds to the poor had been upset. It was true that this was due to a technicality, but the satisfaction with the decision had been general, because the testator had left five relations unprovided for, one of whom was in the workhouse, and two others on the verge of it. He now came to the last two paragraphs of the Notice--questions addressed to the Under Secretary for India, as to what steps the Government of India would take. A correspondence had been going on in the *Moslem Chronicle* of Calcutta, showing the interest taken in this question. A pleader, Mehmed Mustafa Khan, had written a letter, dated May 11th, from the Vakif's Library, High Court, in the *Chronicle* of May 23rd last. This letter repudiated the views urged in another letter of Mr. Iradat Ullah in the *Chronicle* of May 9th. After pointing out that for a Mussulman to propose to repeal Divine law by human legislation would be apostasy, he ended his letter in the following words, and he entreated the noble Earl to give his attention to them:--

"The vakf question, however, stands on a different footing, and its administration by our Courts has, to a great extent, certainly been unsatisfactory. Even here our Courts profess to expound the Mahomedan law; but we say 'No,' this is not our law; and we have now appealed to the Government to put our Courts right by legislation. But the difference in the two legislations proposed is that, while in the vakf question we want an Act confirming the Mahomedan law disturbed by our Courts, Mr. Iradat Ullah wants an Act disturbing Mahomedan law heretofore rightly administered."

These few words summed up the whole question. It would be preposterous if the answer were that the India Office could not interfere, after the Secretary of State had interfered with the Government of India in an unprecedented manner by a mandate to alter the Cotton Duties, in order to redeem the electioneering pledges which he had incautiously given to Lancashire, and by charging the cost of the troops sent to Suakin to the Indian Exchequer.

The Under Secretary of State for India (the Earl of Onslow): It is the fact that full enjoyment of their law and religious usages and institutions has been guaranteed to the Mussulman population of India by Her Majesty's Proclamation; but the case to which the noble Lord has called attention was decided by the Privy Council strictly in accordance with the Mussulman law. It was a case in which a remainder to the poor was inserted merely for the purpose of perpetuating a bequest to the family of a testator, and in accordance with the Mussulman law it was held by the Privy Council not to be valid. The noble Lord asks whether it is not the fact that numerous memorials have been presented against this decision. The India Office is not aware that any memorials have been presented, and it is quite certain that they were not numerous. It may be that the parties in this case, or those interested to maintain the legality of similar settlements, may have presented memorials, but no others are known of. The Government of India does not propose to take any steps to redress the wrongs which the noble Lord imagines to have been inflicted by the decision, and if any representation is made on the subject it should be to the local government, who will be able to introduce legislation.

The Lord Chancellor (Lord Halsbury): My Lords, I cannot allow this occasion to pass without entering a protest against the precedent set by the noble Lord. It is quite within his right, if he thinks proper, to ask Her Majesty's Government whether they mean to alter the law; but to argue a judgment of the Privy Council--a matter over which, I may point out, your Lordships have no jurisdiction at all--and to use such language as the noble Lord has thought it right to use--namely, that the judges have altered the law, and that wrongs have been inflicted by their decision--appears to me neither a decorous treatment of the highest legal tribunal of the land nor a very desirable precedent to set; and further, it is not calculated, I think, to add to the dignity and impressions which the judgments of the Privy Council make in those places where observations such as those of the noble Lord are likely to do more mischief than good.

["Hear hear,!"] The noble Lord must assume that this is the law, because when once a decision has been given by the highest Court of Appeal it becomes the law of the land. Therefore, the noble Lord's course should be to alter the law and not to make observations on the character of a judgment which may do no little harm in the country affected. ["Hear, hear!"] I want to say this, further, that when the noble Lord examines the judgment and comments upon it and reasons with it he is in this difficulty. I am making this protest because I was not a party to this judgment. If I had been I should have refused to have said a word, and I do not suppose that any one of the learned Judges sitting in this House who were parties to that judgment would condescend to argue with the noble Lord whether their judgment was right or wrong after they had once delivered it. ["Hear, hear!"] They would tell the noble Lord to look at the judgment and read it and--may I add?--understand it--[laughter and cheers]--before he comments upon it.

Lord Stanley of Alderley said he understood the noble and learned Lord to say that a decision of the Privy Council made the law. For that reason it was justifiable to ask that Her Majesty's Government should alter it.

THEY WONDERED TO SEE HIM.

"I could not move a yard without help. I can now walk for miles."

There is certainly a very sharp contrast between these two statements. When we see a person who, because of illness, is unable to move a yard without help, we do not expect to meet him on the road and on foot miles from home, soon thereafter; if indeed, we meet him at all. At least we should regard these extremes, considered as within the experience of the same man, and enclosed within a comparatively brief period of time, as something to wonder at and ask questions about. And people *did* wonder at and inquire about it. Many said the circumstances recalled the age of miracles, supposed to have passed forever away. The facts (briefly set forth in a letter from the man himself) are as follows. We may add that Mr. Henry Jackson is a farmer, well known and respected in his district, and his case is familiar to neighbours and friends of his throughout the vicinity.

"In the early part of 1892," says Mr. Jackson, "I began to feel weak and ailing. I was low in spirits, and my bodily strength seemed to be leaving me. There was a bad and nauseous taste in my mouth, my appetite, which had always been good, failed until I had no real desire for food whatever, and after eating I had much pain at the chest and a fullness around the sides. My stomach always felt *burning hot*, and I had a gnawing pain at the pit of it.

"I remained in this general condition until August of the same year, when I was taken worse. My legs began to swell, and rheumatism set in all over me, more particularly in the hips and back. No local treatment had any effect upon it. It grew worse and worse, until I was no longer able to rise from my chair without assistance. In truth, I had no power over myself, and *could not move a yard without help*.

"I suffered so with *mere pain* that I could not lie in bed, and for over *twelve months I never had my clothes off*.

"During this time I was attended day and night, being literally unable to do anything of importance for myself. All the sleep I got was taken in naps and snatches while I was bolstered up in my usual place in an easy chair. Under the terrible strain of the pain and loss of proper rest my nerves broke down so that any uncommon event in the house or noise was more than I could bear. My heart was very bad, and thumped until I could scarcely stay in the chair and endure it.

"The doctor who had charge of my case said my condition was critical. He said that my lungs and liver were badly affected, and that I had Bright's disease of the kidneys. Still his medicines did me no good, and after attending me ten months he said he could do no more for me.

"I then got a doctor from Bolton to see me, and he held out but slender hopes of my ever getting any better. I thought the same, and so did all who saw me.

"In October, 1893, my daughter, Mrs. Dickinson, of Bolton, told me how she had been benefited by taking Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and thought it might possibly help me. I had small faith, but there could be no harm in trying. So we sent at once to Mr. Parr, the chemist, in Ford Road, Bolton, for enough to decide whether it would do me good or not. After taking it a short time I was better. I could sleep better, and had some appetite for food, and what I ate agreed with me. This was hopeful and cheering indeed.

"I kept on with the Syrup and it acted wonderfully with me. The worst symptoms abated, and I gained strength. Soon all the water in my legs passed off, and the rheumatism troubled me but little. Still using the Syrup, my condition continued to improve in every respect, until I once more stood on my feet, and felt like a man of this world. *I can now walk for miles* and have no pain. All my friends think as I do--that under the circumstances my recovery was nothing short of marvellous. You are at liberty to publish this statement, and refer any interested persons to me. (Signed) Henry Jackson, Pewett Hill Farm, Culcheth, near Warrington, October 9th 1895."

No words of ours can add to the convincing force of Mr. Jackson's plain statement. His disease was originally and radically of the digestion. The attack was sharp and profound, and developed into the resulting conditions he so well describes. He may not have had Bright's disease, but that he was directly progressing towards that fatal malady there is no doubt. The effect of Mother Seigel's Syrup in his case only serves to show afresh its rare and remarkable power. Scarcely is so great a victory to be looked for from any medicine. Yet the facts are undeniable. We congratulate Mr. Jackson on his escape from a danger which was much more serious than even he probably imagined.

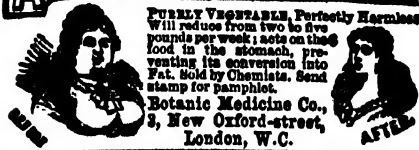
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to Atkinson the late Mr. R.F.F., C.S.
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from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.
to Banerjee, Babu Sudiprasad.
from Bell, the late Major Evans.
from Bhaddant, Chief of.
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.
to Chila, Rai Bahadur Ananda.
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.
to, from Differin and Ava, the Marquis of.
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Giffin H.P.
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from Mehta, Mr. R. D.
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dikumaranjun.
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.

from Nayaratna, Mahamahopadhiya M. C.
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Aopu.
to Rao, the late Sir F. Madhava.
to Rattigan, Sir William H.
from Rosebery, Earl of.
to, from Routledge, Mr. Jones.
from Russell, Sir W. H.
to Row, Mr. G. Symala.
to Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sishu.
to Sinha, Babu Brahmamanda.
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.
to Underwood, Captain F. O.
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.
to Vencataramiah, Mr. G.
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from

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Amser Hussein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.
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OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Croft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindu Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not equated to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing out respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatically English is to say that is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism: it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or depressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth having and reading. —*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness. —*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed. —*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but present the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, and some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality. —*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 738.

THE MOSLEM.

By EDWARD ST. JOHN FAIRMAN.

"Mohamedans are fanatics!"
Those foolish, thoughtless, Christians say,
Who would enbroil world's politics,
Hoping to profit by the fray.
In all creeds some "fanaticism"—
E'en midst the Christians 'tis extant—
For is there not the direst schism
'Twixt Catholic and Protestant?
The staunchest Protestants protest
'Gainst "errors" of the Romish creed,
Whilst Catholics devout attest
For such no absolution's need.
'Twixt Protestants and Catholics,
With one the others heretics!
The others scathing doubt affix
On statues, pictures, crucifix.

The one the other disbelieves,
Withholding any sympathy,
And each with hope his heart relieves:
"For me alone Eternity!"
In Europe 'tis but verbal war
Waged 'twixt Christians good and holy,
But in the East 'tis different far—
Often there 'tis fierce and bloody!
If you scarcely can believe it—
Although the truth I frankly speak—
Just, if but for few days, visit
Jerusalem in Exeter week.
But what you think fanaticism,
With Turks is often precept true;
Their love for neighbour catechism,
Which fear of God does them induce.

I much prefer such fanatics
(I, as born-Christian, boldly say!)
They have no Christian pomp, nor tricks,
But worship God in humble way.
Devotion, Faith, Simplicity,
Contrition, in the heart and acts,
To pray for pardon, fervently,
Is earnest Moslem creed—true facts!
They spurn aside all outward show;
They sit not down to pray at ease,
But stand, or bend the knee, or bow
The brow to earth—and pray for peace.
In fact, they seek to find God's love—
In Moslem hearts such thoughts e'er shine—
They stand, and pray to God above,
In Mosque, and not at ease recline!

And when they give their alms to poor,
They, on real charity intent,
Think not to write such acts on door,
Nor publish as advertisement.
They seek not hollow, wordly fame:
Philanthropist, or Godly-man!
Unseen, unknown, they hunger tame,
Or clothe the limbs of neighbour wan.
They wait not e'en for grateful smile,
For Moslems say, with meekness calm:
"I do not seek your thanks the while,
'Tis God who prompts me give the balm."
Their House of God contains no seats,
For which alone the rich can pay;
The pauper there his prayer repeats
As well, beside the richest Bey.

(How Christian lords would ope their eyes,
In England, in a Christian Church,
If Christian, in a pauper's guise,
Should next them sit, or their coats smirch!)
But no such thing could ever be
In England, in this Christian land;
God's creature, when in poverty,
Must not near mortal Dives stand!)
But Moslems are devout and kind,
Their God is God of rich and poor,
And in their Mosque the rich you find
With beggar pray upon same floor.
They say: "All equal in God's sight!"
And "Poverty is not a sin!"
And in God's House no Turk would slight
A Moslem poor clad, old, or thin!

The Turk needs not grand pomp all round,
No warmth, no pews, no cushioned seats;
He says: "God ev'rywhere is found!"
In house or field, his prayers repeats.
He leaves off in his work to pray,
And not only waking, sleeping;
His law: to pray five times a day!
All his actions are in keeping.
His Sabbath ne'er is business day
To take his wage, or bills to pay,
To soothe his mind he does not say:
"O, I'll go to Church next Sunday."
Same prayers he says in Mosque, or out,
His Sabbath day is no parade,
All ostentation he would scout;
"Tis God," he says, "who has me made!"

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"I pary to God, and God alone,
I do not seek to have man's praise ;
I to my God for sins atone ;
Can man do aught to heaven to raise ?"
He ever prays for God's good will,
And never thinks of business first,
To make his gain, and pockets fill,
And leave his prayer to God—the last.
As God is good to let him live,
To breathe His air, to work, or play,
'Tis not too much for him to give
His God one prayer five times a day,
He answers first his God's command,
He e'er obeys high Duty's call,
Then works, or follows pleasure's band,
But bows to Will of God in all !

He always finds the time and place
His sacred duties to fulfil ;
He lets no false excuse efface
His homage due to his God's will.
Whate'er the Christians fondly say
About their's as best religion,
The Turks can teach them how to pray
In pure meekness and contrition.
They spurn no beggar in the street,
They practise charity demure ;
They give to man their bread and meat
And throw it not to pigs impure.
They never "pitch" to poor their pence ;
They never pass unhelp'd the blind ;
They ne'er to grey hairs give offence,
But practise charity in mind.

They always have a gentle word
To give to poor, infirm, or old ;
No Income Tax does right accord
To turn their poor into the cold.
All affliction has their pity.
"Misfortune," they most rightly say,
"May befall in ev'ry city,
And strike us all, though rich to-day.
If such my lot, then how should I
Consider unkind word or deed ?
I should feel the same acutely,"
The fervent Moslem says, indeed.
The Moslem can true lesson give
Of Mercy and of charity,
And all can vouch, who midst them live,
For Eastern Hospitality.

Jerusalem is Christian home,
But guarded by the Turkish troops,
And oft when Christian pilgrims come
Their rage against each other swoops.
At which the Turkish soldiers smile,
But strive such anger to appease ;
And though the Christian Turks revile,
They need those Turks to keep the peace.
E'en in the Holy Sepulchre
Oft Christian frantic feuds arise,
There the Christian love of lucre
Does oft the fervent Turk surprise.
For Christians often squabble there
O'er Romish candle, or incense,
Or drop of holy water, where
All should pray with deference.

Although at Mecca ev'ry year
Do Moslems, thousands e'en, appear,
No feuds 'twixt them we ever hear ;
They go to pray—not fight and swear.

Turk with affection e'er behaves
(Such is sacred law of Koran),
He treats those servants you call slaves
With same kindness as his children.
If Moslems have so many wives,
Allowed to them by creed and law,
In Europe there are many wives
Whence often wasps the honey draw.
The Moslem will not cast foul eye
On other Moslem's child, or spouse ;
To spoil their joy he would not try,
Nor faintest jealousy arouse.

As 'tis with him, so neighbour's home
Is sacred to each Moslem good ;
"A neighbour" is a neighbour whom
He'll tend, or e'en supply with food.
When adverse fortune visits him
He'll share with any other one,
And leave him not in want, e'er grim,
With family to starve alone !

Then why throw your scoff prolific ?
O, Christian reader ! pause and muse !
Such is the "Moslem fanatic,"
But Moslems smile at your abuse !

London, 7th May, 1896—24th Dulkanada, 1313.
—*The Islamic World*, June, 1896.

WEEKLYANA.

A 46½ carat Burma ruby, the largest ever cut, was bought in at a London jeweller's sale recently for £10,000. A 1 carat blue diamond fetched £750, and a 140 grain black pearl, once belonging to Queen Isabella II. of Spain, went up to £1,437-10.

La France Militaire speaks of a new balloon, the invention of Lieutenant-General Von Zeppelin, for military campaigns. The inventor has discovered a material impermeable to the gas. The balloon has the shape of a cigar, and can be propelled at the rate of 41 feet per second, by screw propellers driven by a Daimler motor. It will be possible now to make an aerial voyage of several days' duration with a weight of 37½ cwt.

SIBERIA is proving a Canada to Russia. It is rich in gold, silver, coal, graphite and other minerals. Coal can be picked up on the very road near Nerchinsk. The same district is also full of silver. Iron is plentiful near Nikolaefsk. There is extensive breeding and rearing of fishes in the Amu. The Russian kerosine oil threatens to drive out all others, Indian or American, from the Indian market. Baku, the centre of the trade, on the west of the Caspian Sea, is assuming an importance, unrivalled by any of the kerosine trade centres. The bed of the Caspian abounds in petroleum. In comparison to it the supply from Burma or Assam is insignificant.

THE following is an official report of the foreign and Indian mineral oils :—

Imports of kerosine and other mineral oils.			
1888-89	gallons	39,851,885	Rs. 18,612,803
1889-90	"	53,390,158	" 24,788,265
1890-91	"	54,235,275	" 23,622,192
1891-92	"	58,109,283	" 23,681,405
1892-93	"	67,085,968	" 26,902,640

In Burma there are large and productive oil works at Yenangyaung and at Akyab, the output in 1892 having been over 8,00,000 gallons. * * Petroleum is said to have been worked in Burma for upwards of 2,000 years, and there appears to exist an unfailing supply in many parts of that province. Much of the oil is of very high quality and can be burned in lamps even in its crude state. The only wells that are at present worked on European methods are those of Messrs. Finlay, Fleming & Co., at Kodung, but operations have not as yet been extensively established. There is, however, a wide field for capital and enterprise in the working of the petroleum of Burma, and the highest expectations may be entertained of the future of this industry.

NIKOLA TESLA has found that exposure of the head to a powerful X radiation produces a general soothing effect, with a sensation of warmth in the cerebral lobes and a tendency to sleep.

THE following account of M. De Goncourt's will is given by the Paris correspondent of a London paper:—

"The will of the late M. Edmond de Goncourt, whose remains are to be buried to-morrow in the Montmartre Cemetery, was opened, yesterday, at the house of M. Alphonse Daudet, at Champrosay. It appoints M. Alphonse Daudet and M. Léon Hennique as executors. By his will M. Edmond de Goncourt bequeaths his relatives to respect his last wishes. If he leaves them nothing, he says, it is because he knows they are in no danger of finding themselves in want. It is for that reason he appoints M.M. Alphonse Daudet and Léon Hennique his universal legatees and executors, and that he charges M.M. Roger Marx and Delzant with the work of drawing up the catalogue of his collections, and to direct, with the aid of M.M. Damout and Feral, the experts, the liquidation of his estate. The will provides that his goods and chattels shall be disposed of by auction at six separate sales—first, a sale of books; second, Japanese curiosities; third, pictures, drawings, and engravings; fourth, furniture; fifth artistic objects; sixth, a sale of his house on the Boulevard de Montmorency at Auteuil.

A certain number of legacies are first to be paid out of the product of these sales. Among them is one of five thousand francs to Mlle. Edmée Daudet, his god-daughter, to complete the pearl necklace, of which he presented to her the first pearl on the 1st January last. There is also a legacy of fifteen hundred francs to Mlle. Jeanne Carpentier, also his god-daughter, for the purchase of lace on her marriage. Certain curiosities are bequeathed to various persons. The 'Venus' by Falconet, is left to Princess Muthide, and a bronze Stork to Madame Alphonse Daudet. His old servant, Pelagie, is provided for with a life annuity of forty-eight pounds. The will then deals with the De Goncourt Académie, which, faithful to the promise he made to his brother, he creates with the bulk of his property.

The Académie is destined to aid young men of talent. Politicians, the nobility, poets, and functionaries are to be excluded from this Académie, which is to be composed of ten life members, to be renewed by the vote of the majority of the surviving members. In the case of any member of the De Goncourt Académie ever becoming a member of the Académie Française his name is to be struck off the list of the members of the former institution. Eight of the ten members are designated in M. Edmond de Goncourt's will. They are M.M. Alphonse Daudet, Huysmans, Mirbeau, Remy senior, Remy junior, Hennique P. Marguerite, and G. Giffroy. Each of the ten members of the De Goncourt Académie is to receive a life annuity of six thousand francs per annum out of the interest produced by the capital to be realised by the liquidation of his estate.

The will also provides five thousand francs for an annual prize to be awarded by his Academicians to the author who they may consider has during the twelvemonth produced the best novel or work on history, æsthetics, erudition, or the best book of tales. M. Edmond de Goncourt expresses the hope that his Academicians will call the annual prize the *Prix de Goncourt*. Lastly, M. Edmond de Goncourt entrusts to his old servant Pelagie the duty of carrying the complete manuscript of the *Journal de Goncourt* to his solicitor, Maître Duplan. That gentleman is to deposit it in the National Library, where it is to be kept for twenty years before being published as a whole. In the case of the National Library refusing the deposit, M. Edmond de Goncourt says in his will he relies on his friend, Alphonse Daudet, to place the manuscript in honourable and safe keeping."

THE *Glasgow Herald* of 11th July writes:—

"There has just died at Rugby a lady who knew Warren Hastings. She was Mrs. Powlett, grand-daughter of Sir Charles Wheeler, Bart., of Leamington Hastings, Warwickshire, and was born in 1799. Her great uncle was a member of the Supreme Council in India late in the last century, and his widow's house in Park Lane was a place to which many Anglo-Indians used to resort. It was there that, when quite a girl, she saw Warren Hastings. Mrs. Powlett was the mother of Admiral Powlett, who was some months ago run over by a vehicle at the top of New-street, and who subsequently brought a successful action in the Birmingham County Court against the driver."

ORANGE coloured flannel shirts have been recommended for the English troops in Egypt, as yellow is a protection against the sun.

THE plan for spanning the Tigris at Bagdad with an iron bridge 600ft. in length, has been approved of by the Turkish Ministry of Public Works.

THE French Commission has reported against a ship canal from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean on account of the enormous expense of 2,000 to 3,500 million francs.

LAST week we gave the building regulations of the Calcutta Municipality, and pointed out how they have been found nugatory. If it be any help in the interpretation of the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1888, we may mention that the Burma Municipal Bill, introduced by the Hon'ble J. Woodburn, in the Viceroy's Legislative Council, on the 30th July, at Simla, clears up the sanitary provisions in regard to buildings. We reproduce two sections of the Bill:—

"90. (1) Every person intending to erect or re-erect any building shall, if so required by a bye-law made by the committee in this behalf,—
(a) give notice in writing of his intention to the committee, and
(b) submit with such notice—

(i) a site-plan of the land;

(iii) a plan showing the levels at which it is proposed to lay the foundation and lowest floor or plinth, and specifications of the work to be constructed and the materials to be used.

(2) The committee may at any time within six weeks thereafter, by notice in writing, either prohibit the erection or re-erection of such building if deemed likely to be injurious to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, or give any directions consistent with this Act in respect of all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(b) the free passage or way in front of the building;
(c) the space to be left about the building to secure free circulation of air and facilitate scavenging and for the prevention of fire;
(d) the ventilation and drainage;
(e) the level and width of foundation, the level of the lowest floor or of the plinth and the stability of the structure;
(f) the line of frontage with neighbouring buildings, if the building abuts on a street; and
(g) the number and situation of the water-closets, latrines, urinals, privies, sewers, ventilating-pipes, cesspools, traps, sinks, sullage-trays and wells;

(3) If any building is begun or erected or re-erected in contravention of any such bye-law, prohibition or direction as aforesaid, the committee may, by notice in writing, require the building to be altered or demolished, as it may deem necessary.

(4) If any person, after delivering plans and specifications regarding any building under sub-section (1), departs, except under the orders or with the permission of the committee, from such plans and specifications, the committee may, by notice in writing, require such building to be altered or demolished, as it may deem necessary.

(5) A notice issued under sub-section (1) shall hold good only for such time as the committee may by bye-law direct for each class of buildings.

(6) The expression 'erect, or re-erect any building' includes—

(a) any material alteration or enlargement of any building;
(b) the conversion into a place for human habitation of any building not originally constructed for human habitation;
(c) the conversion into more than one place for human habitation of a building originally constructed as one such place;
(d) the conversion of two or more places of human habitation into a greater number of such places;
(e) such alteration of the internal arrangements of a building as affects an alteration in its drainage or sanitary arrangements, or affects its security; and
(f) the addition of any rooms, buildings, out-houses or other structures to a building.

91. (1) The committee may by bye-law regulate, in respect of the erection or re-erection of any building within the municipality,—

(a) the materials to be used and method of construction to be adopted as regards external and party walls, roofs, floors, fire-places and chimneys;

(b) the position of fire-places, chimneys, sewers, privies and cess-pools;

(c) the space to be left about the building to secure the free circulation of air and facilitate scavenging and for the prevention of fire;

(d) the ventilation and drainage;

(e) the height and slope of the roof above the uppermost floor upon which human beings are to live or cooking operations are to be carried on;

(f) the number and height above the ground, or above the next lower storey, of the storeys of which the building may consist;

(g) the level and width of the foundation, the level of the lowest floor or plinth and the stability of the structure; and

(h) the means to be provided for egress from the building in case of fire;

(2) If in and during the erection or re-erection of any building any bye-law made under this section is contravened, the committee may, by notice in writing to be delivered within a reasonable time, require the building to be within the space of thirty days demolished or so altered as it may deem necessary.

The Burma Municipal Bill, 1896, like the Bengal Municipalities Bill, 1872, is a model measure, and takes a wide survey of taxes and improvements for the present and the future. We do not know how it will be received in Burma. The Bengal Bill had evoked much opposition, and, though passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, been vetoed by Lord Northbrook. When Mr. Woodburn moved for leave to introduce his Bill, Lord Egin, probably unnerved by the comprehensiveness of the measure, was not for passing it at Simla, and remarked "I understand that the intention of the Hon'ble Member is that the Bill should now only be introduced and published, and should not be taken into consideration till the Council meets in Calcutta."

THE Chapter of Taxes of the Burma Bill is inexhaustible:—

(A.) with the previous sanction of the Local Government,—

"(a) a tax on buildings and land not exceeding ten per centum of the annual value of such buildings and lands;

(b) a tax on lands covered by buildings at a rate not exceeding three pies per square foot per annum; or, if the lands are covered by buildings of two or more storeys, at a rate not exceeding four pies per square foot per annum;

(c) a tax on lands not covered by buildings at a rate not exceeding ten rupees per acre per annum;

(d) a tax on buildings according to the length of street frontage

occupied by such buildings at rates not exceeding the (progressive rates specified in a schedule ;)

(e) a tax on households or families at a rate not exceeding thirty per centum per annum on the amount of the thathameda-tax assessed upon each household or family ;

(f) a tax, not exceeding five rupees per quarter, on every vehicle, boat, animal used for driving, riding, draught or burden, or dog, kept within the municipality or any part thereof ;

(g) a tax on private markets at a rate not exceeding five per centum of the net annual profits derived by the owners therefrom ;

(h) a toll, not exceeding eight annas, on every vehicle and animal, used as aforesaid, entering the municipality and not liable to taxation under clause (f) :

Provided that any person may compound for exemption from all tolls leviable in respect of any vehicle or animal under this clause by paying the tax which would have been leviable in respect thereof under clause (f) if the same had been kept within the municipality ;

(B.) with the previous sanction of the Local Government and the Governor General in Council, any other tax.

(2) Only one of the taxes mentioned in clauses (a), (b), (c) and (d) of sub-section (1) shall be imposed in respect of the same property.

(3) In this section 'annual value' means the gross annual rent for which buildings and lands liable to taxation may reasonably be expected to let, and, in the case of houses, may be expected to let unfurnished."

Over and above these,

A Water-tax, a Lighting-tax, a Scavenging-tax and a Latrine-tax.

No limit is fixed for these taxes. There is only a general direction that no more is to be recovered than is necessary for the purposes of the taxes.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

SIR Matthew White Ridley has been commanded by the Queen to intimate her desire that no celebration shall take place until she has actually reigned sixty years. The 60th year began on June 20. The Jubilee of her reign was held after completion of the 50th year.

THE Tsar and Tsarina have settled on a visit to Vienna at the end of August, and thence to Breslau, where they will meet the Emperor William. They will afterwards visit Darmstadt, Balmoral and Paris, where they will stay a week. The Parisians are delighted at the idea of the visit.

GENERAL Carrington reports that, owing to recent reverses, the Matabele are inclined to make peace. Fuller accounts of Colonel Plumer's action state that it lasted seven hours, and that Captain Beresford and the Mounted Infantry and Maxim, which he commanded, were at one time completely surrounded by the enemy. Colonel Plumer then sent reinforcements, which routed the Matabele, who lost 300 men. Colonel Alderson reports that on the 8th instant his column carried Mkonis Kraal at the point of the bayonet after an hour and a half's fighting. The enemy lost two hundred killed, and many wounded. Captain Haynes, of the Engineers, and two privates were killed, and four wounded on the British side. This opens the road between Salisbury and Umtali. Colonel Plumer's and other isolated actions have completely cowed the Matabele, and the Impis in the Matoppo Hills are dispersing, whilst many are disposed to surrender.

NEGOTIATIONS between the Powers in regard to Crete have so far been without result, as they are unable to agree to any practical course. Greece, in reply to the renewed urging against the despatch of arms and volunteers to Crete, states that she is doing her utmost, but that the people are inflamed with the news of the recent massacres. During a debate in the House of Commons, Mr. Curzon said that Crete was a perfect powder magazine. He recognised the importance of preventing the importation of arms and men there, but said that Great Britain was unable to give the Sultan the assistance of British fleet without the guarantees of a better government in the island. He still hoped, however, that the contending parties would be reconciled, and that peace would be restored. The Russian press

condemns the attacks of the German press on Lord Salisbury for declining to take part in the blockade of the island, which, it says, would be futile, unless applied equally against the Turks and Christians.

The report current at Athens of the butchery of twenty-five Christians and the burning alive of a priest in Crete has been confirmed. How? The ghastly tragedy is said to have taken place at the monastery of Anaplis.

The insurgent leaders in Crete have dissolved the Reform Committee formed by the revolutionary Government to promote union with Greece.

THE eclipse of the sun was obscured by clouds at the European and Japanese stations.

AN Italian cruiser has seized a Dutch steamer, the *Doelwyk*, off the coast of the Erythraea, with a cargo of rifles and ammunition on board, ostensibly bound to Karachi.

INTENSE heat prevails at New York. One hundred and twenty deaths have taken place from sunstroke and heat apoplexy in five days.

THE Irish Land Bill passed through Committee in the House of Lords. It is understood that the opposition was broken owing to Lord Salisbury privately threatening to reconsider his position if again defeated on an important amendment. The House of Commons has accepted the minor amendments and disagreed on others.

THE Commons have appointed a Committee of Enquiry into the rules of the Chartered Company, and the Jameson Raid. The Committee will consist of fifteen members, including Mr. Labouchere.

ADVICES from Madagascar state that complete anarchy exists outside the French lines. The country is devastated by marauders.

THE Mission organized by the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce to develop the cotton trade with China, sails on the 22nd instant *via* Vancouver, and will occupy three years.

LORD Wolseley, who was interviewed by Reuter's representative, said he entertained the highest opinion of the fighting qualities and efficiency of the Indian Army, and that, moreover, when he published his views some years ago, he praised it in the highest terms, stating that English and Indian Cavalry combined could easily ride over hordes of Cossacks. This opinion, he said, he still held, and he believed that for the purposes for which it existed the Indian Army was perfect as it could be. The extracts from his evidence before the Welby commission, which had been published in the press, were, he said, misleading.

Lord Wolseley, in presenting the prizes at Shoeburyness, said he thought it would be an advantage if the magnificent Army of India could be represented on such an occasion.

LORD George Hamilton, in the House of Commons, replying to a question by Mr. Barnes regarding the proposed amending of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and asking for a return of the correspondence on the subject, promised an immediate reference to the Government of India and assured the House that the objections of the landlords and tenants to the proposed amendments Act, will receive the careful consideration of the Government of India. Replying to Sir William Wedderburn, he said that he could not assent to the suggestion to appoint a select committee annually to report to the House upon Indian accounts, as such a committee would seriously interfere with the administrative work of the Government of India, and would moreover be expensive.

MR. Balfour, replying to several questions in the House of Commons, said that the gravity of the situation concerning contagious diseases in India was undoubted, and that as there was a dispute whether and how far it was due to the recent legislation, Government would consider the propriety of an enquiry to decide the controversy.

IN the House of Commons, on Aug. 13, the Secretary of State for India presented the Indian Budget. In doing so he eulogised the frugality and excellent financial control exercised by the Indian Government. He claimed that the adjustment of the cotton duties had placed the industries concerned on a footing of perfect equality. He endorsed Sir Henry Brackenbury's testimony in regard to the efficiency of the Indian Army, and said that the India Council would not have agreed to the increasing of its reserve without the knowledge that the Native Army of India was fit to go anywhere and to meet any troops in the world (cheers).

Any remission of taxation was, he said, impossible owing to the fluctuations of exchange, and the reserve depending upon indirect taxation. The closing of the Indian Mints was an artificial makeshift, but it had achieved the aims which the promoters had in view. He trusted that the delimitation of the frontiers would avert further expenses on frontier expeditions. He declared that Indian railway policy was of a too piecemeal character. The proposed annual conference of the Indian railway officials would do much to remedy matters. His lordship urged the necessity of developing railways in Burma. In dwelling upon the increasing acerbity of attacks of the Native press against the British rule in India the Secretary of State pointed out the remarkable improvement effected in Burma under the British rule. The debate on the Indian Budget ended in a desultory discussion on various matters including the combining of Executive and Judicial offices, the cotton duties and railways. Lord G. Hamilton, replying to a question said that a change in the Executive and Judicial offices was a question which would involve great expense, but the Indian Government were gradually working in that direction. It was intended, he said, that all the money voted for railways should be spent this year, and the same rate of outlay would be maintained for the next few years. Sir W. Wedderburn moved for the appointment of a select committee annually for the purpose of examining Indian accounts. Sir Henry Fowler and Mr. Baunagri opposed the motion, which was ultimately rejected by 110 against 30.

THE Lords have adopted the amendments of the Commons to the Irish Land Bill and have passed the Uganda Railway Bill. Parliament was prorogued on Aug. 14.

DR. Nansen has returned to Norway, having, it is said, reached four degrees nearer the North Pole than any previous explorer.

THE death is announced of Sir John Millais.

THE Irish prisoners Daly, Devaney, Gallagher, and Whitehead have been released owing to ill-health.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL Sir W. K. Elles, K.C.B., Commanding the Forces, Bengal, died at Naini-Tal, of cholera. It was an early morning attack, usually fatal. Doctors were called in at 9 and at 4 in the afternoon the patient was dead. Her Majesty, through her Equerry, has expressed to the Commander-in-Chief in India and her Army an India deep regret at the death. A command order by the Major General commanding the Forces in Bengal says that mourning will be worn by all the troops in the command, and flags half-masted, for a period of 15 days that is until the 25th August inclusive.

THE heat this year in the Khyber has been excessive. Rain has not fallen for 3 months. The tanks are dry. In 25 days there have been 11 deaths from sunstroke, or one in every alternate day. In Cooh-Bihar, the drought continues. The Patna and neighbouring districts are suffering much from the same cause. The weather is unusual for August. Since last two weeks, there has been no rain; the heat is scorching, and there is apprehension of famine. Rain has fallen in the Punjab. The Madras, like the Bombay, Presidency has had excess of rain. The Coleroon, a branch of the Cauvery, overflowed its banks. The Krishna has washed away a tract of land. There was a lamentable boat accident on the river in which as many as 200 persons lost their lives. While it was still in high flood, a new boat with 200 men was launched at Valve in the Sattara district. In mid stream it was caught by the current and carried down the stream about

100 yards and was then upset, the river proving the grave of the 200 excepting 2 boatmen who safely reached the shore. On the whole, this year the monsoon visitation has been a little too severe in the peninsular area. Burma has shared a portion of the rainfall. Portions of the Burdwan and Hooghly districts in the Bengal Presidency are suffering from want of rain. The conversion of the Banka in the first into the Eden Canal has proved a boon in the present scarcity of water. The last two years, the villages on its banks suffered from drought and scanty harvest. This year, though the rainfall has not been sufficient, the villagers are enabled to irrigate their fields by the canal water. They resist the claim to sell the water and they have gained their point against Government in the first court. In most of the places where rain has not been plentiful, cholera has shewed itself.

There was another formation of a cyclonic curve, this week, at the head of the Bay. The wind travelled through Orissa and Chota Nagpur and the Central Provinces. The monsoon in the Bay area has caused rain in most parts of Bengal, in portions of Burma and Assam. There were scattered showers in the N.-W. P. and the Punjab. The breeze along the west coast of the Peninsula was of moderate force. The east and the central Peninsula and Rajpootana had some rainfall.

THE Viceroy starts on his autumn tour on the 2nd of November, and, after visiting Delhi, Ulwar, Ajmere, Oodeypore, Jeypore, Bikanir, Jodhpore, Baroda, Indore and Benares, will be in Calcutta at 9 P.M., on Thursday, the 10th of December.

THE Government of India have declined with thanks the offers of the service of their Imperial Service Corps by some of the Native States for the Suakin small war. What about the Vizianagram offer of a lakh of rupees towards the cost of the Indian Contingent?

THE telegram about the offer, by the Maharaja of Vizianagram, of a lakh of rupees towards the cost of the Indian contingent for the Suakin Expedition, is followed by the announcement that a suit has been filed, in the Madras High Court, for recovery of Rs. 23,000 from the Maharaja, for repairs done to his "Admiralty House" at Aiyar. This is a mischievous piece of news, intended evidently to discredit the Raja that he is not so liberal as he seems, or liberal at the expense of others or to the neglect of other more immediate claims on his charity and purse.

THE Lieutenant-Governor returned to Calcutta on Tuesday morning and left for Darjeeling the same afternoon. Sir Alexander Mackenzie leaves the Legislative Council to the members to deal with the amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act as they like. Either he has sufficient confidence in them, or he will exercise his full right of consenting or not consenting to the Bill when passed by the Council. He, however, presided at a meeting of the Countess of Dufferin Fund, Bengal Branch, held at Belvedere, to consider a proposal to dispose of the Victoria Hospital and to purchase a site for a new one. The negotiations not being complete, no definite conclusion was arrived at. At that meeting an announcement was made of a donation of Rs. 25,000 by the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein on behalf of Raja Pudanand Singh.

THE *Behar Herald* and the *Indian Chronicle* published at Bankipore says: "The action of the District Board and Municipality of Patna in contributing Rs. 15,000 each towards the expenditure incurred on the occasion of His Excellency the Viceroy's visit to this town has been pronounced by the Local Government to have been irregular." Does the action of the Local Government end with this expression of disapproval? If the money has been irregularly or illegally spent, it should be refunded. The Presidency Commissioner had objected to municipal expenditure on addresses to the Viceroy at the Queen's Jubilee. And now the Lieutenant-Governor has entered his protest against any expenditure in honour of the Viceroy. But are Bengal Municipalities precluded, by law, from honouring the Queen, the Viceroy or other distinguished personages? The Calcutta Act allows "contribution to the cost incurred on the occasion of any public ceremony or entertainment in Calcutta" with "the previous sanction of the Local Government." Supposing the sanction of the Local Government were asked by the Patna District and Municipal Boards for the expenditure, would it have been refused?

THE Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation has applied for six months' leave from the 1st day of September next. During his absence, the Vice-Chairman will also act as Chairman.

THE High Court—Justices Messrs. O'Knealy and Binerjee—have, on appeal, commuted to transportation for life the sentence of death passed by the Sessions Judge of Maimensing, on one Gonesh Sheik, for killing his wife and one of his children, by smashing their heads with a thick piece of bamboo. He had also aimed the murderous weapon at his younger child, when the brother of the murderer intervened. Gonesh had confessed to the Police that having discovered that his wife had an intrigue he had gone mad and was driven to desperation. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council may have discovered that a wife's unchastity in India is no bar to her succeeding to her husband's property. The feeling, however, against such unfaithfulness is too strong in the country, and the High Court Judges, in the present case, recognize the feeling. Their order is :

"This is an appeal against the order of the Judge of Maimensing, who convicted the appellant of murder and sentenced him to death. There can be no doubt about the propriety of the conviction. What happened at the time, and the statement of the accused before the Magistrate, would tend to show that he knew the consequences of what he was doing. Then arises a question, on which we have had some difficulty, as to whether the extreme penalty of the law should be inflicted on this man, or whether the ends of justice would be met by the other punishment allowed, *viz.*, transportation for life. It appears to us quite clear that at the time the murder was committed, the accused was acting under a strong delusion in regard to the unfaithfulness of his wife. The evidence of his brother, the statement to the chowkidar, and even the subsequent statement to the Magistrate, show that clearly there is no doubt that under a feeling of jealousy he committed the murder. Under these circumstances we think it is not necessary to sentence the accused to the extreme penalty of the law. We set aside the sentence of death, and direct that the accused be transported for life, under section 367, I. P. C."

IN the Police Court, a Criminal Bench sentenced to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment a Mahomedan, for removing, without permission, from an eating house in Wellesley Street, a frying pan with a dozen chops, eating the chops and restoring the pan. He was arrested in the last act. The Magistrates made no allowance for the hunger that had prompted the theft, as it does not appear that the thief was an old offender. Six months' hard labour for a dozen chops or a fortnight's for each chop is too severe a sentence, unless the Magistrates sent him to jail for free board and lodging. Begging too for alms or bread is an offence and the Chief Magistrate sentenced an old Mahomedan for begging in the New Market to four days' simple imprisonment. There is a workhouse for European vagrants, but for other beggars—the jail is their home.

THE *Hitabadi* defamation case was taken up by the Chief Magistrate on Tuesday to be adjourned to Thursday, the 20th. Mr. T. Palit with Mr. H. D. Bose, instructed by Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose, appeared for the prosecutor Babu Heramba Chandra Maitra, and Mr. B. Chakravarti for the defence. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* explains that "the article alleged to be defamatory is a piece of poetry which was published in the issue of the *Hitabadi* of the 24th July last. The poem in question consists of eleven stanzas; and the case for the prosecution is that under the pretext of addressing Kusum (flower) which is the name of the wife of the complainant, it refers to complainant's wife and makes innuendoes against her character. One stanza, as translated by a High Court translator, runs thus : 'Is the bee the only lover of the Kusum? To-day on Ganapati's neck; to-morrow at Vishnu's feet; on another day on another god is her stay. What manners and morals are these—what conduct!' The next stanza runs as follows : 'At every step do I see the misconduct of the flower. To-day the object of Upendra's enjoyment; to-morrow fit for Heramba. Seeing (this) whose ideas are not tainted? I know flowers are utterly worthless.' The defence relies upon the various meanings of the several Bengali words in the original, and therefore asked the Magistrate to have with him on the Bench one or two Bengali Magistrates to assist him at the enquiry. There was opposition from the other side, but Mr. Palit had no objection to the proposal if he knew the names of the joint Bengali Magistrates. Mr. Pearson, at the outset, had informed the parties that this was a fit case for the jury, and that he would send it up, a *prima facie* case being made out. Mr. Pearson accepting the suggestion of the defence, there was a private consultation between the Magistrate and the two counsel. When the Court sat again, the

case was adjourned and it was known that Baboo Nobin Chand Boral, an attorney of the High Court and of the directorate of the journal when it was started before it passed to the present proprietors, would be the assisting or interpreting Magistrate. The prosecution is believed to be an outcome of the Krishnagar or the last Bengal Provincial Conference, an under National Congress, and as our Congressists have kept many matters out of court, it is a wonder why the present still hangs fire.

THE Rangoon Chamber of Commerce have memorialised the Viceroy for a reform in the law touching settlement of disputes by arbitration otherwise than in the course of a suit. The existing statute law on the subject is contained in Section 28, Exceptions I and II, of the Indian Contract Act, Section 21 of the Specific Relief Act, and Sections 523, 524 and 525 of the Civil Procedure Code. There are two classes of agreements to submit to arbitration. The first, dealt with in Section 28, Exception I, of the Contract Act, is about future disputes, and the second, about disputes that have already arisen. Section 21 of the Specific Relief Act enacts that "no contract to refer a controversy to arbitration can be specifically enforced, but if any person who has made such a contract, and has refused to perform it, sues in respect of any subject which he has contracted to refer, the existence of such contract shall bar the suit." This negative provision, the Chamber observe, is practically the only penalty for the breach of such a contract. Then, again, the only agreements which can be filed under Section 523 of the Civil Procedure Code are those which relate to disputes that have already arisen and not to disputes that may arise in future. Most of the contracts relating to purchase and sale of goods contain a clause to the effect that if disputes arise about the quality of the goods, or their quantity or measure, or other matters of a similar kind, they shall be referred to the arbitration of persons named in the contract of sale or to be nominated by the Local Chamber of Commerce. A dishonest trader, buying under such a contract, may, under the present law, make the clause about arbitration a dead-letter. He has only to raise an objection, however groundless, to the goods. The seller is not able to exact adherence to the agreement. He may institute a suit, but the Civil Courts, under the Specific Relief Act, are incompetent to order specific performance of the agreement to arbitration. It is the interest of the dishonest buyer to gain time and otherwise hamper the seller. He is abundantly able to do this by remaining quiet. The seller has to fight out the matter in a regular suit governed by the ordinary procedure which is very costly and which involves a lot of trouble. The Rangoon Chamber accordingly pray for an amendment of the existing law upon the same terms as those of Statute 52 and 53, Vict. cap. 49. The other Chambers of Commerce have been consulted by Government as to the desirability of such amendment. It goes without saying that the Rangoon Chamber have spotted a real defect in the law. The Chamber's prayer, however, does not go far enough. Section 526 of the Civil Procedure Code enacts that "if no ground, such as is mentioned or referred to in Section 520 or 521, be shown against the award, the Court shall order it to be filed, and such award shall then take effect as an award made under the provisions of this chapter." The meaning of this is that if objections be taken against the award, the party desiring to file it shall have to institute a regular suit involving expenditure of both money and time. There should be a provision to the effect that if objection

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

Lectures by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Monday, the 17th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Occurrence, Sources, and Preparation of Hydrogen. Tuesday, the 18th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Physical and Chemical properties of Hydrogen. Thursday, the 20th Inst., at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Occurrence, Sources, Preparation and properties of Oxygen.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 19th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subject*: The Principle of Archimedes—Specific gravity, how to determine it.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 20th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subjects*: The Protozoa, Coelenterata.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Friday, the 21st Inst., at 7 P.M. *Subject*: Expansion by Heat in detail. Co-efficients of Expansion of Liquids and Gases.

Lecture by Babu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 22nd Inst., at 5-30 P.M., *Subject*: Morphology—Inflorescence.

Lecture by Dr. Nilotkan Sarkar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 22nd Inst., at 6-30 P.M., *Subject*: Histology—Epithelium, Endothelium.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,
Honorary Secretary.

Aug. 15, 1896.

be taken, the Court shall have power to deal with it. As a matter of fact, the absence of such a direction has made the provisions about private arbitration entirely nugatory in the case of contested awards. The repeal only of Section 21 of the Specific Relief Act will not afford adequate relief.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, August 15, 1896.

THE RETIRING CHIEF JUSTICE.

SIR Comer Petheram is about to retire from the Chief Justiceship of the Bengal High Court. He leaves India with the best wishes of all who know anything about him. The bar give him a dinner and the public in general hold a meeting in his honour. In that he is more fortunate than his predecessors in office. Though not as brilliant, as hard-working, and as jealous of the encroachments of Government on the powers of his Court as Sir Barnes Peacock, Sir Comer Petheram, like Sir Richard Couch, looked with an equal eye on all. Without enhancing the prestige of the Court, he gave proofs of a fearless independence in the discharge of his duties. In a country where it cannot be said that all is not race, where its people are continually struggling for superior political existence and are easily led into the belief, with unequal laws, of unequal administration of justice, it is no small praise to say that he takes no note of racial distinctions. A British Judge is always expected to be a visible impersonation of the blind goddess that holds the scales evenly, regardless of consequences. Sir Comer Petheram fully came up to this almost universal notion of judicial integrity and impartiality. He brought himself to prominent notice, while he was Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, in what is known as the Laidman-Hearsey case. His severe but just denunciation of Mr. Laidman's conduct gave offence to the Government of the N.-W. Provinces. With the character of a civilian of Mr. Laidman's standing judicially damaged, British power, it was gravely argued, would come to an abrupt end in the N.-W. Provinces, if not all India. Sir Comer Petheram, although he applied nothing but the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Criminal Procedure Code and the principles embodied in the Indian Evidence Act, earned yet the reputation of a judicial firebrand whose love for the technicalities of Westminster Hall was dangerous to the time-honoured ways of British bureaucracy in India. It never struck those sapient administrators and journalists that a vindication of the majesty of the Law as against offenders in power would strengthen British rule in India more effectively than British bayonets. Sir Comer Petheram came to Bengal with a reputation. His appointment in the Bengal High Court was hailed with delight by all who had heard of him. Within a few days after taking his seat he endeavoured to introduce a wholesome reform in the delivery of judgments. Judges in India seldom pronounce judgment on the conclusion of a trial, when all the points of fact and law involved and the arguments of Counsel are fresh in their mind. Instead, they allow a considerable time to elapse and then a written judgment is delivered. This is opposed to the practice of Judges in England. It very often happens that Indian Judges do not deliver judgments till they forget everything about the case. In this, it is said, there is considerable merit. Counsel seek to mystify

and mislead. Accordingly, our Judges require time before they can regain equanimity of mind. The impressions made by the eloquence of Counsel should be allowed to wear off before there can be thorough judicial impartiality. During the preliminary proceedings relating to the impeachment of Warren Hastings, after the magnificent oration of Sheridan on the Begums of Oudh, the friends of Hastings moved that as the House was under the spell of the orator, the division on the motion should be postponed to the next sitting. This was allowed by Burke and others without any opposition. Sir Comer Petheram, however, with that common sense which has always distinguished him, did not allow much weight to this argument. Forensic eloquence in India has become a thing of the past. The most successful Counsel in the Indian High Courts confine themselves to plain statements of fact and expositions of law without any attempt at eloquence. Fluency is all that they aim at and their highest effort is the quoting of precedents. As a matter of fact, Indian Judges, however soft-hearted, are not exposed to the risk of being carried away by the eloquence of the bar. The reason, therefore, of their not delivering judgments immediately is inability or want of practice. All Judges do not come up to the standard of Sir Barnes Peacock, Sir John Budd Phear, and Sir Charles Pontifex. Sir Comer Petheram's endeavour did not prove successful, like Lord Dufferin's to induce the august members of the Supreme Legislative Council of India to speak their speeches instead of reading them.

Among important cases that Sir Comer Petheram has disposed of in the Bengal High Court, the people are not likely to forget three. The first is the defamation case against the *Pioneer* brought by the late lamented Captain A. W. Hearsey. Persuaded that he would not have justice in any of the courts of the N.-W. Provinces, the Captain came to Calcutta, intent to take advantage of the very unsatisfactory state of the law relating to publication. Here, too, he experienced no small difficulty. In the Police Court, he had generously set free the printer and publisher and agreed to proceed against the editor only. When the matter, after some preliminary difficulties, went up finally to the High Court, the Judge who presided at the Sessions raised the plea that there was no proof of publication against the editor and directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty.

Captain Hearsey, failing in Calcutta, but nothing daunted, tried Howrah. The Magistrate proved to him no better than the Judge of the High Court. The redoubtable hero made a third attempt. This time it was the metropolitan Police Court again. The offending paragraph was brought home to Mr. Allen, the managing proprietor of the Allahabad journal. The case was committed to the Sessions, and Sir Comer Petheram, who must have been moved to see how a subject of her Majesty was being baffled in his quest of justice, resolved to preside himself. It had become a scandal, for which the head of the judicial administration in Bengal could not but be responsible. The prisoner pleaded guilty and the Chief Justice ordered a heavy fine of Rs. 3,000, possibly to atone for the delay in the final order and the harassment the complainant had gone through.

The second case is the State prosecution of the *Bangabashi* newspaper. This Bengali hebdomadal had lost its head over the Age of Consent Bill,

and acted in a very unbecoming way by publishing, week after week, virulent attacks on not only the Government of the country but also respectable private individuals who felt bound to support that legislative proposal. Some of the effusions were characterised by considerable silliness. Sir Charles Elliott, moved by the desire of reading a lesson to the vernacular press, was instrumental in bringing about a criminal prosecution of the journal. The charge was nothing less than exciting disaffection against the Government of the country. The case was heard by the Chief Justice with the aid of a Special Jury. Mr. Jackson, who was Counsel for the defence, displayed great ability and citing passage after passage from Anglo-Indian journals published during a period of great excitement, showed that the Bengali paper had not indulged in greater license. The Chief Justice's charge to the jury, while laying down the law in a manner highly favourable to the cause of authority, was, in other respects, a very fair one and almost a model of what a judicial charge should be on such grave occasions. He refrained from enlightening the jurors as to what his own opinion was regarding the articles complained of. It is true the jurors are not bound to accept the Judge's opinion; still there can be no doubt that they are considerably swayed by it in returning their verdict. Few jurors have the courage to assert themselves against the presiding Judge. The jury in the "Bangabashi" trial were not unanimous. The Chief Justice did not enquire what the verdict was that had been arrived at by the majority, and declining to act upon a verdict that was not unanimous, dismissed the jury and ordered the case to be brought up as a *remanet* at the next Sessions. The accused got time for deliberation. The Government which had worked itself up to fever-heat, cooled down. Peace-makers appeared on the scene. The prosecuted journal apologised, admitting its peccancy. The apology was accepted. The accused escaped further trouble. It is said that there was no law under which the Chief Justice could refuse to accept the verdict or act upon it. Outside the Presidency towns the law empowers the Judge to reject a verdict if he does not agree with it. He should, in that case, make a reference to the High Court which is to deal with it as an appeal. The procedure governing the trial of criminal cases before the High Court Sessions is different. The presiding Judge may, if he disagrees with the jury, take up the case again, with a new jury. Before, however, this is done, the verdict must be ascertained, for how can a Judge differ from a verdict unless he knows what it is? In the High Court Sessions, the number of jurors, instead of being twelve, need only be nine. Then, again, unanimity is not at all necessary. The verdict of the majority is to be looked upon as the verdict of the jury. Sir Comer Petheram, by refusing to ascertain what the verdict of the majority was, and by ordering a fresh trial, simply because of the absence of unanimity among the jurors, became instrumental in saving the accused, although his action was not, perhaps, in strict accordance with the established procedure. In serious cases, Judges, in many civilised countries, decline to act upon verdicts that are not unanimous. Sir Comer probably acted in conformity with the traditions of Westminster Hall without enquiring too curiously into the Indian law.

We come now to the third, *viz.*, the Assensole outrage case, as it has come to be known. A Euro-

pean rough committed a diabolical assault upon a poor native woman. The case came up before a Division Bench of the High Court. The two Judges that composed it differed in opinion, the native Judge maintaining that the evidence was sufficient to justify a conviction. Sir Comer Petheram, after a careful review of the evidence, felt bound to support his native colleague. Thereupon the miscreant received his dues.

Few persons possess a kinder heart than Sir Comer Petheram. In this respect, he reminds us of the late Sir Henry Harrison. Like Sir Henry, Sir Comer believes that bread is the highest necessity of life, and that no one should be deprived of bread on light grounds. Among several instances that we know, we shall mention one that is typical of the kindness that frequently tempered Sir Comer's justice. A poor clerk in the Accounts Branch of the Original Side, guilty of a grave offence against office discipline, was reported for dismissal. The Chief Justice, carefully considering the matter, and taking note of the fact that it was the man's first offence, ordered degradation with mulct of pay for six months, after which a report was to be submitted of his conduct. To this day, though the order is dated four years back, no such report has been made, with the result that the poor fellow is still suffering the mulct,—a telling commentary on the difference of spirit between the Chief Justice and the highly pampered native officer whose duty it was to obey the order.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

July 24.

Imperial Parliament. On Friday evening, the 17th instant, Lord Salisbury, as Foreign Secretary, took an important departure in the House of Lords. Hitherto, papers dealing with current controversial questions between one or more of the great Powers, have been placed on the tables of both Houses of Parliament in so dilatory a fashion, that, when published, they have lost much of their real value. But, on Friday, Lord Salisbury, with the consent of the Washington Government, laid on the table a most important correspondence that has been carried on for some months between Mr. Secretary Olney, and our own Foreign Office. Lord Salisbury has throughout kept two points quite distant—

- (a.) Our boundary misunderstanding with Venezuela and
- (b.) The general question of automatic arbitration on all political differences that may arise between the United States and ourselves.

On the former point Lord Salisbury seems apparently to be willing to allow the President of the United States to act as arbitrator between Great Britain and Venezuela, always excepting the territory that has been so long a part of Great Britain's western possessions, as to have led settlers there to acquire land and claim *de facto* all the privileges of British citizens. In this contention Lord Salisbury is assured of the hearty support of his fellow countrymen, whose views are not circumscribed by the narrow limits of "Little Englandism."

In regard to the second point, Lord Salisbury wishes to have some Court of Appeal nominated in equal numbers by the two Governments, so as to ensure a quiet, deliberate, judicial decision, and not one dictated by political passion, prejudice or panic. For example, what justice could we have expected from the Government of the United States during the whirlwind of passion produced by President Cleveland's attitude in December last—an attitude, be it remembered, that owed its inception, not from any desire to hold an even balance between Great Britain and Venezuela, but dictated solely by the exigencies of party conflict in the United States? Whatever may be the final issue of this correspondence, every one may rejoice that it has paved the way for a better and more friendly and courteous understanding between President Cleveland and Lord Salisbury.

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

The Irish Land Bill, after many perils, appears at last to have reached the shore, and will ere long be sent up to the House of Lords. On the day of the royal wedding, the Government was defeated, on one of the clauses, by 16 votes in a House of 170 members. It was a snatch division due to the absence of so many members on account of the wedding. Later in the afternoon, in a House of over 300 members, Government had a majority of over 250. So if Mr. Balfour cares to replace the defeated clause he can easily do so, at the "report" stage, but possibly he may not deem it of sufficient importance.

The Royal Wedding passed off with great *eclat* on Wednesday. Tuesday had been the hottest day of this very hot summer. The sun beat down on our pavements after the manner of an Indian May. Fortunately, the wind changed during the night, and Wednesday was delightfully cool and cloudy without any rain. All passed off well, and the demonstrations of loyalty to our gracious Sovereign and the father and mother of the bride were enthusiastic beyond all precedent, if we except the jubilee day.

Jamson's Trial is proceeding apace before the Lord Chief Justice of England with Baron Pollock and Mr. Justice Hawkins as colleagues. Sir Edward Clarke's preliminary appeal to have the "indictment quashed," on some very narrow, technical grounds, was overruled by the unanimous decision of the Judges and the story of the raid is being told over again *ad nauseam* just as it was before Sir John Bridge, the Chief Magistrate of London.

The Maharaja of Jhalawar. The case of this unfortunate Raja was brought before the House of Commons, not so much out of sympathy for him, as for the opportunity it afforded two "reptile" Radicals of wasting precious time that would otherwise have been devoted to the Irish Land Bill. One of the greatest mercies vouchsafed by the last general election was the relegation to private life of the notorious Temperance agitator, W. S. Caine. A pretentious plutocrat with nothing to recommend him but his money-bags, he sought to make himself an authority on India by spending the winter in luxurious travel and abusing the missionaries as only quasi-devout plutocrats can. But unfortunately though the electors of Bradford spurned him, he has a son-in-law in the House, by name Herbert Roberts. To him Caine committed the welcome task of wasting valuable time at this late period of the session, and holding up the Government of India to contempt, because of its assumed indifference to the claims of justice and mercy. Mr. Roberts was seconded by Sir W. Wedderburn, who ought to have known better, and they secured the invaluable support of Dr. Clark. It turned out that not one of the three had studied the Blue Book containing the papers in the case. As Lord George Hamilton in his reply well said, "Here are three gentlemen who propose to upset the decision of the Government of India, and they do not know the elementary facts of the case." Could political malice and malignity go further?

I am aware there is a difference of opinion about this case on your side, but, assuming the accuracy of the Secretary of State's facts, two points seem clear: the young man should never have been allowed to ascend the *musnud*, and he ought long ago to have been sent to the right about. But so long as poor human nature is what it is, you will always find men of the stamp of Roberts and Wedderburn keen to waste Government time in the House of Commons, so long as their political leaders are in opposition.

The new Indian loan has been a marked success, although it would appear the financial experts had anticipated even greater results.

The Burma Railway is a gigantic undertaking in the hands of the leviathans of finance, the Messrs. Rothschild. The Board is a strong one, but I imagine investors would have been pleased to have everything left in the hands of the Rothschilds, only they for their own protection will be glad to have men of Indian experience to fall back upon for advice and guidance.

Cuba and Crete divide the interest of the East and West. Nothing but international jealousies prevent Great Britain interfering with a strong hand. But were Lord Salisbury to put his foot down, France and Russia would immediately accept it as a *casus belli*. Meanwhile blood flows. Christians struggle to strangle the Mahomedan soldiery, and the latter retaliate as only Turkish mercenaries can.

In Crete, there is still desultory fighting without any permanent gain to either side.

INDIAN TROOPS IN THE SOUDAN.

To the Editor of "The Liberty Review."

SIR,—I had to shorten my observations yesterday owing to the approaching hour for the division, and I am glad that I did so, as it allowed more time for Lord Welby's very useful speech. Will you allow me to complete what I wished to say?

Only two arguments have been advanced in favour of a payment by India. First, precedents; but the precedents are bad, because they originated before the Act of 1858, and at a time when the Government of the day thought it right to get as much as possible from the Court of Directors, and before the existence of the feel-

ing that the people of India are our fellow subjects. This state of opinion was shown when, in 1857, the late Lord Elgin turned aside on his way to China to assist Lord Canning with the troops he was taking with him, and received much praise for so doing. Now he would have received no praise, but much blame, if he had shown any hesitation in assisting the Viceroy. Since 1883 circumstances had altered very much; there had been a great change in public feeling with regard to increasing the burdens on India, and several Secretaries of State had pronounced against action such as that now proposed; the Duke of Argyll had spoken with perhaps more force than the others, and Lord Northbrook's speech against the increase of Home Charges in 1893 ought to have prevented him from twitting Lord Kimberley with inconsistency. Since 1883-84 the financial position of India had become much worse: at that date the gross revenue of India was 71 millions of Rs.; in 1893-94 it had increased to 95 millions Rs. In no European country has there been during that period so large an augmentation of public burdens as in India. It is stated that the increase in the United Kingdom has been 14 per cent., in France 13 per cent., and in India 35 per cent. These figures are taken by the Poona Association from the Statesman's Year Book.

During the past twelve years the Famine Insurance grants have been suspended five times and twice curtailed; the consumption of salt has diminished; the revenue from opium has decreased; administrative reforms have been postponed; and useful expenditure, such as for education, curtailed; yet in 1893-94 the Government granted compensation for loss by exchange to the European services, whose salaries are still on the old footing previous to the overland route, and more frequent furloughs. These figures justify the resistance of the Indian Government and the unanimous opposition of the English press, and the desire expressed by working men that England should not be guilty of this meanness.

With regard to the precedents quoted, if most were furnished by the Liberal party, that would be because the Liberals have been longer in power than the Conservatives. The precedent of Abyssinia was the worst, because India was not concerned whether King Menelik kept his missionary prisoners or not; and Sir Stafford Northcote, candidly or cynically, excused it on the ground of keeping the Bombay army in wind. Lord George Hamilton said of this precedent that there had been a risk in sending these troops away from India, because it was only ten years after the Mutiny. There is a fallacy in that supposition, since, ten years after the Mutiny, its failure and suppression were still fresh in men's minds in India, while every year that elapses since 1857 would dim those recollections, and make it more possible for those who were discontented to think of another attempt. The precedent of 1885 was not a precedent, because the Indian Government was not consulted in time.

The second argument used by the supporters of the Resolution is that India has an interest in the Sudan expedition. This has not been proved, and the arguments for it are, as the *Times* says to-day, narrow and far-fetched. Before discussing the interest of India in the Sudan expedition, it would be necessary to establish that any one has an interest in that expedition, and that would be difficult. The Suez Canal and Egypt run no real danger from the people of the Sudan; the people of the Sudan bear no enmity to the Egyptians; their enmity is against the British occupation. It has been said that the principal motive for the expedition was to furnish an excuse for prolonging the occupation. Other reasons have been alleged, but they appear to be too futile to be worth repeating. If Egypt were restored to its own Government, Egyptian influence would gradually be re-established over the Sudan by peaceable means, and without bloodshed.

What the country would most wish to know is, who it is that has prevented the Government from giving up its intention in deference to the very generally-expressed wish of this country, and to avoid discontent, or, as some speakers have said, disaffection, in India. Nobody believes that Lord George Hamilton cares to maintain this policy; his boast on Wednesday of what he had done respecting the troops at Mombassa disproves it; and, if possible, it is very desirable to exonerate the Secretary of State for India. The same may be said of the Prime Minister.

The *Times* has hinted not obscurely that this must be due to some permanent clerk or clerks. Wreckers of ships have existed very recently; is it certain that the Government are not being misled in order to wreck their reputation, and discredit them at the next elections? However that may be, future discredit is certain.

There may be some persons who would deny that this extortion would produce discontent in India. I have met one such, a distinguished Indian civilian, who said they would not be discontented unless stirred up by Europeans. When Indian civilians speak of Europeans they usually mean indigo planters and interlopers who give trouble to the officials. In this case the Europeans are the Viceroy and his Council, and the majority of the rank-and-file of the officials. That they have not failed in their duty to India will ally rather than fan the discontent.—Your obedient servant,

STANLEY OF ALDERLEY.

July 17th, 1896.

Letters to the Editor.

DR. FITZEDWARD HALL'S PUBLICATIONS.

SIR,—I shall feel highly obliged if you or any of the learned readers of your paper kindly inform me through its medium where in India the following works of Dr. Fitzedward Hall are available for sale :—

- (1) (Dr. James R. Ballantyne's) Lectures on the Nyaya Philosophy, (Sanskrit and English. Revised edition, with a bibliographical preface.)
- (2) A Contribution towards an Index to the Bibliography of the Indian Philosophical Systems.
- (3) A Rational Refutation of the Hindu Philosophical Systems, (translated from the Hindi and Sanskrit.)
- (4) Benares, Ancient and Medieval. A Monograph.

M. SIVARAMAYYA.

Vizianagram, August 5, 1896.

* * We can give only the place and year of publication : (1) Benares, 1852 ; (2) Calcutta, 1859 ; (3) Calcutta, 1862 ; (4) Hertford, 1868.—Ed. R. & R.

APOLLO'S VENAL SON.

SIR,—My attention having been directed by the kindness of friends to a paragraph that appeared in a contemporary of yours, charging me with ignorance of the meaning of the expression "Apollo's venal son" as applied by Byron to Sir Walter Scott, permit me to reproduce, for the delectation of your readers, that gem of criticism and to reply to it.

"We read in a letter that appears in the columns of a contemporary : 'The great Sir Walter Scott himself was open to the charge of offering work after work to the public without careful revision. Apollo's venal son was the sobriquet he earned from Byron in his celebrated satire.' We are afraid the writer has missed the meaning of the phrase he quotes. 'Venal' never means 'careless,' 'hasty,' or 'slipshod,' and Byron did not mean that Scott omitted to subject his works to careful revision. 'Apollo's venal son' only means 'hireling bard,'—another phrase used in the same context. We do not, therefore, see the purpose of the quotation, especially as the writer goes on to say, 'Of all calumnies, this seemed to stick to him.' A calumny is an undeserved reproach. If Byron penned a calumny, what can be its value as an instruction and a guidance?"

Johnson said to a guardian complaining of the little progress his boy had made in the school the former kept for a while,—“Sir, I can give your boy lessons. But I cannot give him a head.” To my critic also I must reply in a similar strain,—“Sir, I can only write, taking the utmost care to be perspicuous. I cannot give you brains to understand what I write.” Speaking of the slipshod method of work for which Mr. R. C. Dutt is distinguishing himself, I referred to Sir Walter Scott. I wanted to convey, as delicately as possible, the fact that Mr. Dutt's carelessness and haste would, in all likelihood, give a handle for the charge that he wrote for money. Look at my sentences, “The great Sir Walter Scott himself was open to the charge of giving work after work to the public without careful revision. ‘Apollo's venal son’ was the sobriquet he earned from Byron in his celebrated satire.” The two sentences are independent of each other. The statement embodied in the first is *not* referred to as the direct cause of that embodied in the second. There is a delicate insinuation which no reader of sense would possibly miss. As my critic, however, happens to be a logician who can never write a paragraph or short article without his ‘firstlies’ and ‘secondlies’ and ‘thirdlies’ and ‘fourthlies,’ &c., the sentences present an insurmountable difficulty to him. I know this class of men are at sea when confronted with what is called suggestive writing. Nor do they understand what is meant by delicacy of sentiment or statement. The omission to refer, in the case of Sir Walter Scott, to the love of lucre as his motive, prompted as it was by delicacy, for I was speaking of Mr. R. C. Dutt whom I love and honour, is to men of this description a grave fault of style. We have more Holoferneses and Fadladeens among us than we know of.

My critic's observations on my remark that “of all calumnies this seemed to stick to him,” show that beneath the lowest depth of obtuseness there is even a lower deep. “A calumny is an *undeserved* reproach. If Byron penned a calumny, what can be its value as an instruction and a guidance?” However undeserved, a calumny, repeated from mouth to mouth, makes the existence of the calumniated a misery. As my critic is believed to be making himself familiar with the Hindu Scriptures in his new zeal for orthodoxy (witness his vexation with Mr. M. M. Ghose for the latter's remark that Chaitanya had the qualities of a great statesman), may I cite the instance of the poor Solar prince Rama? None knew more certainly than Rama himself that the aspersions on the chastity of Sita for having accepted her, were calumnious. Yet he made himself and his noble wife miserable by banishing her into the woods. The Yadava hero, Krishna, was

above stealing the precious gem that had been worn by his uncle-in-law. Yet when the calumny was uttered by every mouth that he had murdered the wearer and appropriated the jewel, he was obliged to leave Dvarka, enter the deep woods, go down into the nether regions, and fight Jamvavat for recovering the lost treasure. Descending to secular history, did not calumny drive Byron himself, who affected an utter indifference to public opinion, from his native land and keep himself aloof from it for the remainder of his life? But I deem it an idle task to multiply examples. The fact is, the utmost confidence in one's own rectitude of purpose is no bar to the pain that well-directed shafts of calumny can and do inflict. In the case of Sir Walter Scott, the calumny uttered by Byron stuck to him. I was for warning my distinguished countryman that a similar fate might overtake him if he persisted in giving careless works to the public. An inordinate love of lucre would be imputed to him and that calumny would stick to him and pain him and his friends. So a calumny may have an educational value upon the conduct of even the best among us. I think I can now write Q. E. D., without which my critic would not allow anybody to make his bow to the public and retire.

S. C. SANYAL, M.A.

THEY WONDERED TO SEE HIM.

"I could not move a yard without help. I can now walk for miles."

There is certainly a very sharp contrast between these two statements. When we see a person who, because of illness, is unable to move a yard without help, we do not expect to meet him on the road and on foot miles from home, soon thereafter ; if indeed, we meet him at all. At least we should regard these extremes, considered as within the experience of the *sam-mukha*, and enclosed within a comparatively brief period of time, as something to wonder at and ask questions about. And people *did* wonder at and inquire about it. Many said the circumstances recalled the age of miracles, supposed to have passed forever away. The facts (briefly set forth in a letter from the man himself) are as follows. We may add that Mr. Henry Jackson is a farmer, well known and respected in his district, and his case is familiar to neighbours and friends of his throughout the vicinity.

"In the early part of 1892," says Mr. Jackson, "I began to feel weak and ailing. I was low in spirits, and my bodily strength seemed to be leaving me. There was a bad and nauseous taste in my mouth, my appetite, which had always been good, failed until I had no real desire for food whatever, and after eating I had much pain at the chest and a fullness around the sides. My stomach always felt *burning hot*, and I had a gnawing pain at the pit of it.

"I remained in this general condition until August of the same year, when I was taken worse. My legs began to swell, and rheumatism set in all over me, more particularly in the hips and back. No local treatment had any effect upon it. It grew worse and worse, until I was no longer able to rise from my chair without assistance. In truth, I had no power over myself, and *could not move a yard without help*.

"I suffered so with *mere pain* that I could not lie in bed, and for *over twelve months I never had my clothes off*.

"During this time I was attended day and night, being literally unable to do anything of importance for myself. All the sleep I got was taken in naps and snatches while I was bolstered up in my usual place in an easy chair. Under the terrible strain of the pain and loss of proper rest my nerves broke down so that any uncommon event in the house or noise was more than I could bear. My heart was very bad, and thumped until I could scarcely stay in the chair and endure it.

"The doctor who had charge of my case said my condition was critical. He said that my lungs and liver were badly affected, and that I had Bright's disease of the kidneys. Still his medicines did me no good, and after attending me ten months he said he could do no more for me.

"I then got a doctor from Bolton to see me, and he held out but slender hopes of my ever getting any better. I thought the same, and so did all who saw me.

"In October, 1893, my daughter, Mrs. Dickinson, of Bolton, told me how she had been benefited by taking Mother Selgel's Curative Syrup, and thought it might possibly help me. I had small faith, but there could be no harm in trying. So we sent at once to Mr. Pare, the chemist, in Fold Road, Bolton, for enough to decide whether it would do me good or not. After taking it a short time I was better. I could sleep better, and had some appetite for food, and what I ate agreed with me. This was hopeful and cheering indeed.

"I kept on with the Syrup and it acted wonderfully with me. The worst symptoms abated, and I gained strength. Soon all the water in my legs passed off, and the rheumatism troubled me but little. Still using the Syrup, my condition continued to improve in every respect, until I once more stood on my feet, and felt like a man of this world. *I can now walk for miles and have no pain.* All my friends think as I do—that under the circumstances my recovery was nothing short of marvellous. You are at liberty to publish this statement, and refer any interested persons to me. (Signed) Henry Jackson, Pawett Hill Farm, Culcheth, near Warrington, October 9th 1895."

No words of ours can add to the convincing force of Mr. Jackson's plain statement. His disease was originally and radically of the digestion. The attack was sharp and profound, and developed into the resulting conditions he so well describes. He may not have had Bright's disease, but that he was directly progressing towards that fatal malady there is no doubt. The effect of Mother Selgel's Syrup in his case only serves to show afresh its rare and remarkable power. Scarcely is so great a victory to be looked for from any medicine. Yet the facts are undeniable. We congratulate Mr. Jackson on his escape from a danger which was much more serious than even he probably imagined.

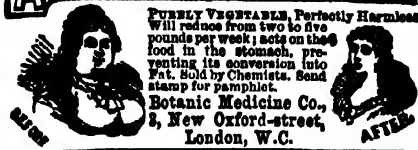
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AN INDIAN JOURNALIST :

Life, Letters and Correspondence

OF

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late Editor of "Reis and Rayyet."

BY

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to, from Ardagh, Col. Sir J.C.
to Atkinson the late Mr. E.F.T., C.S.
to Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.
to Banerjee, Babu Sirodiprasad.
from Bell, the late Major Evans.
from Bhaddaur, Chief of
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.
to Chelu, R. B. Bahadur Ananda.
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.
to, from Dufferin and Ava, the Marquis of.
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Gifford H.P.
to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.
to Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.
to Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.
to Graham, Mr. W.
from Griffin, Sir Lepel.
from Guha, Babu Siroda Kant.
to Hall, Dr. Fitz Edward.
from Hume, Mr. Allan O.
from Hunter, Sir W. W.
to Jenkins, Mr. Edward.
to Jung, the late Nawab Sir Salar.
to Knight, Mr. Paul.
from Knight, the late Mr. Robert.
from Lansdowne, the Marquis of.
to Law, Kumar Kristodas.
to Lyon, Mr. Percy C.
to Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.
to Mallik, Mr. H. C.
to Mervin, Miss Ann.
from Mehta, Mr. R. D.
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.
to Mookerjee, late Ryt Dakhmaranjun.
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.
from Nayaratna, Mahamahopadhyaya M. C.
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.
to Rao, the late Sir T. Madhava.
to Rattigan, Sir William H.
from Rosebery, Earl of.
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.
from Russell, Sir W. H.
to Row, Mr. G. Symonds.
to Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.
to Sinha, Babu Brahmamunda.
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.
from Stanley, Lord, of Alderley.
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.
to Underwood, Captain T. O.
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.
to Vencataramanah, Mr. G.
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS (& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from

Abdus Subhan, Moulvi A. K. M.
Ameer Hossein, Hon'ble Nawab Syed.
Ardagh, Colonel Sir J. C.
Banerjee, Babu Maumathianath.
Banerjee, R. B. Bahadur, Shib Chunder.
Barth, M. A.
Belchambers, Mr. R.
Deb, Babu Manuabar.
Dutt, Mr. O. C.
Dutt, Babu Prosaddoss.
Elgin, Lord.
Ghose, Babu Narendra K.

Ghosh, Babu Kali Prasanna.
Graham, Mr. William.
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Lambert, Sir John.
Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.
Mitra, Mr. B. C.
Mitter, Babu Sidheshwar.
Mookerjee, Ryt Peary Mohan.
Mookerjee, Babu Surendra Nath.
Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.
Routledge, Mr. James.
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Vambéry, Professor Arminius.
Vizianagram, the Maharaja of.

POSTSCRIPT.
After paying the expenses of the publication, the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal of the family of the deceased man of letters.

Orders to be made to the Business Manager, "An Indian Journalist," at the Bee Press, 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corfi, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

For much of the biographical matter that issues so freely from the press an apology is needed. Had no biography of Dr. Mookerjee, the Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*, appeared, an explanation would have been looked for. A man of his remarkable personality, who was easily first among native Indian journalists, and in many respects occupied a higher plane than they did, and looked at public affairs from a different point of view from theirs, could not be suffered to sink into oblivion without some

attempt to perpetuate his memory by the usual expedient of a "life." The difficulties common to all biographers have in this case been increased by special circumstances, not the least of which is that the author belongs to a different race from the subject. It is true that among Englishmen there were many admirers of the learned Doctor, and that he on his side understood the English character as few foreigners understand it. But in spite of this and his remarkable assimilation of English modes of thought and expression, Dr. Mookerjee remained to the last a Brahman of the Brahmins—a conservation of the best of his inheritance that wins nothing but respect and approval. In consequence of this, his ideal biographer would have been one of his own disciples, with the same inherited sympathies, and trained like him in Western learning. If Bengal had produced such another man as Dr. Mookerjee, it was he who should have written his life.

The biography is warmly appreciative without being needlessly laudatory; it gives on the whole a complete picture of the man; and in the book there is not a dull page.

A few of the letters addressed to Dr. Mookerjee are of such minor importance that they might have been omitted with advantage, but not a word of his own letters could have been spared. To say that he writes idiomatic English is to say what is short of the truth. His diction is easy and correct, clear and straightforward, without Oriental luxuriance or striving after effect. Perhaps he is never so charming as when he is laying down the laws of literary form to young aspirants to fame. The letter on page 285, for instance, is a delightful piece of criticism; it is delicate plain-speaking, and he accomplishes the difficult feat of telling a would-be poet that his productions are not in the smallest degree poetry, without one may conclude, either offending the youth or repressing his ardour.

For much more that is well worth reading we must refer readers to the volume itself. Intrinsically it is a book worth buying and reading. —*The Pioneer*, (Allahabad) Oct. 5, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness. —*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed. —*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

The career of an eminent Bengali editor, who died in 1894, throws a curious light upon the race elements and hereditary influences which affect the criticisms of Indian journalists on British rule.

The "Life and Letters of Dr. S. C. Mookerjee," a book just edited by a distinguished civilian in Calcutta, takes us behind the scenes of Indian journalism.

It is a narrative, written with insight and a

complete mastery of the facts, of how a clever youth gradually grew into one of the ablest leader-writers in Bengal, and still more gradually matured into one of the fairest-minded editors that western education in India has yet produced. If the training and experience which develop the journalist in England are sometimes varied, they seem in India to have an even wider range.

But the object of this notice is to show how a great Bengali journalist is made; space forbids us to enter upon his actual performances. They will be found set forth at sufficient length, and with much felicity of expression, in Mr. Skrine's admirable monograph. It is characteristic of the noble service to which Mr. Skrine belongs, that such a book should have issued from its ranks. Dr. Mookerjee was no optimist. One of his brilliant speeches contained the following sentence:—"India has neither the soil nor the elasticity enjoyed by young and vigorous communities, but presents the arid rocks and deserts of an effete civilization, hardly stirred to a semblance of life by a foreign occupation dozing over its easily-gained advantages." This was true of the pre-Mutiny India of 1851. If it is no longer true of the Queen's India of 1895, we owe it in no small measure to Indian journalists like Dr. Mookerjee who have laboured, amid some misrepresentation, to quicken the "semblance of life" into a living reality. —*The Times*, (London) October 14, 1895.

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AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 739.

IN MY GARDEN.

(From the German of Leyden.)

My flowers are gently whispering,
Down in this shady nook,
And, while they murmur, angrily
Up unto me oft look—

"Why gaze ye on me, flow'rets fair,
With widely open'd eyes?
What secret tell each other, that
Ye thus express surprise?

"The little, drooping rose-bud, here
Ye on my bosom see,
Cull'd I not wantonly—this morn
My love gave it to me!"

BARONESS SWIFT.

ON A LOST KITTEN.

Alas! my tiny darling,
Though fondly you were cherished,
Yet now your fate we know not,
It may be you have perished.

Or you may still be ling'ring
Unsheltered and unfed,
Hunted by dogs and children,
Wand'ring in want and dread.

When first your home forsaking
Your loss you little knew,
Ah! still my heart is aching
My tiny pet, for you!

Daily I long to aid you
And shield from further pain,
I pray that He who made you
May guide you home again.

MARION BERNSTEIN.

—The Glasgow Herald.

WEEKLYANA.

THE trial of the unsuccessful raider Dr. Jameson and his associates is one more mighty proof of the glorious British Constitution and British Law. The proceedings so far as they have reached this country enhance our respect for the English and the English Judges. Dr. Jameson is idolized as a hero and yet he is as much subjected to the law as any ordinary subject of the sovereign without distinction of any kind. We do not therefore hesitate to make the following extracts. They are not long considering the importance of the subject:—

"Sir Edward Clarke's submissions, on the reassembling of the Court, (on July 28) resolved themselves into one only, and that had all along been expected. It was that there was no case to go to the jury, for the

reason that the acts charged against the defendants were committed on territory—Mafeking and Pitsani Pitlogo—where the Foreign Enlistment Act had not been proclaimed. And the way in which he sought to establish his point was this: The Foreign Enlistment Act, by its own machinery, requires that there shall be a proclamation in each British possession before it can become operative. The contention which Sir Richard Webster put forward in his opening for the Crown was that the Act had by proclamation become part of the law of Cape Colony in 1870, and when, in 1885, the Cape Legislature included British Bechuanaland in the Colony all its laws became applicable to the extended boundary. Sir Edward sought to get behind this proposition by a reference to the Imperial Act of 28 and 29, Vict., chap. 63, which is an 'Act to remove doubts as to the Validity of the Colonial Law.' Broadly, this statute enacts that any Act of the Legislature of a British Colony shall be null and void if it be repugnant to any Imperial Act. The Foreign Enlistment Act, Sir Edward put it, was undoubtedly imperial, and it was equally certain that it contained the provision that it should only operate in a British possession after proclamation by the Governor. The Act of the Colonial Legislature of 1885, by applying the Foreign Enlistment Act to British Bechuanaland without the proclamation required by that statute itself, did that which was repugnant to the imperial law, and, therefore, it was inoperative.

The Attorney-General (Sir Richard Webster) briefly disposed of the point as contrary to the letter, spirit, and express intention of the Foreign Enlistment Act, and he stamped as a monstrous absurdity the theory that the laws of a colony could not apply to future additions of territory that it might acquire. The acceptance of such a doctrine would be against common sense. These phrases were objected to by Sir Edward Clarke, who observed 'that common sense is that to which everybody appeals on matters which they do not understand;' and Lord Russell ironically added, 'Common sense has nothing to do with legal points.' The argument was not a long one, and the Court, apparently, found little difficulty in coming to a conclusion; for, after a very brief consultation, the Lord Chief Justice, with the concurrence of his learned brothers, decided against Sir Edward in a concise and simple judgment, which upheld the doctrine previously propounded by the Solicitor-General, that Englishmen who settle in new territory carry with them the laws of the mother country, and those laws, in so far as they are applicable to the conditions in which settlers find themselves, are the law of the land. The entire point was aptly illustrated by Lord Russell when he said that it would be as reasonable to say that the bye-laws and regulations of a borough shall not apply to the area comprised by an extension of boundary, as to say that the laws of a colony shall not be operative in territory which it may subsequently acquire and incorporate."

At Calcutta, about this time, in 1870, in what is known as the great Wahabee case, in the matters of Ameer Khan and Hashmadad Khan, the late Mr. Anstey, their counsel, had familiarized us with the safeguards provided by the British Law in favour of personal liberty and the fact that Englishmen carried with them their good laws wherever they went. They were not therefore free to act as they liked in any British colony or dependency.

The Jameson trial was resumed on July 27, with the case for the defence.

"In little more than three hours Sir Edward Clarke succeeded in placing before the jury the broad lines of his case for the defendants. Four main propositions formed the basis of his speech. The first was that the transference of the Bechuanaland Border Police to the control of the Chartered Company was carried out with the knowledge of the imperial Government under imperial officers, with no relation whatever to the raid. The second was that the body of men collected at Pitsani Pitlogo, under Dr. Jameson, Sir John Willoughby, and the two Whites, were for policing the Bechuanaland Protectorate acquired by the company. Dr. Jameson's intention was to form an encampment or headquarters there, and his operations at Pitsani Pitlogo, in pursuance of that object, had no reference whatever to an expedition into the Transvaal. The third proposition was that Mafeking was not under the dominion of the

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Queen in November 1895, and that Pitsani Pitlogo was not then, and is not now, British territory, for the reason that it was ceded to the company by Montsoa for the purposes of forming a headquarters for the police. The fourth proposition was that, right or wrong in what he did, Dr. Jameson had no guilty motive. The court was well filled but not crowded when Sir Edward Clarke began his address. His exordium was brief. He was there, he said, to represent 'four gentlemen of honour and repute, of unquestioned loyalty, and of high character, now charged with a criminal offence.' Neither in these, his opening observations, nor in those with which he closed, did Sir Edward make any appeal on behalf of the defendants for sympathy, for that, he declared, would be 'unworthy of him and of them.' Some emotion was shown when, turning to Dr. Jameson, sitting immediately below him, he referred to the fact that his client had expressed his readiness to accept entire responsibility for the events that had led to the present proceedings. That attitude had been resented, apparently by the other defendants, or, at all events, it had hurt their feelings, for they desired to share equally with Dr. Jameson the responsibility for their acts. But Sir Edward, while appreciating their generous motives, was compelled to draw a distinction between the case affecting Colonel Grey and Major Coventry and that concerning Dr. Jameson and the other three officers.

Had a guilty intention been proved? To find that in the affirmative, the jury would have to say that the expedition was directed against the government of a friendly State. But the evidence contradicted that conclusion. From beginning to end, Dr. Jameson had no other motive, and had acted in a way to show that he had no other motive, than to succour the people of Johannesburg, and to protect the women and children there. Treating as irrelevant to the issue all that occurred on the march, except such incidents as went to show that Dr. Jameson did not molest the Boers, and had no intention of molesting them, Sir Edward directed his observations to the evidence of motive. And here the letter to Dr. Jameson, signed by members of the Reform Committee, was again brought under notice. The Boer Police had been withdrawn from Johannesburg, and the witness Tossel had told them that there were some first-class desperadoes in the town. Women and children were being sent away, and the alarm was great and real. Dr. Jameson, when he started on his march, honestly thought that women and children were in peril. The evidence was clear that he believed a massacre was feared; and they could not forget his expressions of surprise to the cyclist Rowland, who met the column with despatches from the Reform Committee, that there had been no fighting at Johannesburg. It was impossible that all these things could be a sham. On the legal point he claimed that the expedition, hostile or otherwise, was not fitted out at places where the Foreign Enlistment Act had been proclaimed; and, on the facts, his case was that the column started, even if in mistake, with the honourable, humane, and noble object of relieving fellow men, women and children, believed to be in imminent peril. What if Dr. Jameson and his brother officers had not crossed the frontier? What if there had occurred the massacre that was feared? What if, when help was needed, none had been forthcoming, though it was known that there was, within 150 miles, a force of experienced British troops that could have averted the catastrophe? Dr. Jameson had started on an errand than which there could not be one of greater humanity, and it was that, and no other motive, as shown by all the evidence, which had prompted his starting on a Sunday night to the help of the people of Johannesburg. Had he and his friends stood passively by during a massacre—and what assurance had the defendants, with the information then in their possession, that one would not occur?—then the consequences to them before the world would have been infinitely worse than anything which could now befall them."

Next day, July 28, Lord Russell, the Lord Chief Justice, began his summing-up. He began

"with great impressiveness, and early let it be understood that the responsibility thrown upon the judges was, from the peculiarity of this case and the important points of law to be decided, as great, if not greater, than that which fell upon the jury. It was a criminal case involving a serious charge, and if the law had been violated the law must be vindicated. The consequences of most crimes were immediate and limited, but the results of such acts as those charged against Dr. Jameson and the other defendants none could foresee. Still, whatever the nature of the offence, if the jury had a doubt of its being properly proved, the accused were entitled to the benefit of it; but it must be a real doubt, not one conjured up. This observation Lord Russell applied to a consideration of the facts only, and the jury were informed that, on the law, it was their duty, and not a matter within their discretion or grace, to give effect to the Court's direction. For the judges' law, for the jury facts; this was the broad distinction laid down. The judge did not, at the outset, refer to the evidence more than was necessary to a complete explanation of the legal aspect of the case; but he did incidentally comment upon the remarkable circumstance that the facts had not been contested, and that no attempt had been made to gainsay the statements of the witnesses.

Having cleared the ground so far, Lord Russell first described the persons indicted, and next the nature of the charge brought against them. The defendants were servants of the Crown, in positions of trust, and acquainted with the law. The charge against them was that they were parties to the preparation, in the Queen's dominions, of a military expedition to proceed against a friendly State—the South African Republic. That was an offence within the meaning of the Foreign Enlistment Act, which applies both to a state of war and of peace. In peace it is a primary duty of the State to respect the independent sovereignty of other States. If the inviolability of one State be attacked under the authority of another, that is an act of war. Raising his voice, and with great solemnity of manner, Lord Russell here delivered, with the concurrence of his brother judges, the specific direction of law, that Dr. Jameson's expedition was not the less an expedition against the dominions of a friendly State, in that

it was not aimed at overturning the Government of the South African Republic, or was promoted for philanthropic or humane motives, or, again, was intended only to secure a reform of the Boer law. If the expedition was designed to enter the Transvaal with the intention, either by show of force, or by actual force, to interfere with the constituted authority of the Republic, with a view to procuring a reform of the law, it would be an expedition against a friendly State. If these things were done by authority of the Queen, or of any other Sovereign, it would be an act of war. If they were done by an unauthorised subject of the Queen—here the judge, by way of emphasising his words, struck the desk before him—then they would constitute an illegal and filibustering raid, within the meaning of the Act. A pause occurred after this declaration, addressed as much to the general public as to the jury. It was right, Lord Russell said, that he should state distinctly and emphatically the law on this matter. 'If,' he added, 'it makes our responsibility greater, it makes the jury's less.' Passing from the legal rules bearing upon the case, the judge proceeded to consider the legal points. Into these it is unnecessary to follow him, save to record the results of his examination of the official documents. The Conventions of 1881 and 1884 were taken as establishing the South African Republic a friendly State; Mafeking was held to be within the Queen's dominions; and in the territory where Pitsani is situate the evidence was accepted as showing that we had exercised repeated acts of sovereignty there. But with regard to Pitsani, where Dr. Jameson encamped his men, the judge left to the jury the two questions, whether the place was within the dominions of the Queen, and whether the Foreign Enlistment Act was in operation there by proclamation in November and December 1895. It is a primary condition of an offence under the Act that the preparation and fitting out of an expedition against a friendly State must take place 'within the Queen's dominions', without her licence. If that be not proved, the case fails. But if a subject of the Queen, from Paris or Berlin, or some place outside her Majesty's dominions, gives his aid and counsel in the preparation and fitting out of an expedition within her dominions, he is just as guilty of an offence under the Act as though he had committed it in his own country. What would occur to an alien who assisted the fitting out of an expedition in our dominions was not discussed, as none of the defendants are foreigners. From Lord Russell's authoritative construction of the Act, it was clear that, whether Pitsani be or be not within the Queen's dominions, Dr. Jameson and his friends could not escape on the legal contention of their counsel, and that their cause must lie with the jury.

The afternoon was devoted to a consideration of the evidence, to see how far it supported the Crown's description of the expedition—that it was military, and that it was directed against the Government of the South African Republic. Though the Lord Chief Justice dealt with only the salient portions of the mass of testimony, yet the winnowing process was long and tedious. Special attention was directed to the fact that the witnesses on behalf of the Republic had given their evidence without restraint and in a straightforward manner; and with this observation may be associated another of an inferential nature made by the judge earlier in the day—that the defendants, among others, were, after the raid, made prisoners. In many countries they would have been dealt with very speedily, but they were here, to be tried by the laws of their country. 'On another branch of the evidence, relating to the demands for reform by the people of the Johannesburg, the question was put to the jury—Why, if they were legitimate, were those demands addressed to the Administrator of the Chartered Company, instead of to the High Commissioner, Sir Jacobus de Wet, the Governor of Cape Colony, or even to her Majesty's Government? The facts of the case pointed obviously to two things—that Dr. Jameson and those with him were misinformed as to the attitude, tone, and temper of the people in Johannesburg, and that they expected a rising of 2,000 men—the adults coming on.' Dr. Jameson started on his march, and, though he held the Queen's Commission, and was Administrator under the Chartered Company, yet he persevered with his expedition, despite the messages he received from the Queen's representatives."

At twenty minutes past four o'clock the jury received from the judge a series of questions which had application both to Mafeking and to Pitsani Pitlogo:—

"Were the accused, or any of them, engaged in the preparation of a military expedition? Did the defendants, or any of them, 'assist, aid, abet, counsel, or procure,' in its preparation? Were they, or any of them, employed in any capacity in the expedition? Had her Majesty's representatives exercised dominion and sovereignty in the Pitsani Pitlogo District? The foreman having received 'the paper on which these questions were written, inquired whether, if they did not answer them, the alternative would be a verdict of Guilty or Not Guilty. Lord Russell informed them that such would undoubtedly be the alternative, but their failure to give replies would attach to them a certain amount of responsibility, and there was no adequate reason why they should not return answers. With that intimation the jury retired, and were away about an hour. On their return, they answered all the questions in the affirmative, amid a stillness which denoted the strain of great and suppressed excitement, though not the slightest feeling was manifested when at length it was known that the answers given amounted, according to Lord Russell, to a verdict of guilty against all the defendants. But a curious turn was given to events when the foreman stated that the jury, though they had answered the questions categorically, were not absolutely agreed upon a verdict of Guilty or Not Guilty. The judge described that as an unhappy state of things, and, as the answers of the jury were capable of no other construction, he directed them to find a verdict against the defendants. There was a further brief period of suspense, during which the jurymen again consulted, but eventually all doubt was set at rest by their returning a verdict of Guilty.

Thereupon, Sir Edward Clarke moved for an arrest of judgment, but after considerable discussion, the defendants themselves, through their counsel, intervened with a request that sentence should be passed upon

them without delay. The Lord Chief Justice, speaking amid the same remarkable quietude that had all along prevailed, then passed sentence. In brief words he adverted to the position of the defendants, and declared that they had been convicted on evidence which could not be doubted by any man who honestly applied his mind to the facts. The actual sentences were heard in perfect silence, and without the slightest sign of comment as they were delivered:—Dr. Jameson, fifteen months' imprisonment; Sir John Willoughby, ten months; Major White, seven months; and Colonel Grey, Colonel White, and Major Coventry, five months, all without hard labour."

The hesitation of the jury was in keeping with the popularity of the prisoners. The authoritative stern but impartial rebuke of the Chief Justice prevented a perverse verdict. The prisoners being convinced that they had committed a wrong though in what they believed a good cause, and their conduct being approved by their country, they offered themselves to accept the sentence of the Court without further enquiry. The submission has been rewarded. They are being treated as first class misdemeanants.

THE Lord Chief Justice of England was besieged with applications from ladies anxious to be present at the trial of Dr. Jameson. Lord Russell determined not to countenance the practice of his predecessor, Lord Coleridge, who on such memorable occasions would accommodate ladies with seats on the bench. It is interesting to note that this is the first trial at Bar in a criminal case since the trial of the Tichborne claimant, in 1873-74.

ONE of the dangers in mining industry, especially in coal mines, is the collapse of the upper strata. On the night of the 19th of July 1895, there was such an accident in the city of Brux, Bohemia, Austria. The ceiling of the mine cavity below gave way, and just above it there was a large layer of quicksand which found crevices for going down. The ground began to settle carrying the houses along with it till the following morning. The subsidence began at the east of the city and proceeded towards the west. It was an awful night with storm and rain, and darkness (due to the collapse of gas pipes) the lightning rendering the hideous scenes visible. Families running half-naked from their houses and people frightened by the panic flying from peril, without knowing where to find safety, were, unconscious of the distorted streets, hurried into muddy crevices.

IN Algiers, the French possession in north Africa, they have discovered important Roman ruins, viz., at Thamagadi (Timgad), Mascula (Khen Schela), and Lambaesis (Lambessa). These ruins can be reached by railway from Constantine to Batna. Thamagadi is 23 miles farther inland and wagons are available from Batna to those places close to each other on the border of the Sahara desert. The ruins have Roman characteristics like Pompei with this difference that the African cities have covered walks in almost all the principal streets for protection from the tropical sun. Recently they have destroyed some of the buildings in Thamagadi for the erection of a penitentiary. In Lambessa a pretorium still exists.

THE mad man's unsuccessful attempt on the life of President Faure has revived the memories of such attacks on royalty. Our own good Queen and Empress was aimed at 5 times, namely, on March 2, 1882; May 19, 1849; July 3, 1842; May 30, 1842; and June 10, 1840. William I of Germany and Napoleon III of France had each three escapes; Napoleon I one; Louis Philippe six; Isabella II of Spain three; Humbert I of Italy one; George IV when regent one; George III two; Francis Joseph of Austria one; Amadeus of Spain one; Alfonso XII of Spain two; Alexander III of Russia many.

IN the Queen's Bench, *Singh vs. Attenborough* has been decided against the defendant. This was an action by the executors of the late Maharaja Duleep Singh, including Prince Victor, one of his sons, to recover from Messrs. Attenborough, pawn brokers, certain jewels of the value of £3,000. It was alleged for the plaintiff that Mr. Llewellyn Wynne, Solicitor, of Lincoln's Inn, had pledged the jewels without authority, while the defence contended that there was a holding out to Wynne by Prince Victor as his agent. Mr. Justice Day held that there was no authority, expressed or implied, to pledge the jewels, and accordingly gave judgment for return to the plaintiffs of the valuables with cost.

IMPROVING upon the present pattern, the Austrians have produced the lightest rifle retaining with its lightness sufficient resisting power to fire the same ammunition. It is a Mannlicher repeater of about 7 lbs. 4 oz. in weight, and of considerably increased accuracy.

INSTEAD of military manoeuvres on a large scale in England this year, it is proposed to send out a number of officers to Egypt to join the Sirdar's expedition for a month or two to gain experience.

THE *Army and Navy Gazette*, of July 18, raises and answers the question "What is a small war?" thus:—

"What is a small war? Hitherto the term, though commonly used, has not been clearly defined. The question is now answered in what must be accepted as official language. The definition is: 'A war carried on between a civilised, a properly organised, and an uncivilised army.' Of such campaigns we have had our fair share. Captain Callwell, the author of the work, upon the appearance of which we commented last week, goes, however, farther, for he classes the late campaign against China and Japan as a 'small war.' The consequences, it is true, were most serious to one of the belligerents, but it was a war, as it is laid down, 'conducted on land, at least, between a highly trained, armed, organised, and disciplined army on one side, and by forces on the other side which, though numerically formidable, could not possibly be described as regular troops in the proper sense of the word.' When terms are used in general conversation it is as well to know what they really mean. There can now be no doubt on a point which has been often discussed but never hitherto satisfactorily explained. As Captain Callwell's verdict is given with the authority of the Department of Military Intelligence we are bound to accept it, and in future those who have taken part in military operations against an indifferently organised enemy will have no cause to feel slighted if the war in which perhaps they may have earned distinction is said to have been a small military enterprise. It is called small because the two sides have not been equal from the standpoint of military science, training, and equipment. Thus we owe to the Intelligence Department a debt of gratitude for having defined on a reasonable basis the distinction to be drawn between a 'small' and a 'large' war. Numbers do not count; issues, however important, must be put out of the reckoning also. It is a matter of the equal fitness of both sides to carry out operations according to the scientific principles which obtain in the armies of civilised states. The 'little Japs' certainly have no reason to cavil at the judgment of the British War Office, though others may reasonably be expected to enter a protest. But in a purely British sense the Director of Military Intelligence cannot very well be blamed for making it known to our Army what in the opinion of his able staff is warfare of the first rank. The language of the author, writing of course with the full sanction of his military superiors—for the volume bears the word 'official' on its title page—is clear and distinct. 'Whenever,' it is said, 'a regular army finds itself engaged upon hostilities against irregular forces, or forces which in their armament, their organisation, and their discipline are palpably inferior to it, the conditions of the campaign become distinct from the conditions of modern regular warfare.' And so it is argued that the campaign in India in 1857-59, that in Afghanistan in 1878-80, and that in Egypt in 1882 were small wars, because, great as the difficulties were, the sides were unequally matched."

SPEAKING of the Cretans, the same journal says:—

"The Apostle Paul, quoting an unknown Cretan prophet, gives a bad character of the Cretans to Titus: 'The Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.' That was 1,836 years ago. If the impartial and unprejudiced traveller who records his impressions of the inhabitants of the island to-day is to be credited, the Cretans of the present time excel the ancients, especially when they sign petitions. The Turks at all events regard them as 'evil beasts,' who tell lies and commit murders with the utmost relish. Correspondents at Athens spread the figments they hear there over the globe. If a Turkish man-of-war opens fire on a Christian (Heaven save the mark!) village whence a gang of assassins issued to murder a boat's crew of Turks who had landed to lay hold of scoundrels who had fired on and killed one of them, all Europe is horrified by stories of wholesale massacres of innocent people and bombardments of open towns and harmless hamlets! If the apostles of the grand idea did not come among them, and if political agitators from Greece would leave the Cretan Christians to themselves, these sanguinary excesses which are supposed to be outbursts of patriotic fury, would not be heard of, for they are not spontaneous, and the Turks would have no pretence or justification for savage repression and revengeful excesses."

In Christian Europe, the Turk has been always more sinned against than sinning.

A SUIT has been filed for partition of the Vallur Zemindary, in the Kistna district, Madras Presidency. The Zemindar opposes the claim of his brother for half of the property on two grounds; first, that the Zemindary is impartible and that even if the plaintiff were entitled to a share, he is precluded from claiming it, because physically incapable of begetting heirs to the property.

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NOTES & LEADERETTES,
OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

PARLIAMENT was prorogued on Aug. 14.

The Queen in her Speech says :—"My relations with foreign Powers continue to be friendly. The hostile movements of Dervishes on the Nile and against the Italian positions in Abyssinia convinced me that it was necessary that the Egyptian Government should arrest their advance, and by my advice and sanction an expedition was undertaken to restore to Egypt her lost territory as far as Dongola. A considerable portion has already been recovered by the short but brilliant action fought at Firket. The condition of some portions of Turkey, and especially Crete, continues to cause me much anxiety, and, while observing a strict neutrality, I have endeavoured, conjointly with the Powers, to effect a reconciliation by proposing to establish a system of government acceptable alike to Christians and Musalmans." The Queen then trusts that the Matabeles will accept her clemency and refers to the delimitation agreements with the Amir and the Shah, and adds that friendly relations are maintained with the tribes on the road to Chitral. The Speech closes with reciting the different Bills passed during the Session.

DR. Nansen, the explorer, and one companion were conveyed to Norway in the steamer *Windward*, belonging to the Harmsworth expedition, which found them in Franzjosef land. They had left the *Fram* embedded in ice in latitude 86 degrees. The crew were all well. Dr. Nansen expects the *Fram* to drift to Spitzbergen in safety. The steamer has returned to Skjervo. She had reached as far as latitude 85°.

AT the banquet which followed the installation of Lord Salisbury as Warden of the Cinque Ports, he made a speech in which he said that there existed in the eastern extremity a source of danger which threatened the security of the whole of Europe; but although he had warned Turkey of her eventual punishment, it in no wise pledged Great Britain to go to war to execute that punishment. He said he earnestly hoped that the Powers would be enabled to abate the danger while there was yet time.

THE report that President Kruger had concluded a treaty with a European Power is officially denied at Pretoria.

ZILMI Pasha, in receiving the Cretan deputies, stated that some of their demands would infringe the rights of the Sultan, and he desired them to amend them. A body of Greek Volunteers with artillery having landed near Canadia, the Porte has informed the foreign Ambassadors that, unless that landing is stopped, its relations with Greece will be severely strained.

THE betrothal of the Prince of Naples to the Princess Helen of Montenegro is announced.

THE Emperor William's yacht *Meteor*, while racing off Southsea, collided with the yacht *Isolde*, smashing her mainmast and killing her owner, Baron Zedwiz.

MR. Cecil Rhodes is at the Matoppo Hills parleying with the rebels, of whom some are peaceably inclined while the others are defiant.

THE Russian press unanimously accuse Great Britain of fomenting trouble in Crete to divert the attention of Europe.

THE present fall in silver is ascribed to American dealers unloading heavy stocks, because they have abandoned all hope of Mr. Bryan's succeeding in the contest for the Presidency.

THERE has been serious insubordination in the detachment of the 7th Hussars stationed at Mafeking. The men became refractory and refused to turn out on parade for saddlery inspection. Five have been

sentenced to three years' imprisonment, and thirty others have been sent to Maritzburg to be punished for minor offences.

Two Native papers in Egypt have been suppressed owing to shameless attacks made on the Queen of England.

THE Persian Consul General at Bombay has received a telegram from the Persian Prime Minister, stating that the murderer of the late Shah has been executed, and that mourning has ceased.

CALCUTTA is preparing for the Congress to be held during Christmas week in this city. At a meeting held at the British Indian Association rooms, presided over by Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, the Reception Committee was formed and the office-bearers chosen. Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter has been elected Chairman of the Committee, and Messrs. J. Ghosal, K. S. Bonnerjee, Bhupendranath Bose (Calcutta), the Hon'ble Mr. Guruprasad Sen (Dacca and Behar), Babu Binkint Nath Sen (Berhampore), Babu Ambica Churn Mazumdar (Faridpur), Joint Secretaries, and Raja Benoy Krishna, treasurer. The meeting also decided to ask the Hon'ble Mr. R. M. Syani, advocate, Bombay High Court, to preside at the National Assembly. A meeting of the Reception Committee was announced for last evening to appoint an Executive Committee.

THE Trustees have notified that the Gilchrist scholarships will be withdrawn after the present year, after six years.

THE Society for the Higher Training of Young Men has changed its name into the Calcutta University Institute. Has there been any change in its constitution or the Government patronage?

THE fourth Criminal Sessions of the Calcutta High Court for the current year will commence on Wednesday, the 26th day of August, Mr. Justice Rampini presiding. Mr. Justice Ameer Ali has been allowed to hold Original Courts, but he has not yet been selected for the Sessions. He is, we believe, under a pledge not to claim all the rights of a Barrister Judge. The Sessions are once more open to Civilian Judges. Native Judges in Calcutta have yet to earn the distinction of presiding at the Sessions.

THE Report of the Protector of Immigrants of the Colony of Natal for the half year ending December 31, 1895, is a collection of births, diseases and deaths. The protector is Mr. L. H. Mason. During the period three vessels arrived with 982 souls, of whom 598 were men, 238 women, 70 boys including a college student, and 76 girls, from Madras. 978 persons embarked. During the voyage, there were four births—2 boys and 2 girls, but no deaths. This is satisfactory, so far as the transit was concerned. 349 persons returned to India, 149 to Madras and 200 to Calcutta. For Madras there were 88 men, 32 women, 13 boys and 16 girls. For Calcutta, 110 men, 37 women, 24 boys and 29 girls. Before leaving the colony they declared their savings to be :—

Cash	£ 4,828	Madras people	£ 3,484
Jewellery	£ 1,294	Calcutta	£ 2,638
	£ 6,122		£ 6,122

Thus the Madrasis, though numbering less, were more industrious than the Calcutta people.

Natal is divided into Durban, Alexandra, Pietermaritzburg, Victoria, Umvoti, Weenen and Klip River counties. The largest number of deaths occurred in the Durban county, namely, of 54 men, 32 women, 49 boys and 33 girls; in the Victorian county 56 men, 27 women, 45 boys, and 32 girls laid their bones. In the other counties the deaths were comparatively small. The largest number of deaths in all the counties was due to lung affections.

The total Indian population in the Natal were as follows :—

	Men	Women	Children	Total
Free Indians	13,096	6,394	12,298	31,788
Indentured Indians	8,828	3,671	2,512	15,011
	21,924	10,065	14,810	46,799

The birth-rate was nearly double to that of the death-rate during the last two years. Marriages were also on the increase.

RAI Bhagwan Dass Bogla Bahadur, the prince of Hindu timber merchants and jewellers, died about a year ago, bequeathing by his will large sums of money in private and public charities. We read in the *Statesman* that, among other bequests, a sum of four lakhs of Rupees has been directed to be spent on a hospital for the benefit exclusively of Hindus, one lakh being for the building and the site, and three lakhs for the maintenance of the institution. Considering how the poor but respectable classes in this country refuse to avail themselves of the benefits of a public hospital, the project of an infirmary with especial arrangements in view of the requirements of caste, should not be regarded as evidencing an absence of catholicity in the donor. The widow, and the son, Lachminarayan, a promising young man of about 19 years of age, have recently come from Bikaner to Calcutta for seeing the directions in the will duly complied with. Amongst the executors is Rai Sewbux Bogla Bahadur, brother of the deceased, whose charities also have already been on a large scale, the Dharamsala at Howrah, with its roomy building and excellent arrangements, being one of them. *Hope* mentions the case of a poor but respectable Brahman, a near kinsman of the late Hurish Chunder Mookerjee, having been made houseless in execution of a decree obtained against him for a small sum of money by the late Bhagwan Dass. The deceased had desired to excuse the debt, but as his agents had received no express instructions, they were obliged to enforce the decree in a manner that betokened considerable harshness. We, like our contemporary, shall be glad if the executors could see their way to re-establish the poor Brahman, for the sake of his great kinsman, in his old and only home.

To his many honours and distinctions, Rai Bahadur Kunye Lal Day has added, from the *Empress*, another certificate to crown them all to the surprise of his friends and those who know him. It runs thus:—

"The Doctor has read widely of the literature of the day: he loves knowledge for its own sake, and he has written, during the years that have passed under review until the present time (1831 when he was born and August 1, 1896, when he figures in the journal), numerous papers which have appeared in the medical journals on the subject of indigenous drugs and on toxicological and therapeutical topics, while he has contributed some enlightened writings towards the reform of Hindu sociology. He is deeply religious and, though a staunch adherent of the Brahminical faith, is not conservative: he has a fine conception of true religion in its highest and most practical ideals. His dignified bearing, courteous and gentlemanly demeanour, begotten of his long-continued intimate intercourse with men of eminence in official and professional circles, his perfect command of the English language, allied to the subtle perception innate to the Bengali, and his sterling integrity of character, are distinguishing personal characteristics which have won for him the respect and esteem of his many friends—European and Indian."

We are reminded of the words of the late Babu Mahendranath Bhattacharya of the subordinate executive service, President of the College of Pandits, Nadia, author of several Bengali books. While noticing the Rai Bahadur's Bengali book on Chemistry, *Rasdyana*, the late Pandit remarked to this effect: the book professes to be written in the Bengali language, and the greater part of it is certainly printed in Bengali characters. The language is, however, neither Bengali nor English. It is a compound of two atoms of English and one atom of Bengali. As H_2O represents the chemical combination of water, so the formula E_2B may be taken to represent the language in which Babu Kunye Lal's chemistry is written. The Pandit evidently meant more than he expressed and would probably have symbolised the writer by CO_2 if not H_2S . If the Rai Bahadur made himself meaningless or unintelligible, or were fume and gas in which he largely deals, the rage of the hour, sanctioned by a self-constituted directing authority, of constructing Bengali words for chemical elements and compounds, is the height of absurdity.

THE *Calcutta Gazette*, of August 19, publishes a Resolution reviewing the works of public utility constructed during the year 1895 from private contributions. It is intended to be substituted for the one published in the *Gazette* of the 22nd July. In the substituting Resolution a lakh of rupees disappears under the head of roads during the year 1895, and the sum for works costing Rs. 500 each and upwards during the year 1894 is increased from Rs. 2,35,677-3 to Rs. 2,67,177-3. A partial explanation is to be found in the alteration in the closing order. The old ran thus:

"The total amount contributed for works of public utility during the

year 1895, shows a marked increase over the figures of the two previous years. This increased display of public spirit and liberality on the part of those who have helped to contribute towards these works is viewed by the Lieutenant-Governor with much satisfaction, and in conveying his acknowledgments His Honour desires to bring to notice the liberal contributions of Rs. 1,00,000 and Rs. 23,658 given, respectively, by Babu Jogendra Chandra Basu and the late Dr. Bhola-nath Bose."

The new order is:—

"The total amount contributed for works of public utility during the year 1895 shows but little increase over the figures for the previous year, and is still below the amount contributed in 1893. The Lieutenant-Governor desires that the thanks of the Government may be conveyed to those who have displayed their liberality and public spirit."

We are tempted to enquire whether formal letters of acknowledgment, as ordered in the Resolutions, were forwarded from the Bengal Secretariat "to those, or their representatives, who have constructed works costing Rs. 500 each and upwards," and, if so, whether they have been withdrawn from the so-called donors of Rs. 1,00,000 and Rs. 23,658? The lakh of rupees, it was said, was contributed for a *pucker* metalled road from Khulsini to Bhola in Singoor, about 12 miles, in the district of Hooghly. Has the road been constructed or does the lakh of rupees remain unpaid? Or, is the whole affair a fleeting shadow? We understand from the *Indian Mirror*, of August 21, that a representation went up to Government, there being no donation of the lakh of rupees. How came then Mr. Glass's department to "pass" the lakh of rupees, compromising the head of the Local Government? Perhaps, to the D. P. W., which sinks lakhs in every year, a lakh, once at a time, is a trifle. The only consolation to Sir Alexander Mackenzie is, if that be any, that the sham donation has not carried away a Rajaship. There are instances of donations of Rs. 500 swelled by inferior newspapers to Rs. 5,000 when made by a Raja aspiring to be a Maharaja, and of an intention to contribute converted into a reality. The lakh incident is the first of its kind, so far as we can remember, in which the Government has been positively befooled.

THE meeting at the Dalhousie Institute, on Wednesday, in honour of the retiring Chief Justice, Sir W. Comer Petheram, was presided over by Maharaja Narendra Krishna, President of the British Indian Association. Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore moved the first resolution recording the meeting's high appreciation of the manner in which the Chief Justice has discharged his duties and regret at his departure. The resolution was seconded by Mr. P. Playfair, President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and supported by Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee. The second resolution, proposed by Maharaja Durga Charan Law, seconded by Dr. Rashbehary Ghosh and supported by Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose, decided upon an Evening Party and an Address. The next speakers were Khan Bahadur Abdul Jubbar, Baboo Ganes Chunder Chunder and Mr. W. H. Ryland. Mr. T. W. Spink, Babu Joygobind Law and Saligram Sing, Prince Bokhtyar Shah and Mr. H. M. Rustonjee also took part. Thus almost all sections and professions were represented. Notwithstanding the early adhesion of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee to the movement, the meeting was limited to friends and admirers. It was agreed upon at the preliminary conference to call a public meeting through the sheriff. The omissions, however, will be made up largely by private entertainments. Khan Bahadur Mahomed Yusoff gives an Evening Party on Friday next, the 28th of August, to meet Sir Comer Petheram. The Calcutta Bar treats him to a dinner, at the Dalhousie Institute, on the 29th. There will also be an Afternoon Party at Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore's next month.

BABOO Monmath Nath Bose writes under date Cuttack, the 17th August:—

"The extraordinary heavy rain of this year has nearly washed away the whole of the Orissa Division from Balasore to Pooree. The rising of the rivers Subarnarekha, Butarani, Bhramani and Mahanadi, one after another, with their tributaries Siliindee, Katjary and Bolongna, has caused a general panic throughout the Division. All the paddy lands except the higher ones have been submerged and there is very little hope of getting any crops this year. The steamer communication between Bhadrak and Cuttack, a distance of 65 miles, was stopped for a period of 9 days. The oldest men of the locality do not remember such a flood, but the Engineering Department asserts that the present flood is less than 3 inches in height than the greatest flood on record. That flood lasted only 3 days whereas the present is continuing for a period of 17 days. The

velocity of the river Mahanady is such that wild elephants, bulls, cows and buffaloes have been carried away from their jungle homes and in Cuttack they have caught an elephant, 120 cows and some buffaloes. Cuttack has been saved by cutting the embankment of the river Katjury.

Homesteads of the poor together with their cattle have been washed away and they are now wandering from one place to another (like the ancient Jews) to find a shelter. The Zemindars are doing their best to save the raiyets and advancing them rice from their *Golas*; but that is not sufficient to keep them up in this time of distress.

Ancoora, a Pargana in the District of Balasore, is on both sides of the river Gomai, a tributary of the Baitarani. Its drainage has been obstructed by the coast canal, hence the accumulation of water on both sides of the canal from 10 to 12 feet in height submerging an area of 2,500 acres of land. The manager of the Mullicks' estate represented the matter to the Sub-Divisional Officer of Bhadrak, Babu Sriram Chander Bose, who sent the report to the higher authority for prompt measures by cutting a portion of the *Nona Bund* so as to make a passage for the water. But I am sorry to say that up to this time no steps have been taken.

A couple of days before the flood was subsiding, from yesterday the rivers are rising again."

At the Egmore Police Court, Madras, one Mylaikandasamy Chetty, was, for sending in a false return to the Income Tax Collector, sentenced, by Mr. W. E. Clarke, to a fine of Rs. 80. In passing his order, the Magistrate is reported to have remarked that although the accused might not have kept accounts, as was contended on his behalf in mitigation of punishment, yet he must have known what his income was. The accused had given just one half of his real income and it appeared to the court that his action was wilful and done with intent to defraud the Government. To the literate, not to say of such who do not, because cannot keep accounts, the Income-Tax Act is not so clear as the words of the Egmore Magistrate would make it. It has been complicated by the various rulings and orders of Government passed from time to time since the tax was first introduced by Mr. Wilson after the mutinies. Nor are all these orders always available to the public. Mr. Grimley's Manual was published in 1886, the year of the present Income Tax Act, II of 1886. It does not embody the orders made since the passing of the Act and those orders are not gazetted. The Act requires a petition of objection or for revision of assessment to specify the taxable income to a pie. This petition as also the return of income is to be accompanied by a declaration saying that what is stated therein "is true to the best of my information and belief." When you do not know what deductions are allowed, you cannot possibly make a correct return or state what your income is for the purposes of the Act. A false declaration, again, is punishable as an offence under section 177 of the Indian Penal Code.

Here is a difficulty for the scrupulous. He is not sure how the income is to be calculated and he hesitates to subscribe to the declaration. But whether he believes the return or the amount of the income stated by him to be true or not, he must make the declaration to be in accordance with the law, or to receive a hearing. In ignorance he may be led to make an over estimate, which, equally with an under estimate, is false and therefore punishable. It may not be to the interest of Government to prosecute him when there is an offer of excess payment. For an unlawful gain it may overlook a conscientious falsehood. But he is as much guilty of a false declaration as if he had given a false estimate to defraud Government. Government itself is an abettor of the offence, when knowing that the return is not correct, as giving more than it ought, it accepts the document as correct for a little gain. It is as much bound, we should think, to make the necessary deductions and allow their benefit to him, as to refuse a return when made to escape full payment.

We will here once more point out that the Calcutta Income-Tax Office knowingly recovers from residential house owners more than they ought to pay under the Act. That law says that "where a building is occupied by its owner, it shall be deemed a source of income within the meaning of this Act, and, if liable to be assessed under this Act, shall be assessed at five-sixths of the gross annual rent at which it may reasonably be expected to let, and, in the case of a dwelling-house, may be expected to let unfurnished." The Income-Tax Office itself makes no assessment but accepts that of the Municipal Office and charges the tax on that valuation. The principle of the Municipal Act is very different. It does not proceed on the letting value but on the valuation of the land and the present cost of construction of the building, which both swell the assessment to much more than the letting value. The Income-Tax Office has not only no organiza-

tion of its own for valuation of houses, but finds it profitable to accept the Municipal assessment of dwelling houses. This is clearly beyond the law and is there no remedy for the exaction?

RECENTLY (R. & R. Aug. 8) we alluded to the capital sentence passed by Mr. Gill, the Sessions Judge of Cawnpore, on 13 persons forming an unlawful assembly for a riot in which two men were killed. Here are the facts:

Twenty-five years back, one Palip Singh had, on a usufructuary mortgage of a field and bagh, received from one Gokul Singh Rs. 20. But there was no possession of the lands and Palip redeemed the mortgage by payment of Rs. 30, and got back the deed. When in June last, he applied for mutation of names, Gokul threw obstacles in the way; he was so obstructive that a warrant had to be issued for his appearance. The day fixed was the 25th June. On the 18th June, Palip and his son Har Pershad were killed and grandson, Jabar Singh, grievously wounded. Believing that the land was his and waiting long in vain for registration of his name in the Government books, Palip had gone to plough the field. Gokul, an old man, aware of the fact, went there also, it is said, for dissuading Palip from ploughing. According to the evidence, Gokul told Palip not to plough the field until he had redeemed the mortgage. On Palip replying that he had paid back the mortgage debt, there was a fight of words between the two. From words they came to blows. The Judge says it may be true that Gokul struck the first blow. Palip hit Gokul with his *lathi* and knocked him down. Gokul was accompanied by his two sons Pershad and Har Pershad and Pershad's son Jabar. With Palip Singh were all the other 12 accused and a man named Pitam Ahir who had not been sent up. The Judge finds that when Palip knocked Gokul down the accused had surrounded him in his relations, and furiously attacked them with lathis, that Gokul, Har Pershad and Jabar were speedily stretched on the ground, and Pershad only escaped by flight. The thirteen accused then made off. When they had left the field Pershad went back and found Gokul, Har Pershad and Jabar Singh senseless. The bodies were brought into the village. After an hour or two Gokul and Har Pershad expired. At the trial, the accused were represented by two muktears.

The assessors unanimously considered it proved that all the accused were present and that they had assembled there in order that if Gokul came to interfere with the ploughing they might resist him by force and they disbelieved the *alibi* set up by two of the accused. Concurring with the assessors, the Judge found all the accused guilty of rioting, of rioting when armed with deadly weapons, of being members of an unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object, to which unlawful assembly Gokul and Har Pershad were murdered, and, therefore, guilty of culpable homicide amounting to murder. Mr. Gill remarks: "The matter at issue between Gokul and Palip was of a very trifling nature and the dispute could have been easily settled in a court of law or by the friendly intervention of the leaders in the village." Palip taking the law into his own hands must suffer the extreme punishment of the law. The other accused, according to the Judge, were more guilty than Palip, for "most of them had absolutely no concern in the dispute and not the faintest excuse for their lawless violence."

He would not, merciful Judge, sentence them to any higher punishment than death by hanging. The accused must be fortunate indeed that for so many crimes they suffer only one punishment. And when they are hanged by the neck they will bless the Judge with their lips for his impartiality in making no distinction between them, and die with a prayer for Gill Justice and the Law of the Indian Penal Code.

It is to be noted that one of the 13 had lost the use of his left arm and leg and another could not wield a *lathi* with his right hand. But one of them was Palip's brother and both were old men, which fact, according to the thinking of the Judge, aggravated their offence, and they were murderers, for they did not prevent the younger men from taking part in the quarrel which resulted in two deaths. It was remarked by the late Hurriah Chunder Mookerjee, whom the late Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee and the late Rai Bahadur Kristodas Pal succeeded in the conduct of the weekly *Hindoo Patriot*, that in every day of our life we commit most of the offences of the Penal Code. We are sure, if the framers could dream that Judges like Gill would rise to administer the Code, it would have taken a different shape. Here, at any rate, is a warning to the Legislative Councils, not to make their laws too comprehensive.

FROM the first day of September next, the College Department of the Metropolitan Institution passes from Babu Surendranath Banerjee to the Trustees of the Vidyasagara Institute. They will now have the charge of the entire Institution.

THE *Hstabadi* defamation case was resumed by Mr. Pearson, assisted by Mr. Nabin Chand Bural, on Thursday, and again adjourned to Friday next, the 28th August. As on the first day, Mr. Palit appeared for the prosecution. This time the defence was represented not by Mr. B. Chakravarti but by Mr. P. M. Mitra. On previous notice, to avoid any future objection, Mr. Palit applied for permission to allow the husband Babu Heramba Chandra Maitra to be also a complainant. This was not granted. The counsel then opened the case for the wife and had not concluded when the Court rose.

A CAMP of exercise for the Patiala, Jhind and Nabha Imperial Service troops will be held at Chuarpur in January, and will last about three weeks. Two regiments of the Gwalior Cavalry will take part in the forthcoming Jhansi camp.

THE Ruby Mines Company in Burma have obtained a fresh lease for 14 years. The annual rent reserved is Rs. 3,15,000 plus 20 per cent. of net profits over that sum. Six lakhs out of the ten now owing are remitted. If the Company pay a dividend of over five per cent., the Government will get half the excess.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, August 22, 1896.

HINDU CASTES AND SECTS.

DR. BHATTACHARYA AND HIS MADRAS CRITIC.

DR. Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya's recent work on Hindu Castes and Sects is attracting attention that it deserves. Among other journals, the *Madras Times* has come out with a critical notice. That notice betrays some power of writing, though, in the main, it is unequal and disappointing. The writer begins by speaking of the book as a most interesting one. But he has almost throughout discovered an incapacity to appreciate its true spirit. The most important parts of the doctor's book are the dissertations on the philosophy of religion forming the introduction to his descriptive account of the different Hindu sects. It is only by the light of these disquisitions that an idea can be formed of the nature, as explained by Dr. Bhattacharya, of religion generally, or of any particular cult in its bearings towards the others. There are, certainly, as our contemporary mentions, other works about our religion and religious sects. But we doubt the existence of any book, ancient or modern, which has attempted a scientific classification of the known religious

systems in the world, or to expound the nature of religion in such a comprehensive manner as to render it possible to bring within the same category the Vedic worship of the ancient Hindus, the fire worship of the Zoroastrians, the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the symbolic worship of the Sivites and Saktas, and the monotheism of the Mussalmans and the Brahmos. Dr. Bhattacharya has solved, for the first time, as it would seem, some of the most knotty points in the philosophy of religion, and, if his views appear to be well grounded, it is the duty of every journalist in the country to give the utmost publicity to them. Long enough has poor humanity been imposed upon by Incarnations and Swans of sorts. Long enough have our countrymen been dragged through the mire of emblematic worship. Dr. Bhattacharya has demonstrated, according to the approved methods of science, the absurdity of any esoteric meaning lurking in the lustful cults chiefly practised by Hindus of modern times. Every person having the good of humanity at heart should hail the attempt made by Dr. Bhattacharya to show up the wolves in sheep's skin that have, from the beginning of the world, lived and fattened on their fellowmen. The writer under notice is evidently an Englishman of culture and a Christian. He can have no motive to befriend our charlatans, yet in speaking of the book, he says that the author would have produced a more readable work if he had left out his own speculations and confined himself to facts.

The doctor's philosophy may be wrong. If it were bad, the best course for his critic would have been to expose his errors in a proper way. To tell him that he should have confined himself to facts, eschewing philosophy altogether, is like calling upon an astronomer to record only the apparent movements of the sun, the moon, the planets and comets, without an attempt to explain them by either the Ptolemaic or the Aryavattyan theory. One having the slightest knowledge of the physical sciences can easily conceive what their progress or value would have been, if the students of those sciences had confined themselves to facts without philosophising in the least. What, for instance, would the science of thermotics have been without the theory that heat is only a mode of motion? What, again, would the science of chemistry have been without the atomic theory, which not only forms the basis of its nomenclature and symbols, but has led to some of the most important discoveries? Man's nature is to speculate or philosophise. The goal of philosophy is the unification of diversity. It is impossible to treat, scientifically, of religion and religious sects, without some attempt to discover their bearings towards one another and detect, if possible, a unity in variety. Knowledge itself would be a crude mass, almost unserviceable for many of our purposes, if presented in details, without comparison and differentiation for the end of classification.

Our contemporary has adopted the style of some Indian judges who, when they have a junior counsel before them, call upon him to confine himself to facts. To any one who has the least forensic experience it must be obvious that, to enable the jury to arrive at a correct decision, it is necessary for both the advocate and the judge to marshal the facts in such a manner as to lead to some particular inference. This justifies the practice of our law courts that when all the facts are laid before the jury, counsel sum up and the judge explains the

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 26th Inst., at 5 P.M. *Subject*: Specific gravities of solids and liquids (concluded)—Pneumatics.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 27th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subjects*: The Protozoa. Coelenterata.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Friday, the 28th Inst., at 7 P.M. *Subject*: Expansion by Heat (concluded.)

Lecture by Babu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 29th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subject*: Morphology—Flowers.

Lecture by Dr. Nilratan Sircar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 29th Inst., at 6-30 P.M. *Subject*: Histology—Endothelium.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

Aug. 22, 1896.

charge to them, each enforcing the views that those facts would support. In asking the public to pronounce their verdict on the priests, Dr. Bhattacharya has tried to explain the facts connected with them more after the manner of a judge than that of an advocate. If the view taken by him is based on erroneous premises, let them be exposed by all means. But one should not expect that one's *ipsi dixit* is sufficient to set aside the balanced judgment of a careful thinker who is always on his guard against prejudice and foregone conclusions of every kind.

The author gives the main facts relating to several cults current among Hindus of the present day, and, in order to explain their nature, raises at the outset the question whether our religions are the gift of God Almighty, or whether they are not the inventions of men actuated partly by philanthropy but chiefly by selfish motives. After having shown that the theory of the divine origin of religion is quite untenable, the doctor goes on to show that the only hypothesis which accords with the actual facts is that religion is the outcome of human policy. This view alone furnishes a clue to the progressive development of religions from nature-worship to man-worship, and from man-worship to the abomination-worship to which every religion has, more or less, a tendency to culminate. If the writer in the Madras journal could put forward facts at variance with the hypothesis favoured by Dr. Bhattacharya, no one, we are sure, would be more glad than the doctor himself to give it up.

The writer of the notice observes that "no country has existed without a religion, and a purely destructive work like the one before us can scarcely do much good to any one." The unphilosophical character of this remark cannot be made obvious without a little of that irreverence which many might consider unpardonable, but which, for the sake of truth, is sometimes necessary. We, therefore, need not feel much hesitation in saying that, as there is no country in the world in which there are not a good many knights of industry, one might as well say that it is useless to expose the ways of the shop-lifter, the cattle-lifter, the house-breaker and the pickpocket. The fact is, the world has not advanced much in candour. Religion is a ticklish subject, round which centre all the prejudices which the mind is capable of harbouring. Most people forget that religion, like colour, dress and diet, are determined for us by a host of circumstances over which we have no control, instead of being at all determined by us. One born in a Christian country and family becomes as easily a Christian as one born in a Mussulman country and family becomes a follower of Mahomet. Every faith pretends to be the true one, all the rest being founded upon error. A dispassionate examination of the origin of a faith is never tolerated by those that regard it as true.

The admiration which the reviewer professes for Buddha deserves a passing notice. The followers and admirers of Buddha are never tired of referring to his having left home and wife and new-born child for the sake of working out his purpose. But was the great opponent of the Brahmans the only person in the world that left home under similar circumstances? Is not a mania for mendicancy common among young men in every part of the world? Have not thousands and thousands of men in every age adopted, for the sake of adventure or novelty, a similar or even a more miserable course

of life? As observed by Dr. Bhattacharya, mendicancy deserves no more credit than suicide.

We do not mean to say that Dr. Bhattacharya's work is faultless. Like every product of the human mind, it has its imperfections. There are even errors here and there. But before one takes up the rôle of a critic, one should read it thoroughly from beginning to end. A superficial perusal can lead only to flippancy and injustice.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

July 31.

Imperial Parliament. After another all-night sitting, the Irish Land Bill has left the Commons, and the second reading will be taken tonight in the House of Lords. Next week it will go into Committee, and the Irish landlord party, stronger in the Lords than in the Commons, threatens to do its best or worst to mutilate the Bill. But Lord Salisbury's majority in the Lords should prevent any mischief. At the last sitting in the Commons, Colonel Saunderson and Mr. Smith Barry, made a savage attack on Mr. Balfour, which he paid back to them in their own coin, asserting either "he or they were mad." As I wrote when Mr. Gerald Balfour introduced the measure, inasmuch as it was displeasing both to the landlords and the anti-Parnellite section of the Home rulers led by Mr. Dillon, it was fair to conclude it held a fair *via media*, and that is the general opinion. The Government received invaluable help from Mr. T. M. Healy and Mr. Redmond. The former again made good his position as unquestionably the ablest debater among the Irish members, and, with the exception of Mr. Chamberlain, may be said to be second to none in the House.

His Irish friends gave him and his brother---Maurice---a complimentary banquet in acknowledgment of the splendid service he had rendered to Ireland in his conduct towards this measure. In his speech at the dinner, Mr. Healy, without naming him, held up Dillon to the scorn of his countrymen, as a leader wholly wanting in the gifts of leadership, and earnestly urging Mr. Sexton to come out of his retirement, and assume the leadership of a united anti-Parnellite party. The quarrel between him and Dillon is notoriously incapable of adjustment, and a man of Healy's strong intellectual character will not brook playing second fiddle to so incompetent a man as Dillon.

Last night Mr. Chamberlain in a short speech introduced his resolution as to a Parliamentary enquiry into the whole Rhodesian question, but the Committee cannot sit until the reassembling of Parliament in the beginning of February. It now remains to nominate the members of the Committee. There is a difficulty about the chairmanship, Mr. Chamberlain being reluctant to assume the position. The only other member of the Government named for it is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who acted as Colonial Secretary some twelve years ago. But he too does not covet the post, and this morning's papers appear to think Mr. Chamberlain must take it. There will be a struggle over Mr. Labouchere. He wishes to be a member, and Government is quite agreeable to accepting him as the unscrupulous opponent of Mr. Rhodes and the Chartered Company. But just on this account a strong feeling exists, that he should not serve as he cannot give an unbiased judgment.

Dr. Jameson's Trial. This terminated on the evening of the 28th instant, and you would know the result and the sentence on the Wednesday morning. Yesterday it was everywhere believed, much to the gratification of all classes of society, that the prisoners would be treated as "first class misdemeanants," which would have consisted merely in the deprivation of their personal liberty. They would have been able to wear their own clothes---to have their own food supplied to them from outside---to receive their friends---to carry on their correspondence---and in short live their ordinary lives, but in confinement. This of itself to such men would have been severe penalty. But to the amazement of every one, the Home Secretary stated in the House last night, he had no power to interfere. The court that passed the sentences alone had the power to grant the privilege, and it had refused to interfere. It is now hoped Government will invoke the royal prerogative, to which even the Lord Chief Justice and his colleagues must bow. The popular feeling throughout the country is rising, and possibly the severity of the Judges may lead ultimately to a considerable reduction of the sentences. Already the House of Commons is moving, and all parties including the Irish Nationalists (though they no doubt have ulterior ends of their own in view) have signed a "round robin" to the Home Secretary, praying for the exercise of the royal clemency. Even Mr. Labouchere has signed the petition.

Two Books on India. The "Times" reviews favourably Syed Muhammad Latif's work on the *History of the Punjab* and Mr. R. P. Karkarra's "Forty years of progress in India."

The same journal's article of the 27th instant on Indian Affairs, is more than ordinarily full of interesting matter and must be very gratifying to your Lieutenant-Governor. Sir A. Mackenzie's attitude on the question of roads for the Western Duars has been thoroughly statesmanlike, and if allowed free scope will do more than "could be effected by any philanthropic efforts to promote the movement of the population from the overcrowded or arid districts to the under-peopled areas of Bengal." The other matter relates to Sir A. Mackenzie's endeavours to grapple with the ever present dread of "water famine" in one or more divisions of Lower Bengal. In this the Supreme Government do not appear to have given him a free hand.

Li-Hung Chung is expected here on Monday. Government has taken Lord Lonsdale's two houses in Carlton House Terrace, where the Chinese functionary will be entertained as a state guest. His visit is to extend to quite four weeks. No doubt, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, and Glasgow will excite his amazement. But, what beyond everything will be calculated to impress him, will be the magnificent display of the British Navy in the Solent, on Tuesday. Another thing that would excite his wonderment, would be a drive or drives through the suburbs of London, North, South, East, and West. But to appreciate such a drive an impossible condition would be necessary, to wit, that it should be accomplished without the public being aware of it. To Li-Hung-Chung, to be mobbed by a gathering of London roughs would be intolerable. No doubt on his visit to the city he will see enough of London crowds. No doubt, he and his entourage are early risers. Four morning drives between 6 and 8 with good weather thrown in, would accomplish everything.

The International Peace Congress. The proceedings of this vaunted congress have excited no end of amusement to Londoners. Last Sunday there was to be a great gathering in Hyde Park, but a drenching rain soon cooled their ardour and many of them, as the "Times" cruelly remarked, probably "experienced a cold douche bath for the first time in their lives." There are several component bodies in this wonderful gathering.

The S. D. F. (Social Democratic Federation) and the I. L. P. (Independent Labour Party) with such leaders as Hyndman, Mann, Keir Hardie, and others of that ilk, hoped to have the whole proceedings well in hand, as a protest of the working classes against the capitalists. Not that Hardie, Mann, Tillet, Wilson belong to the working classes. They are supported by them and lead a glorious life, hurrying through the country, while the real workers—poor, duped creatures—maintain them, in what to them is luxury and plenty—out of the savings that should go to their wives and children.

But the best joke has yet to be told. The foreign Anarchists have got a footing, and every day there is at the Queen's Hall, where they meet, the most monstrous rowdyism, so that nothing is accomplished.

It is truly a melancholy spectacle for all thinking men. But this Labour question is one all far-seeing statesmen will have to face. Already it is being acknowledged that in the Presidential contest in the United States, while the platform today is one of Silver *v.* Gold, the real battle will yet have to be fought between Capital and Labour. And when the critical moment does arrive, it will be found that in no country in the world will the issue be so far-reaching and so volcanic as in the United States of America. Crete is still an uncertain factor in the *haute politique* of Europe, and together with the state of unrest in Macedonia bodes no good to the Turk. I am sorry to see by this morning's papers Madagascar is in a deplorable state. The state of things at the Hova capital at the end of June reminds one of the state of Calcutta in the same month of 1857.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, July 20.

THE MAHARAJA OF JHALLAWAR.

Mr. H. Roberts asked the Secretary for India whether he would grant a public inquiry into the case of the Maharaja of Jhallawar in such a form that the Maharaja might have a full opportunity of making his defence, and whether this inquiry would include an examination of the charges made by him against the political resident.

Lord G. Hamilton: The decision of the Indian Government, which I confirmed in a despatch of May 1, is final, and I have no intention of reopening this case.

Subsequently Mr. H. Roberts asked for leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the treatment of the Maharaja of Jhallawar and the unsatisfactory character of the inquiry into his case."

Mr. Clancy inquired, as a point of order, whether, as this matter was a year old and the decision which the hon. member desired to challenge was three months old, the hon. member could now raise the question on a motion for adjournment.

The Speaker did not think the hon. gentleman stated quite

accurately the dates of the case, but he thought it was a case in which he could not take upon himself the responsibility of saying that it was not a matter of urgent public importance.

More than forty members having risen in their places, and leave having thus been obtained,

Mr. H. Roberts moved the adjournment of the House. He spoke amid considerable interruption and loud cries of "Divide," and said the matter was an important one, as the issue involved the principle upon which the whole Constitutional question of the position of native princes turned. In the year 1883, in consequence of the changes made by the British Political Agent, the Maharaja of Jhallawar was deprived of his ruling power; in 1892 he was reinstated with conditions, and in December 1894 he was reinstated with full powers with one condition only—namely, that he should keep the Political Agent fully informed of all the matters with which he ought to be acquainted. This year, however, he had been deposed again, as the consequence of charges brought against him by the present Political Agent. Some of these charges were very trivial, while others were serious, the most serious being the withdrawal of four and a-half lakhs of rupees from the Treasury. The Prince steadily maintained that he was right in what he had done. But he (the hon. member) was not dealing with the question of whether the charges were right or wrong; all he desired was that in cases such as this a native prince should have an opportunity of stating his views before an impartial tribunal, and this had not been given in this instance. He hoped that the result of his intervention would enable the noble lord to offer some hope that the Maharaja might be able to state his case before an impartial tribunal. This matter did not affect one native State alone, but was an important imperial question, viewed from an Indian standpoint.

Sir W. Wedderburn seconded the motion. He said he wished to refer chiefly to two points, namely, the importance of this matter and the necessity of giving the Raja an impartial trial. It had been said by the political officers that these proceedings were being very closely watched all over Rajputana. But he went further and said that the proceedings were being watched by every ruling Chief throughout India, not only with interest, but with anxiety and alarm. How could that fail to be the case when they saw one of their number deprived of his throne and exiled from his dominions, not for any maladministration proved in public enquiry, but upon the secret reports of the political agent who was on bad terms with the Prince himself. Our position in India depended very much on the goodwill of the native Chiefs. At the time of the Mutiny they were our sheet-anchor, and those who took an interest in our Imperial fortunes should be specially careful to remove all causes of unrest and alarm among the native Chiefs of India. He did not say there were not cases in which the Government of India ought to interfere—cases in which maladministration and tyranny were proved. In such cases it was not only the right but the duty of the Indian Government to interfere. He agreed entirely with the view that it was to the paramount Power alone that the inhabitants of native States should look for protection against misgovernment and tyranny; but what he contended for was that in this case no tyranny and no oppression had been proved against the Chief in question. He maintained that this was a personal quarrel, and that the charges of maladministration were somewhat of an afterthought. It was the misfortune of our political system in India that in every native State there were two kings, the Raja on the one hand, who gathered around him the supporters of the "ins"; and the Political Agent, on the other hand, who gathered around him every faction who might be termed the "outs." The only story the Government of India heard was the story told by the Political Agent, whose only source of information was the faction whose very object it was to discredit the Raja. His proposition was that this Prince had not had an impartial trial, because all the information on which the Government of India had acted was one-sided information, obtained from a tainted source. Such being the case, he was entitled to a fair and impartial hearing before the very serious step of deposing him was taken. The correspondence showed that there was no real popular discontent. All the signs of popular discontent were wanting. What were the charges of misgovernment? The only thing he saw charged in the nature of maladministration had reference to the revenue settlement, and the remarkable part of that accusation was, not that the Raja had taken too much from his subjects, but the statement of the agent absolutely was that he did not take enough. He only wished that the people of British India could make that charge against their Government. Another complaint was that the Raja cut down

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expenses. Again, he could only wish that the Government of India would do the same thing, and so get rid of a great deal of objectionable taxation. The reports of the political officer did not lay any great stress on acts of maladministration. The Government of India practically gave away the whole case by saying that the question before them had been not so much specific acts of maladministration by the Raja himself as his attitude towards the British Government. The whole case had arisen out of a quarrel between the political agency and the Raja, and what was asked was that there should be an impartial enquiry. He had no special knowledge of this particular chief but it was in the interests of all the chiefs, and because he believed there was no more important thing for our rule in India than to cultivate and retain the goodwill and friendship of the native chiefs that he seconded this motion.

Lord G. Hamilton said he would not question the right of the hon. member to make exceptional use of the forms of the House to call attention to this question; but he had chosen a singularly inopportune time. (Hear, hear.) These papers had been in the hands of the House for some time past, and the matter might have been raised last week, or the week before, next week, or the week after, without in the least degree affecting the hon. member's case. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member had deliberately selected a day specially apportioned to the discussion of an important Bill in which many hon. gentlemen took great interest. The question that the House wished to discuss was more or less limited by time; and if a motion of this kind was made to obtain a great slice of the time of the House for one day, it was more or less an indirect attempt to kill that measure. (Hear, hear.) He could demolish the whole of the hon. gentleman's case in half-a-dozen minutes. It was a matter of great surprise that two hon. gentlemen should read the Blue Book with such blind eyes. Every little detail in favour of the Maharaja had been paraded before the House, but the main facts on which his deposition was based had altogether escaped their notice. He was an adopted son of the ruler of a small State created by the Indian Government, and on the death of his adopted father he was sent to college at Rajpootana. During the time he was a minor his State was governed by a native council, under the superintendence of the Political Agent, and the State greatly improved in prosperity, and the people became habituated to good government and administration. When he arrived at his majority, the Indian Government only allowed him to undertake the government of the State on the condition that he did not upset the principles that had been enforced during his minority, and that on all questions of material importance he should consult the Political Agent. It was said that there was a personal quarrel between him and the Political Agent. There had not been a single Government in the last fifteen years that had not come into collision with him, or a solitary Political Agent that had not had reason to report him. The first Political Agent was Sir Edward Bradford, the present Chief Commissioner of Police, and all who knew him would say that he was a model Political Agent, combining firmness with a courtesy and charm of manner that was seldom to be found. (Hear, hear.) The Maharaja had not been two years discharging the functions of his State before Sir Edward Bradford had to report him as almost hopeless. He did all he could to keep him straight, but the young man disregarded his advice, and the only alternative seemed to be to depose him. The Indian Government declined to adopt that step, but considerably reduced his powers, and addressed to him a very severe warning. That was under Lord Dufferin. The succeeding Viceroy, Lord Lansdowne, had his attention called to his conduct, and addressed a still stronger caution, pointing out that it might be necessary to remove him from the State. This apparently had some effect, and to a certain extent he became more amenable to advice, and was shortly afterwards allowed to discharge some of the functions that he had previously enjoyed. Later on, as he seemed more disposed to act on advice and to carry on his Government on proper lines, Colonel Irving, the then Political Agent, recommended that he might be given back his full original powers. The one mistake was the granting of those powers, because the moment he had them he lapsed back into his old habits. Captain Evans Gordon then appeared on the scene, and finding malpractices going on in every branch of the Administration, protested against them. The Maharaja then deliberately tried to bribe Captain Evans Gordon, and, on the attempt being exposed, refrained from offering any apology for the gross insult that he had offered the Political Agent. The Prince took as his confidential adviser a native advocate who had been struck off the rolls, and the Agent complained that thereafter every form of maladministration was practised, he himself being boycotted, and people who had obtained access to him being dismissed. Altogether, the Prince showed himself to be an impossible ruler, and in the end his deposition became absolutely necessary. He (the noble lord) admitted that it was necessary most scrupulously to guard the rights and privileges of the Indian princes. (Hear, hear.) At the present moment he was glad to say that relations between those princes and the Indian Government were most cordial. With the assistance and advice of the political agents we had to discharge a most difficult duty. The adminis-

tration of the native States was steadily improving; but just as we had a duty towards the native princes, so had the Indian Government a duty towards the people who lived in the native States. We had taken from them the means of revolution, and we were, therefore, bound to prevent misgovernment. In the present instance the Prince had refused to comply with the conditions on which alone we could accept his authority, and, as he had set the Indian Government at defiance, his deposition could not be avoided.

Mr. Clancy: I beg to move that the question be now put.

The Speaker did not accept the closure.

Dr. Clark said the only charge of maladministration against this Prince was that he had attempted bribery; but it was clear from the Blue Book that that attempt had been made, not by the Maharaja of Jhallawar, but by a Bengali Baboo, who had been dismissed by the Resident, and who had offered the new Agent 15,000 rs. to refrain from further action against him. He (Dr. Clark) protested against the Prince having been deposed without being heard in his own defence.

Mr. H. J. Wilson doubted the wisdom of investing this young Prince with power, just on leaving college, at the age of eighteen. He considered that the cause of the trouble had been not administration, but jealousy between the Prince and the Political Agent.

Mr. Balfour rose to move the closure, but Mr. H. Roberts also rising,

The Speaker said: I think the hon. member proposes to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

WE MUST HAVE THE TOOLS.

ROBINSON CRUSOE, you remember, made a big boat or canoe out of the trunk of a tree. It was a laborious and tedious job. And that wasn't the worst of it. When he got the boat done he couldn't launch it. It was too heavy for one man to handle. If he had only had an arrangement like the capstan of a ship he might have managed. He *understood* how to do it, but lacked the tools. How often we find ourselves at a dead stand for that same reason. Let me give you a fresh illustration, tied up for the moment in the following letter, which must first be read before we can rightly come at the point.

"In the spring of 1884," says our correspondent, "I got into a low weak way, not being able to imagine what had happened to me. My strength kept ebbing away till I had scarcely the desire or ability to do anything. I felt as tired as if I had just arrived home from a long, hard journey, yet no tax more than usual of any kind had been laid upon me. My mind, too, was weary; so that I turned from things that obliged me to think, plan, or consider.

"Side by side, so to speak, with all this was the failure of my appetite. Of course I continued to eat, or make an effort to eat, but food no longer tempted me as it does a person in health. I picked and minced over my meals, and the little I took neither tasted good nor did me any good after I had eaten it. Instead of warming, comforting and stimulating me, as it used to do, it gave me distress at the stomach, pain at the chest, and a singular feeling of tightness around the waist, as though a belt were buckled too snug around me.

"After a time the condition of my stomach seemed to grow worse. There was that sense of gnawing, so often mentioned by others, and occasionally a feeling of faintness and sinking, almost like the ground giving way under one's feet."

[REMARK: An eminent London physician, in one of his books, describes this sinking feeling as one of the most appalling and frightful that it is possible to experience. It is not the body but the *mind* that suffers. I, the present writer, have had two attacks of it, and pray to have no more. It is like unto the overshadowing of the Death Angel's wing, *with the mind fully conscious of the situation*. The cause is uric acid poison in the blood, one of the products of prolonged indigestion.]

"When this sinking feeling came on," continues the letter, "it weighed me down like a nightmare. Finally I got to be so weak I could only walk slowly and feebly. The doctor who prescribed for me said my complaint was *dyspepsia*, but his medicine had no perceptible effect.

"I continued like this for eight years; not always the same, but now better and then worse. Yet in all that long time there was not a day when I could say I was well. No medicine or treatment seemed right for me, and I almost began to think I never should recover my former health.

"In March, 1892, Mother Seigel's Syrup was recommended to me as having done wonders in cases like mine, even when they were of long standing and everything else had failed. No harm to try it, we thought, and got a bottle from Mr. Grime, the chemist, in Bolton Road; and after taking it I felt great relief. My appetite quickly improved, and I could eat without pain. When I had taken two or three bottles more the bad symptoms had all gone, and I was as well as ever. My husband also took the medicine with the same good results. You may publish my letter and refer inquirers to me. (Signed) (Mrs.) Elizabeth Wilson, 5, Northcote Street, Bolton Road, Daiwen, March 1st, 1895."

The lesson in this interesting narrative is too plain for us to miss it. Our old friend Crusoe was not able to launch his boat for the want of machinery. Similarly the doctor who attended Mrs. Wilson was not able to cure her because he did not possess the right remedy. His opinion as to her complaint was entirely correct. She was suffering from chronic dyspepsia, precisely as he told her. But alas! it is one thing to know what ought to be done and quite another to have the knowledge and means to do it.

Between these two things (over this wide gap) stands Mother Seigel's Syrup, just as between the two sides of the Thames stands London Bridge.

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Memorial**TO THE LATE****SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.**

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

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It is a most interesting record on the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 25th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

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The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.]

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 240.

CIRCASSIAN MELODIES.

WAR SONG.

1.

Hark, oh hark, the fife and drum !
Onward on, the Cossacks come !
Sound the war cry, sword and lance,
Gleam in air, advance, advance !

2.

Raise, oh raise, the banner high !
Arm ! arm all, for Attégbéi !
Guard the valley, guard the dell !
Hearth and home, farewell, farewell !

3.

We will dare the battle strife,
We will gladly peril life ;
Death or liberty's the cry !
Win the day, or nobly die !

4.

Who would fly when danger calls ?
Freemen's hearts are freedom's walls.
Heav'n receives alone the brave —
Angels guard the patriot's grave !

5.

Beats there here a traitor's heart,
Duped by wily Moscow art,
Who his land for gold would give ?
Let him die, or childless live !

6.

Hark ! oh hark ! the cannons roar !
'Tis foe meets foe, to part no more !
Quail, ye slaves, 'neath freemen's glance !
Victory's ours !—advance ! advance !

The following lines refer to the death of a young Khansoukhi prince and his beautiful bride, who fell, fighting side by side, while defending, with his clansmen, a dangerous pass against the Russians, in the vicinity of Ghelendjik.

Hark ! hark ! the dread battle-cry booms through the air ;
Young Islam is armed, and the war-horse is nigh ;
He hears not, he marks not, the sob of despair,
But onward he rushes, to conquer or die !

The war-cry is sounding through mountain and vale,
The Moscow, like masses of locusts, come fast :
What shrieks rend the air ? —'tis the hero, who, pale
And wounded, and lifeless, is breathing his last !

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

But he lies not alone on his cold earthy bed,
For she whom he loved fell a corse by his side :
There beauty and bravery sleep with the dead,
And the dark narrow grave is the home of the bride !

The succeeding stanzas relate some of the warlike deeds of the glorious chieftain Elijah Mansour—the greatest of all Tartars next to Ghenghis Khan.

[It is remarkable how little is known in Europe of the deeds of this great chieftain, so famous in the long and desolating wars of Russia against the inhabitants of Krim-Tartary and the Caucasus, and who, when we consider the magnitude of the power he had to contend against, and the wild hordes he had to organise, deserves to be ranked among the noblest patriots that ever adorned any country.

The Russians, whose dark policy has ever been to envelope in mist everything connected with the Caucasus and Krim-Tartary, merely describe him as a sort of Mahomet, or false prophet ; whereas the historians of Persia and Turkey make honourable mention of his military talents, extraordinary bravery, and devotedness to the cause of his country, and ever represent him as the most indomitable and formidable enemy that Russia ever had to contend against in the Caucasus. If we were only to credit one half of what the traditionary songs of the bards tell us, he must have been an Alexander in valour, a Lockman in wisdom, and a Machiaveli in policy. Indeed such is the veneration of the Tartars, Circassians, and Lesghians, for his memory, that even to this day the slightest relic that belonged to him is prized as a gem of inestimable value. Every one of his haunts in the Caucasus—nay, every place where he took up a temporary abode, are held sacred by the inhabitants.—Edmund Spencer.]

Of that brave chief I sing the praise
Who victory ever crowned ;
In chieftain's mouth, and minstrel's lays,
His name shall be renowned.
Tshelel-Eddin !

He was born to tread the Moscow's pride
Down to the lowly dust ;
He fought, he conquered, near and wide,
That northern race accurst.
Tshelel-Eddin !

Speak ! Mansour speak ! why hast thou left
The warrior sons alone,
Of thy strong arm and presence 'reft,
'Neath Moscow yoke to groan ?
Tshelel-Eddin !

Thy name was hope, thy name was joy,
To Tartary's warlike bands ;
'Twas bright as gold without alloy,
'Twas fair as Adin's land.
Tshelel-Eddin !

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Robbed of her young, the tigress see
How fierce she paws the ground ;
But far more fierce was Mansour, he
Hurl'd death and ruin around.

Tshelel-Eddin !

The swift deer bounds from hill to hill,
No arrow like its flight ;
But Mansour's step was swifter still
When he led on the fight.

Tshelel-Eddin !

His sable war-steed scours the plain
Which other chief ne'er bore ;
His master clanked the captive's chain ;
That war-horse lives no more.

Tshelel-Eddin !

The accursed hosts of Moscov won
Our own, our father's soil ;
Sleep, Mansour ! sleep ! the deed is done !
Thy nation is their spoil !

Tshelel-Eddin !

We kneel, we pray, Oh ! Moscov, hear !
Where hast thou him convey'd ?
The man whose presence banished fear,
The light without a shade.

Tshelel-Eddin !

Do those dark towers, foul murder's home,
Begirt with watery walls,*
Contain the chief for whom we moan,
For whom each Tartar calls ?

Tshelel-Eddin !

Alas ! when those stern gates once close,
No captive comes to tell
His tale of grief, his tale of woes,
The secrets of his cell.

Tshelel-Eddin !

Then, Allah, let thy lightnings slay
The foe we loathe and hate !
Let vultures on their life-blood prey !
For death was Mansour's fate—

Weep ! Tartars weep !

LINES TO THE MEMORY OF THE HEROIC PROPHET OF THE CAUCASUS.

Here dwelt that rare, that priceless gem,
So seldom found below,
An honest patriot. Traveller, then,
A sigh, a tear bestow.

He fought, he bled, to save a land
From slavery's galling chain ;
But dauntless heart and willing hand
Were both, alas, in vain !

Fart from the world, from war, and strife,
He here, in peace and prayer,
Passed years of his pure tranquil life,
With heaven his only care.

Then, Mansour, be thy memory blest,
Till time shall cease to be,
By Tartary's sons, and stranger guest,
By all the brave and free.

* The bard here alludes to the Schlüsselburg, the well-known state prison of Russia, in the vicinity of St. Petersburg, where it is said Elijah Mansour, when captured by the Russians, was confined.

† The subjugation of Krim-Tartary to the power of Russia in 1781 having plunged the gallant spirit of this great chieftain into despair, he retired from the world to this place (one of the favourite cots Elijah Mansour was accustomed to occupy in the famous defile called Jagra), where he lived as a hermit till the repeated invasions of the Caucasus by Russia again roused him to arms, in which contest, after performing prodigies of valour, he was captured by general Gudowitsch at the siege of Anapa.

WEEKLYANA.

THE *Gazette of India*, of August 22, publishes the following resolution of the Government of India, in the Finance and Commerce Department :

"In exercise of the power conferred by section 14 of the Indian Securities Act (XIII of 1886) the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following alterations in the rules published in the Resolution above referred to (No. 95, dated the 7th January 1888) :

I.—For Rule 5 of the said rules the following shall be substituted, namely :

'5. No notice will be taken of any trust appearing in an endorsement of transfer or receipt for interest. When a note is endorsed to, or receipted by, any person, in his capacity of trustee or in any other representative capacity, such person will be treated in all respects as the true owner of the note.'

II.—For Rule 7 the following shall be substituted, namely :

'7. The holder of a note may be required to receipt the same for renewal in all or any of the following cases, that is to say :

(1) If the note has been enfaced for payment of interest at a Mofussil Treasury, and the holder thereof is desirous of altering the place of payment.

(2) If only sufficient room remains on the back of the note for one further endorsement, or when any word or words is or are written upon the note across any existing endorsement or endorsements, all cross endorsements being strictly prohibited.

(3) If the note is torn or in any way damaged or crowded with writing, or unfit, in the opinion of the officer before whom it is produced for payment of interest, for receiving endorsement.

(4) If the note bears an endorsement which transfers the note to, or is signed by, any person otherwise than in his personal capacity, except in the under-mentioned cases :

(a) where the transferee is a well-known firm, corporate body, or Bank ; or the signature attached to the endorsement is the usual name or signature of such a firm or purports to be the impression of the common seal of a corporate body with perpetual succession or is the signature of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Manager, or Agent, of a Bank or corporate body ;

(b) where an endorsement is made in his official capacity by the person holding for the time being one of the offices to which the Governor General in Council has, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, declared section 7, sub-section (1), of the Indian Securities Act (XIII of 1886), to apply ;

(c) where the transfer is made to or by a person in whose favour a certificate under the Succession Certificate Act (VII of 1889) or probate or letters of administration under the Indian Succession Act (X of 1865), or the Probate and Administration Act (V of 1881) has or have been granted by a Court of competent jurisdiction ;

(d) where the transfer is made to or by the executor or administrator of an estate who is described as such therein, such executor or administrator being shown to be the holder according to the tenor of the note and previous endorsements.

(5) If the endorsement is not clear and distinct, or if it is made on paper affixed to a Government Promissory Note.

(6) If, in the opinion of the officer before whom the note is presented for payment of interest, the title of the person so presenting the note is irregular or not fully proved.

(7) If the note in question, being a counterpart note issued under the provisions of rule 8, has ceased to be the property of a minor, or to belong to an estate in which administration is limited to interest.

In all or any of the preceding cases payment of any further interest on such note may be refused until the note is received for renewal and actually renewed.'

III.—In Rules 10 and 16 for the words 'the Act' and in Rules 15 and 22 for the words 'the said Act' the words and figures 'the Indian Securities Act (XIII of 1886)' shall be substituted."

THE greatest giant going is the American. He is no myth like the giants, religious and secular, of old, of the European Continent—the Guildhall giants, the giant of Antwerp, the giants of Douai, the giants of Brussels, the giants of Ath, the giant of Lille and the giant of Aix. He is not so high as any of these, but is composed of flesh and bones and lives and breathes. He is the tallest man of the present day, measuring eight feet in height. And, what is more, unlike the generality of the species, he is well proportioned in all his limbs and normal development. Such is the opinion of Dr. Zuckerkandl, of the Vienna Anatomical Museum, himself a great authority on the subject. At his invitation, Wilkins, of whom we are speaking, visited the Vienna Museum, full of the skeletons of giants, and was convinced of his own superiority over those whose bones he inspected. In life, he is the observed of all observers. In death, he will be the object of all preservers. There is surely to be a scramble for his bones, unless he has already disposed of them.

FROM giants to centenarians. A notable character in the person of the widow of M. Rostkowsky, Josephine, believed to be the oldest in age in France, has died at Aniche, near Douai, at the age of 112 years and 4 months. Her husband, a Captain in the 6th Polish Regiment of the Line, and she herself took part in numerous engagements as Assistant Surgeon. It is added that at the age of seventy-one she figured in the Crimean War in the ranks of the French

Army. ~~The~~ Modern Methuselah, Henry Jenkins, had attained the age of 169 years, living 16 years longer than old Thomas Parr who died at the age of 152 years and odd months. These two remarkable Englishmen were born in the 16th century and died in the 17th.

In 1875, an Armenian, suffering from fever, was admitted as an indoor patient at the Calcutta Medical College Hospital. He gave his age at 142. He had married three times, the third wife was more than 70 when he came to be treated. He remembered the landing, at Chandpul Ghat, of the Governor Warren Hastings and the sensation in Calcutta occasioned by his impeachment as Governor-General. He spoke of the agitation for the institution of jury in civil cases in Calcutta and had witnessed the burning of Hindu widows in the funeral pyres of their husbands. He could speak Bengali and denounced the hanging of the Brahman Nand Kumar. Of middle stature, he had a strong constitution and refused to lie in bed during the day as a sick patient. The fever was not very high and there was no complication. He was discharged from hospital in two weeks.

THE Marquis de Mores has been murdered by his Toureg escort in North Africa. He was the only son of the Duc d'Valombrosa and had married Miss Hoffman, the beautiful and accomplished daughter of a New York banker and started with her cattle ranching at Dakota. Having founded a model city he had to come to Paris on account of a disagreement with the old settlers. Then he supported Boulanger and after that came to India with the Duc d'Orleans. Another remarkable incident in his life was the suit he instituted against *Truth* for libel for saying that his father had made his fortune in the days of the First Napoleon by selling dead soldiers in the army as potted meat. The courts held that a dead man could not be libelled. The Indian law, however, is more advanced. It makes no distinction between the living and the dead. No suit for damages may lie against a libeller of the dead but he may be prosecuted criminally by those left behind.

At the Coroner's inquest on the death of Francis James Smith, aged 39 years, a compositor, late of 21, Butlin Street, New North Road, London, another compositor deposed that he noticed blood streaming from beneath the door of the lavatory, which the deceased had entered a short time before. He called for assistance, and on an entrance being forced the deceased was found covered with blood, which was flowing freely from a terrible gash across the throat. The medical evidence showed that the man had cut his throat with a table-knife. The deceased's brother gave evidence that Francis had never threatened to take his own life but complained lately of the great heat. The jury returned a verdict of "suicide while of unsound mind, produced by the heat."

DR. Duncleley, Minister of the Baptist Church, Great George Street, Salford, from 1848 to 1855, when he became editor of the *Manchester Examiner and Times* and a few years later co-proprietor, and whose connection with the paper ceased in January 1889, dying on June 29 1896, was cremated on July 2.

WE read in an English monthly that "Mr. John Wesley Harper, the oldest member of the publishing house and founder of the famous international magazine, died on the 21st July, at an advanced age."

THE same day, Lieutenant Walter Maxwell Scott, great-great-grandson of Sir Walter Scott, on his coming of age, was presented, at Abbotsford, with an illuminated address and sword.

THE day before, "Charles Dickens the younger," the eldest son of the novelist, died at the age of 59.

MISS Mamie Dickens, the eldest daughter of Charles Dickens, died on the 23rd July, the day her brother was buried.

It is reported "Mr. T. P. O'Connor's newspaper, *The Sun*, recently celebrated its third birthday. It has, says Mr. O'Connor, a large and solid circulation, and pays a large profit weekly."

ACCORDING to the *Publishers' Circular*, the output of books in Great Britain is as follows:—Sermons, one volume a day; novels, five a

day; educational books, two a day; art and science, two each every week; histories or biographies, six a week; and law, one every two weeks.

CAMBODIA, in Cchin China, contains some Buddhist ruins of interest. In Nhonto, a village seven miles south of Tourane, a tower twenty-five feet high fronts an Annamite Buddhist chapel containing three painted sandstone statues of rare workmanship. Further south, two analogous temples are found with towers 25 to 30 ft. high. The sculptures scattered over the ground point to their Hindu origin. Stones bearing inscriptions are many.

MISS F. J. Erskine, author of "Bicycling for Ladies," &c., who is enlightening the readers of the *Englishman* on the subject, says, in the 7th Chapter, Care of Machine, "It is the independence enjoyed that makes cycling so delightful and this cannot be appreciated to the full without being quite self-contained." Hear now what Ouida says of cycles and cyclists: "Bicycles are a detestable, public nuisance, progress by them is vulgar, ugly, and renders the human race more ridiculous than it was before their invention. The racing cyclist is the lowest form of deformed humanity that we can behold, and when he and his compeers tear through country roads he presents a loathsome sight, drenched with sweat, covered with dust, and clinging, crouched and almost nude, to his machine. There is only one thing worse, a light railway, which will help to complete the destruction of what little is left of Tudor England, of Stuart England, and of England of Shakespeare, and of Falkland."

A CONGRESS of Hydrology, Climatology and Geology will be held at Clermont Ferrand, France, from September 28 to October 6. The Minister of the Interior has accepted the honorary presidency.

THE Bengal Government having published draft rules for the grant of certificates to Compounders under the Municipal Acts, Dr. Hem Chandra Ray Chaudhuri, L.M.S., a practising physician of this city, has addressed the following letter to the said Government:—

"The Calcutta Municipal Act (Sec. 368) requires that 'no shop or place shall be kept for the retail sale of drugs not being also articles of ordinary domestic consumption, unless the same shall have been registered in the office of the Commissioners' and directs that 'no person shall compound, mix, prepare, dispense, or sell any drug in any such registered shop or place unless he be duly certified as a fit person to be entrusted with such duties under rules made for that purpose by the Local Government.' There is a penalty for uncertified persons compounding, mixing, preparing or selling drugs in registered shops or places, as also for owners, occupiers or keepers of such shops or places employing uncertified persons. There is a saving clause that nothing in the section 'shall be construed to apply to the sale of drugs used by practitioners of indigenous medicines when such drugs are not sold in a shop or place where medicines are dispensed upon prescription.' The word 'drug' has been defined in the Act to 'include medicine for internal or external use.'

By exclusion of indigenous drugs, probably in the absence of any recognised school or authorities for teaching the preparation of indigenous drugs, the object of the law seems to be to restrict to qualified persons the preparing and vending of medicines recognised by the British Pharmacopœia. It cannot be said that Kaviraj and Hakim do not dispense medicines upon prescription. They compound, mix and prepare medicines according to their own recipe. Though they do not make up prescriptions made by others than themselves, still they prepare medicines used by all other practitioners of their kind, and that preparation requires as much supervision as the dispensing of European medicines. The preparation of patent medicines ought equally to be brought under regulation. Equally with Kaviraj and Hakim establishments and places for sale of indigenous medicines, homœopathic dispensaries seem to be left by the law out of consideration. For in them there is hardly any dispensing of medicines in the proper sense of the phrase, though they prepare some of the original or mother tinctures.

It is very desirable that rules declaring the competency of compounders should be passed and that all dispensaries and drug shops of whatever kind placed under supervision. I perfectly see that in making rules the Government does not nor can it alter or amend the law. It is now only concerned with the qualifications of compounders. I do not take upon myself the interpretation of the law nor am I disposed to think that 'shop or place kept for the retail sale of drugs' includes all dispensaries and drug shops, and drugs of all systems of medicine. And if it is intended to exempt any class of medicines or any kind of drug shops, one set of rules will not do for all systems and places. It is however not very difficult to find out what qualifications are required for preparing or dispensing Kaviraj or Hakim medicines or prescriptions, and, as I have already said, no special qualifications are required for compounders of homœopathic medicines. It would therefore be to place unnecessary or blind restrictions in the three cases mentioned, if the rules proposed are given the sanction of law without a direction by proper authority not to enforce them in such instances.

The law exempts drugs used by practitioners of indigenous medicines. There is no knowing what are indigenous drugs. Practitioners of indigenous drugs use drugs other than indigenous. The British Pharmacopœia again not only includes indigenous drugs, but almost all the medicines recommended by it are indigenous to some part of India or other, and that the drugs used by the allopaths are procurable in this country.

From these considerations I am led to conclude this letter with a suggestion for an Indian Pharmacy Act."

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Tsar and the Tsarina, attended by Prince Lobanoff, have arrived at Vienna, where they met with a hearty reception.

GENERAL Gossler has been appointed Minister of War in the place of General Bronsart Von Schellendorff, who has resigned because his proposals to modernise procedure in courts-martial have been overruled by the Emperor's private advisers. The nation strongly supports General Bronsart, and it is understood that Prince Hohenlohe likewise does so. The official *Gazette* announces that Prince Hohenlohe will in the autumn introduce certain reforms in the procedure of courts-martial. This indicates that the Emperor has yielded in the matter.

THE *Times* states that Lord Salisbury has informed Li-Hung-Chang that he favoured the principle of an increase in the Chinese tariff but would consult the Chambers of Commerce at Shanghai and elsewhere before consenting. Li-Hung-Chang urged an immediate decision in the matter, stating that Great Britain had already conceded the same thing to Japan without an equivalent. The Chinese envoy is reported to have stated privately that China will not abandon the inland duties for the mere increase in the tariff. Li-Hung-Chang is charmed with his stay in England, but leaves without having ordered anything whatever. Reuter learns that Li-Hung-Chang has made no concessions to Russia, but is in favour of a junction of the railways in Amur with those in Manchuria. No convention, however, has been signed, and no port ceded to Russia. Russia is favourably inclined to the revision of the Chinese tariff. Germany awaits Great Britain's action in the matter and France awaits the opinion of the French Minister at Peking.

GREAT concern is felt at Madrid at the news from Manila of the discovery of a Separatist conspiracy in the Philippines, in connection with which many arrests have been made. The Governor of Manila has telegraphed to the Spanish Government that he is quite able to cope with any outbreaks of insurgents without any aid from home.

A LETTER from Mr. McKinley has been published, in which he formally accepts the candidacy for the Presidency and urges strict protection coupled with reciprocity.

A NEW gunboat has been launched at Kosheli. The advance of the Nile expedition commences about the 5th proximo. It is expected that Dongola will be reached about the beginning of October. The forward movement of the Nile expedition has been resumed, and the garrison at Snardeli is advancing to occupy Abserat. The steamer Mushtari has arrived at Suakin. A case of cholera among the Indian camp-followers has occurred there. The heat is most intense and the Brigadier-General, Lloyd Pasha, the Governor and four other officers are obliged to leave and put to sea attended by a Surgeon. The contracts for supplies to the Indian troops extend to the end of December.

THE Turks have routed the principal insurgent band in Macedonia and killed their Chief. Constant sanguinary encounters are still taking place between the insurgents and the Turks. The Porte has accepted the scheme proposed by the Powers for a settlement of the Cretan question with slight changes which are now being discussed.

The scheme comprises the appointment of a Christian Governor for five years under the guarantee of the Powers, and judicial economy.

It is reported from Constantinople that a body of forty Armenians seized, on Aug. 26, in the afternoon, the Ottoman Bank, after killing the guards on duty. They still held the building late in the evening and were firing on the Police from the roof and windows; simultaneously rioting took place in the other quarters of the city, and many have been killed and wounded on both sides. The rioters have sacked the shops, and a bomb was exploded outside the guardhouse, several soldiers being killed and wounded. Her Majesty's ship *Dryad* has left Therapia for the city, and French and Italian guardships follow. Her Majesty's ship *Cockatrice* has arrived *en route* for the Danube. The latest news is that the Porte announces that the Armenians who seized the Ottoman Bank and elsewhere in the city have poured bombs on to harmless passers-by, killing many. No unofficial advices have been received from Constantinople, but it is known that the Armenians at the Ottoman Bank have surrendered, and have been conveyed in Sir Edgar Vincent's (Governor of the Ottoman Bank) yacht to Guanare.

MAJOR Coventry has been released from Holloway Jail owing to ill health.

ADVICES from Natal state that the artisans there are agitating strongly against the importation of Indian artisans.

THE Sultan of Zanzibar is dead. Said Khalid proclaimed himself Sultan, and seized and barricaded the palace. He has a force of 2,000 men, well armed. Her Majesty's ships *Philomel*, *Thrush* and *Sparrow* landed men at the Custom House. Her Majesty's cruiser *St. George* Flagship of Rear Admiral Rawson, and the cruiser *Racoon* also arrived and landed 250 bluejackets and marines. The ships were drawn up in position, their guns commanding the palace. Admiral Rawson sent an ultimatum to Said Khalid to the effect that unless he surrendered by nine o'clock in the morning of the 27th, the palace would be bombarded. Said Khalid refusing, the bombardment began at nine that morning. The firing was very heavy, and lasted for fifty minutes. The Zanzibaris, behind barricades, maintained a hot fire throughout. The palace is now in ruins and on fire from end to end. Said Khalid fled during the bombardment and took refuge in the German Consulate, where he remains. The Sultan's ship *Glasgow* opened fire, but was sunk. British marines and bluejackets and a detachment of friendly Askaris hold the main streets of the town. No Europeans on shore were injured during the bombardment. Hamoud, a cousin of the late Sultan of Zanzibar, has been placed on the throne. During the bombardment the *Thrush* was struck sixty-two times and the *Racoon* sixteen times. The only casualty on the British side was a petty officer of the *Thrush* wounded. The enemy's loss was heavy, most of their killed being Askaris, besides a few Arabs. After the first broadside from the British ships many of the enemy fled to the outskirts of the town, where there was much looting. Several Indians were killed. Captain Egerton, of the *St. George*, and Captain O'Callaghan, of the *Philomel*, led the land attack. All ranks behaved splendidly.

The British Government has no intention of changing the Government at Zanzibar for the present. This decision has given satisfaction to the Natives there. The conversion of Zanzibar into a British Colony would entail heavy expense, and raise unnecessary difficulties with the Powers.

Captain Raikes, with a party of Zanzibaris is still pursuing the looters. It will probably be some time before order is restored, and this shows the necessity of a reliable Indian force there and the abolition of Arab rule. A large number of Indians have taken shelter on board the British India steamer *Nowshera*.

GHAFAR KHAN, Deputy Collector of Lucknow, has been nominated by the Government of India as the next British Agent at Kabul. Ghafar Khan must be more than a Deputy Collector to have been chosen for his new post.

The Secretary of State has sanctioned the pension of Rs. 100 per month to the family of the late Agent, who was murdered last year.

THE Revd. John Drake, of Ellichpore, Barar, while travelling in the Madras Railway, was found at Ruchore not to have paid fully for his luggage. The Biggame Master would not allow it to be taken away until the balance had been paid. The Reverend gentleman then wrote to the Traffic Manager charging the Biggame Master, Haslem, who only did his duty, with demanding a bribe of two rupees to pass the luggage. Taking the man of religion at his word, the Traffic Manager dismissed the Biggame Master. Haslem now prosecuted Mr. Drake for defamation. The Egmore Police Court, Madras, has convicted the Reverend gentleman and fined him Rs. 25. Will Haslem get back his appointment? We hope the Traffic Manager is no cousin of any of the young Under-Secretaries in the Civil Secretariat. These gentlemen dispose of all appeals for re-instatement by the stereotyped reply—"sees no reason to interfere," or "re-open the case," however flagrantly unjust the original order of dismissal may be.

In a letter, dated Calcutta, Aug. 24, to the *Statesman*, Vice-Consul Cowasjee D. Rustomjee for Persia (Bombay) asks, "Will you permit me to point out a slight inaccuracy in the paragraph in your issue of the 20th instant regarding the installation of Nawab-Kumar Syama Coommar Tagore as Vice-Consul for Persia in Calcutta?" He goes on to say that "The Nawab-Kumar is no a lad of between eighteen and nineteen years." "I was specially deputed by his Excellency the Consul-General for Persia from Bombay to present the *firmān* to the Nawab-Kumar." "He is, I may mention, the heir-apparent of Nawab Shahzada Raja Sir Sourindra Mohun Tagore, K.C.I.E."

The Vice-Consul for Persia having "Nawab-Kumar"-ed the son, felt himself, probably, in duty bound, to "Nawab-Shahzada" the Raja father. The Persian Vice not only confers a new title but enlarges an existing one. Raja Sourindra Mohun is a simple English Knight. He is given an Indian Order. There are Mussulman Rajas. Are we to have Hindu Nawabs? Once the Bengal Government catalogued a Hindu Raja with Mussulmans. The present is a complete conversion. The Parsi Vice-Consul representing a Mussulman kingdom is not satisfied with the multitudinous honours, won from all quarters of the globe, of our eminent townsman, but must force a Mussulman dignity on him. Raja Sourindra Mohun becomes Nawab Shahzada Raja Sourindra. Babu Cowasjee D. Rustomjee—we mean no offence, Parsis had been Baboos in Calcutta and there is still a Parsi establishment in which the father and the son are known as Burra and Chhota Babus—has, besides, solved a problem in Indian titles. The sons of a Raja are Kumars. The sons of a Nawab have no such courtesy title. The question how the sons of a Nawab are to be addressed was recently put to the Bengal Government which simply avoided it. The Parsi Babu calls them Nawab-Kumars, probably to distinguish them from Maharaj- or Raj-Kumars. His notion of dignity evidently lies in an array of titles, however incompatible they may be. The Parsis are now more Mahomedan than Hindu. They resent the honour of Babu and glory in the Mahomedan titles of Khan Bahadur and Shamsul-Ul-Jina. We are sure, Raja Sourindra Mohun Tagore, who is descended from Bhatta Narayan and Halayudha, will be the last person to accept the titles thus conferred on him by the Parsi gentleman. The author of the "Golden Book of India" has found that "*Nawabzada* or *Mian*, is the title given to the sons of Nawabs." He, again, says: "The title of Prince is also often given by courtesy as the English rendering of the title of 'Shahzada,' conferred by Her Majesty the Empress on certain descendants of the Tipu dynasty of Mysore, of the old kings of Oudh, and of former Amirs of Afghanistan." "Shahzada" he translates as "King's Son." The Parsi Babu Sahib makes a distinction between the sons of a Raja and of a Nawab, but would confound royalty with nobility.

SURGEON-LIEUTENANT-COLONEL James Frederick Parry McConnell, M.D., F.R.C.S., the fashionable physician of Calcutta, died at his residence, in Wood Street, on Monday, of peritonitis. Finishing the first course of his education at the Doveton College, he went home and came out as M.B., joining the medical service on the 1st April, 1870. From the 4th December of the same year to 30th September 1871, he was in military employ. The next month he was appointed House Surgeon of the Medical College Hospital. In less than a year, he was Resident Physician and Professor of Pathology in the same institution, when Dr. Chevers was Principal. The chair of Pathology had just been opened, for which a recommendation had been forwarded

before his return to this country as a doctor. This appointment was the making of the man. He utilized the opportunities afforded by *post mortem* examination of several dead bodies to many useful purposes, enlarging his own knowledge and adding to the knowledge of his profession. It was during this period that he made a discovery with which his name is associated and for which he will be hereafter remembered. In one of his dissections, he came upon a living parasite in the heart of a subject. Close inspection and microscopical investigation established the fact that it was in its place when the man was living. The fluke was named after the discoverer—*Distoma McConnelli*. Soon after, in 1882, Dr. McConnell was promoted to the rank of Surgeon Major. Three years after, he was Civil Surgeon of the 24-Perganas. When Dr. R. C. Chandra retired, Dr. McConnell came back to the Medical College and officiated as Professor of Materia Medica and second Physician, being confirmed in the posts in 1891, which he held till his death.

Like many of the Army Surgeons, the deceased, when he came out, was little advanced in knowledge. But hard study and devotion to dissection of dead bodies paved the way to his future success. Under the discipline of Dr. Chevers, and the guidance of Dr. Chandra, he made rapid progress, and if, like his fellow-worker in the Calcutta Medical College, and good friend, Dr. Lawrie, now the Residency Surgeon at Hyderabad, he could, between his strict official duties and roaring practice, make time for research, he would have left a more enduring name.

THE famous *dansouse*, Sarna Bai, in her declining glory, is in trouble. She was put to *hajut* on a charge of ordering an assault on one Bepin Behary Dutt, which, committed by two of her durwans, proved fatal. He was no admirer of hers and would abuse her. She had ordered her men to teach him a lesson, and they belaboured him almost to death. Seven of his right ribs and six of the left were broken and he died in hospital on Wednesday. There is no dying declaration, due, it is believed, not to sufficient notice being taken by the Police of the serious nature of the wounds and informing the Magistrate of the same. The Police enquiry has been taken out of the hands of one Superintendent and placed in those of another. In preferring a Bengali to a European, the Police Commissioner shows no bias for his own colour and creed in the detection of crime. Yesterday, Mr. Garth obtained an order or release of his fair client on a bail of Rs. 5,000.

BABU Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee has written, in Bengali, a useful primer on Hygiene. The little work is neatly got up, and suited for a text-book. It is not, however, those commendations that usually entitle a book to be selected by the Text-Book Committee. It has not been printed in a particular Press. The writer is no officer of the Education Department nor a near relative of one. His book, again enters into competition with another on the subject by an officer of the Text-Book Committee. That latter work has been a text-book for more than the last twenty-five years. The President of the Committee says that there is no chance of any member receiving any favour, for the rules lay down that if any member happens to be an author, he must leave the room while his book is discussed. The simplicity of this learned gentleman is really charming. We wish others were as simple to accept this assurance of the President that in the deliberations of the Committee there is only fair field and no favour. Poor Mr. Chatterjee had appealed to the Lieutenant-Governor, but there is no escape from the Committee. The older primer contains a chapter that is a medley of anatomy and physiology, with two unexplained plates lending an air of learning. Mr. Chatterjee omits all reference to the anatomical organisation of man as having nothing to do with an elementary work of hygiene intended for little children.

DAMASCUS is one of the most living ancient cities in Asia. Baalbec and Palmyra are mere sounds. Babylon and Tyre are a heap of ruins. Damascus, according to Josephus, is standing from before the days of Abraham. During the Jewish Monarchy, the garrisons of David opposed the progress of Solomon. The chronicles of Jeroboam and Ahaz and the prophecies of Isaiah and Amos pointed to the close relations of the people with one another. Ezekiel mentioned its mercantile greatness. Alexander the Great sent Parmenio to take it while he was engaged in marching from Tarsus and Tyre. Julian the Apostate called it "the eye of the East." In the

Mahomedan conquest it was visited by Saladin and Tamarlane. Shakespeare writes of it in I King Henry VI thus :

"Winchester : Nay, stand thou back ; I will not budge a foot :

This be Dunascus, he thou cursed Cain,

To slay thy brother Abel if thou wilt."

This city is watered by the "Streams of Lebanon" sung by Solomon and the "rivers of Dunascus" which Naaman preferred to all the waters of Israel. Copious fountains from the rocks water the brushwoods at the base of Anti-Lebanon. It is situated in a wilderness of gardens of flowers and fruits. Innumerable mosques are seen on approaching the city. It contains many nationalities. Persians in gorgeous silks, Nubians in black and white, Greeks in their costumes, Jews with ringlets, Bedouins, Druses, Kurds, and Armenians mingling together, with the pilgrims on their way to Mecca, present a marvellous medley of humanity.

There are about two hundred mosques. The largest among them exhibits three distinct styles of architecture, marking three distinct epochs in the history of the place. The population is 150,000 of whom 100,000 are Muslims. Peace reigns among them all, though a disturbance took place in July 1865. As usual, "the unspeakable Turk" seemed to be at the bottom of the rumour, though no clear proof could be found. It was on his way to this city that St. Paul was converted to Christianity.

Some of the ruins of the ancient city are still visible. The Heliopolis of the Greeks and Romans, celebrated for its sunworship, was one of the wonders of the world. The temple of Baalbec, dating at least from the reign of Antoninus Pius, was created on the acropolis of the city. The great temple of Jupiter has preserved a part of its portico. In the grand portico of the principal temple of Baalbec the following inscription is found. : "To the great gods of Heliopolis. For the safety of the Lord Ant. Pius Aug. and of Julia Aug., the mother of our Lord of the Castra (indistinct words) senate. A devoted of the Sovereigns, the capitals of the columns of Antoninus, whist in the air, embossed with gold at her own expense." A second temple of the Sun can also be found.

A CORRESPONDENT of "Nature" supplies the following particulars of a fight among two sea monsters, which he observed while cruising in the strait of Malacca between the Nicobars and the Malay Peninsula :—

"I had the watch from eight bells to midnight, and at about 11 P.M. was leaning over the lee rail, idly gazing seaward, where the rising moon was making a broad lane of silvery light upon the smooth, dark waters. Presently there was a commotion in the sea, right in the way of the moon, and I immediately went for the night glasses to ascertain, if possible, the nature of it. In that neighbourhood there are several active volcanoes, and at first I judged the present disturbance to be one of these sending up debris from the sea bed. A very short examination satisfied me that the trouble, whatever it may be, was not of volcanic or seismic origin. I called the captain, as in duty bound, but he was indisposed to turn out for anything short of actual danger ; so the watch and I had the sight to ourselves. We edged away a little under the light draught of wind, so as to draw nearer to the scene, and presently were able to realize its full significance. A very large sperm whale was engaged in deadly conflict with a monstrous squid, whose far-reaching tentacles enveloped the whale's whole body.

The livid whiteness of those writhing arms, which enlaced cachalot like nest of mighty serpents, stood out in bold relief against the black boulder like head of the aggressor. Presently the whale raised itself half out of water, and we plainly saw the awful-looking head of the gigantic mollusk. At our distance, something under a mile, it appeared about the size of one of our largest oil casks which held 336 gallons. Like the rest of the calmar visible, it was of a peculiar dead white, and in it gleamed two eyes of inky blackness, about a foot in diameter.

To describe the wonderful contortions of those two monsters, locked in a deadly embrace, is far beyond my powers, but it was a never-to-be-forgotten sight. The utter absence of all sound, for we were not far enough to hear the turmoil of the troubled sea, was not the least remarkable feature of this Titanic encounter. All around the combatants, too, were either smaller whales or immense sharks, who were evidently assisting in the destruction of the great squid, and getting a full share of the feast. As we looked spellbound we saw the writhings gradually cease and the encircling tentacles gradually slip off the whale's body, which seemed to float unusually high. At last all was over, and the whole commotion had completely subsided, leaving no trace behind but an intensely strong odour as of a rocky coast at low tide in the full blaze of the sun."

THE Administration Report on the Railways in India for 1895-96, Part I, by Col. T. Gracey, the Director-General, submitted to the Government of India on the 10th June and published this month, contains fifteen chapters devoted to important and interesting matters. Chapter I contains a general summary of results during the year under review.

The total length of railways opened and sanctioned on the 31st March 1896 was 23,466½ miles, being a net increase of 2,394 miles during the year. On the 5th March 1896, the Indian Railways Act of 1890 was amended into Act IX of 1896. There were 3 guaranteed railways—Great Indian Peninsula, Bombay Baroda and Central India, and Madras ; 6 State lines leased to companies—Bengal-Nagpur, Indian Midland, Bengal Central, Rohilkhand and Kumaon (Lucknow-Bareilly section), Southern Marhatta and Assam Bengal ; and 21 State railways (Commercial). During the year, the State suffered a loss of Rs. 1,783,700 against Rs. 2,348,489 in 1894-95. The paying railways were the Rohilkhand and Kumaon, Eastern Bengal, Burmah, East Indian, Bengal and North-Western (Tirhoot Section), Rajputana-Malwa, Godhra-Rutlam-Nagda, and Palampur-Deesa. Chapter III. treats of lines under survey or projected. A line from Hoogly to Mugulserai is a new scheme and is expected to be successful. The Kalka-Simla railway under survey will facilitate the migration to the hills. Chapter IV. speaks of collieries and oil wells. Chapters V. to XIII. are full of details of stores, rolling stock, capital, main results of working and revenue statistics, details of earnings and expenditure, rates and fares, fuel consumption, and persons employed. Chapter XIV. is interesting as recording flood damages. It gives a comparative view of the force of the monsoons and cyclonic storms during 1895 and 1896. "The floods in the Krishna district in September 1895 were exceptionally heavy." In August 1896 it was worse. In Koncan the rainfall was below the normal, but cyclonic storms caused damages. This year the country suffered from floods. The vigour of the monsoon was rather terrible in the peninsular area this year.

Accidents were small in number. On the East Indian Railway 6 ; North-Western 3 ; Oudh and Rohilkhand 10 ; Eastern Bengal 3 ; Great Indian Peninsula 2 ; Madras Railway 3 ; on the Nizam's 3 ; Rajputana Malwa 3 ; Southern Marhatta 2 ; South Indian 2 ; Assam-Bengal 2 ; Burma Railway 4 ; Rohilkhand and Kumaon 1 ; Bengal Dairs 1 ; Bhavnagar-Gondal 1 ; making a total of 37. This concludes the report. We would have been glad for suggestions of the Director-General, for improvements for the benefit of the travellers. The third and the intermediate classes of the East Indian Railway urgently require some. The packing of passengers for distant journeys produces harmful effects as far as sanitation is concerned. The number should not exceed six in any compartment. The number of closets should be increased.

SIR Alexander Mackenzie has followed up his threat to Backergunge. He begins by completely disarming the people. The following notification appears in this week's *Calcutta Gazette* :—

"NOTIFICATION—No 4772].

The 22nd August 1896.—Whereas numerous murders by gunshot have been committed in the district of Backergunge, and it is deemed necessary for the suppression of such crime that the possession and use of firearms in the district should not be permitted, the Lieutenant-Governor, under the authority vested in him by sections 18 of the Indian Arms Act, XI of 1878, hereby notifies that all licences now held in the district under sections 5, 13 and 14 of the said Act, that is to say, for the manufacture, conversion or sale of firearms and the sale of ammunition, for going armed with firearms and for having in possession or under control firearms and ammunition, are cancelled with effect from the 1st September 1896. The Magistrate of the district will allow to the holders of licences such time as may be necessary for the deposit of their arms with the officer in charge of the nearest police-station.

Arrangements will be made whereby the collecting members of chauridari panchayets will be supplied with guns for use where they may be needed for protection against wild animals.

C. W. BOLTON,
Offg. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal "

THE London *Spectator* has the following notice of Mr. Skrine's "An Indian Journalist" :—

"An Indian Journalist. By F. H. Skrine. (Thacker, Spink and Co., Calcutta.)—Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee's Life and Letters, as they are set forth in this volume, are worth reading. They give us an interesting glimpse into the life of an educated Bengali who stands between the old order and the new. He was liberal enough to welcome countrymen who had broken caste rules by crossing the sea ; yet there was so much of the old leaven in him that he would order everything touched by such a visitor to be destroyed. As regards his occupations he was something of a rolling-stone. His versatility, indeed, in turning from one thing to another seems strange when compared to our settled ways. He was Grand Vizier to an Indian Prince, an M. D., a journalist. This last occupation was his final choice. He had many distinguished correspondents, and the letters that he wrote and received introduce us to and enlighten us about many grave questions in Indian politics and social life."

A PRIVATE letter of the 27th instant from Narail deplores the absence of rain, the withering of the rice crop, and impossibility of extracting jute from the plants, and apprehends distress in the coming year from both food and water famine.

YESTERDAY was the third day of the hearing, in the Chief Magistrate's Court, of the prosecution of the *Hitabadi* for defamation on the complaint of Babu Heramba Chandra Mutra on behalf of his wife. Mr. Palit concluded the opening of the case for the prosecution and intimated that he would have proceeded against the journal for contempt, if the Police Court were the High Court, for publishing correspondence on the subject of the investigation which purported to say that "if your contention is correct, see how many people come forward to be defamed." After alluding to the *Dinik*, also being prosecuted on the same charge by the same complainant and another, he examined two witnesses—Babu Chunder Nith Bose, Bengalee translator to the Government of Bengal, and Babu Lalit Mohun Roy, an assistant in the India Club. The case will be taken up again on Tuesday, the 1st September.

THE *Dinik* has been summoned to answer a charge of libelling Babus Heramba Chandra Mutra and Dwarkanath Gungooly and their wives in an acrostic, the sentence formed by every fourth word of the lines being the subject of complaint. The application was made in the first instance to Mr. Pearson who referred the applicants to the Northern Division Magistrate who has issued the summonses.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, August 29, 1896.

THE LATE NAWAB SIR ABDUL GHANI, K.C.S.I.

DEATH has again removed one of the foremost men of Bengal and a jewel of the Mahomedan community. Nawab Sir Abdul Ghani's demise has cast a gloom over the whole of East Bengal and will be mourned by many more. He was an extraordinary man. His noble life is an interesting study and ought to be a lesson and guide to Indian noblemen.

In the reign of the emperor Mahomed Shah, the ancestor of the family, Moulvi Abdulla, came from Cashmere and established himself as a trader in Sylhet, with head office at Dacca. At the time of Ghaziuddin Mahomed, the last of the Nawabs of Dacca, who was known as the *pugla* Nawab owing to his eccentricities, the family of the present Nawabs had begun to establish themselves at Dacca. It was the time when the old Nawabate was about to terminate. The then head of the rising family was Maulvi Hafizulla Saheb. The business had expanded and they had purchased Zemindaries. Moulvi Hafizul-

la was succeeded by Khaja Alimulla popularly known as Ali Mean, father of Nawab Abdul Ghani. Khaja Alimulla was closely related to Hafizulla, and was an important member of the family. He was a thorough man of business, with strong common sense and uncommon foresight. He saw that old Mahomedan houses in and about Dacca were at their ebb. This was an opportunity to raise his own family on their ruins. He turned his attention to purchase of landed estates, which so much occupied him that he had hardly any time to attend to the business with which his family had commenced, and which, therefore, nearly came to a close. He was fortunate in acquiring Zemindaries cheaply. Fortune smiled on him in other ways. More a Zemindar than a trader, he was now the possessor of the historical diamond "Dariya-i-Noor," worth many lakhs of rupees which Messrs. Hamilton bought for him for only Rs. 60,000. Ali Mean very early in life had courted European society at Dacca and made many friends among officials and non-officials. He did not know English. There was hardly any Mahomedan of his day that knew it, but he had the keenness to see the value of English connection and of the favour of the English. Ali Mean had several sons and daughters. His favourite son was Ghani Mean (then Khaja Abdul Ghani) in whom he detected the traits of character required to complete the work he had commenced. That son was, therefore, selected as the next head of the family and trained accordingly. He was introduced, when a boy, to the Europeans at Dacca, and was given lessons in English just enough for practical purposes. Ali Mean improved the estates so much that he was considered the first Mahomedan Zemindar in Eastern Bengal. His influence at Dacca was great, and people of all classes came to him for help and advice. He lived to equip the boy for the next brilliant chapter of the family history.

Ali Mean, although of the old school and a conservative, had no bigotry about him. His mode of living was, in most respects, European, for he never objected to such European ways as are good and not objectionable on religious grounds. His name was a household word among the European gentlemen and ladies of Dacca. He died about 44 years ago at the advanced age of 70, when Ghani Mean was in the full bloom of youth and well prepared to take his father's place.

He took up the management of his *reayat* with no light heart. Following the example set by his father and the principles laid down by him for conduct of business, he largely improved the estate and raised himself in the estimation of Government and his countrymen generally. He was much liked and loved by his own relations.

As a young man of most pleasing and graceful manners, much attached to his friends, fond of sports and all sorts of manly games, he was a good shot and loved pig-sticking. His education was that of a Mahomedan gentleman of his time, but, with his little knowledge of English, he was a prodigy among his co-religionists. He never showed any inclination for literary pursuits but he liked poetry and music and was liberal to their professors. He combined in himself all that is good and amiable in European and Mahomedan ways and manners. With his active habits, he dressed more like a European than a native. He was, besides, blessed with good health, the result of his active life.

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Rijendra Nuth Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 2nd Sep., at 5-30 P.M. Subject: Pneumatics (concluded).

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 3rd Sep., at 5-30 P.M. Subjects: The Protozoa. Coelenterata.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Friday, the 4th Sept., at 7 P.M. Subject: Expansion by Heat concluded. Change of State by Heat.

Lecture by Babu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 5th Sept., at 5-30 P.M. Subject: Morphology—Flowers.

Lecture by Dr. Nilratan Sircar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 5th Sept., at 6-30 P.M. Subject: Histology—Endothelium connective tissue.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

Aug. 29, 1896.

By judicious and liberal management, Ghani Mean greatly improved the estates and within a short time acquired the reputation of a liberal-minded Zemindar. He was always assisted in the conduct of his affairs by experienced and trustworthy servants, chiefly Hindus. Although he had European and Eurasian managers in his distant and outlying Zemindaris, he rarely availed himself of their assistance in the general control of his affairs. Before he had associated with himself his son, Nawab Ahsanulla, in the work of management, he had nearly doubled the income left by his father. He was uniformly respected, loved, and trusted by all his servants who always found a pleasure in working with and under him.

He would rise very early, ride out, or go a hunting or shooting, or supervise the laying out of gardens, or take long walks. In this he resembled the late Maharaja Mahtabchand Bahadur of Burdwan. On return he would come to his *chaikhana*, a house where he would take tea. Between 7 and 8 A.M. he was always at his tea table, surrounded by a number of respectable gentlemen including some of his relations. Many old, poor, invalid Mahomedans, in reduced circumstances, attended this tea party. Every one was welcome, whether in rags or attired gorgeously, whether Mahomedan or Hindu. Under the pretence of tea, light breakfast would be served to those who had seen better days but who were unable to support themselves. This was a pleasant gathering when the Nawab would be asked to decide family quarrels, reconcile opposing brothers and combating litigants, and do other patriarchal acts. At 9, the Nawab retired to his private apartments, where he took his principal meals, prepared under the supervision of his worthy Begum, with all the important members of his family. At 11 A.M., after the first meal, he retired for rest. Between 11 and 2, he remained in the zenana with his wife and children, attending to their needs and discussing purely private family matters. At 2 P.M., one would find him seated in his room in Ahsan Manzil, smoking *hukka*, of which he was very fond. Important business affairs now claimed his attention. From 2 to 5 important visitors and private arbitration. In this last troublesome and unpleasant business he shewed remarkable tact and patience. Even long after retiring from actual business, he personally managed some estates of his friends in order to save them from trouble and ruin. In the evening also he would go out for a drive or ride, and at 8 again he would sit with some of his best friends and relations and hear music for an hour. At 10 P.M. to bed.

In this way he lived and worked for nearly 40 years, during which time he was never heard to be sick or sorry. Even after giving up the charge he enjoyed excellent health till a few years before his death. He always stuck to his old habits and was very fond of the company of his friends. His public charities are widely known and Dacca is specially indebted to him. He felt most keenly for respectable people reduced to poverty. The greater part of his charity was given in secret. No one had access to his private accounts which he regularly kept himself. He created a confidential fund for the support of the respectable poor of Dacca of whom there is a large number among the Mahomedans. It was managed privately by some members of his family. It has saved the scions of ruined families, and many widows and orphans of his town from penury

and begging, which is the lot of many in most of the old towns in India. They know not who supports them and how God provides them with the means of livelihood. The stipends vary from Rs. 100 to Rs. 2 a month. This fund has been much enlarged by the present head of the family.

He spent large sums on sacred shrines in and about Dacca, supporting spiritual heads and learned men. Although a staunch Sunni, he did not hesitate to maintain, at heavy expense, from his private purse, the greatest and the largest public *Imambara* at Dacca which is entirely a Shia concern.

Following the example of English noblemen, he laid out at a great cost a park, the well known *shekargah* of Baigunbari in the suburbs of Dacca. The Nawab's hospitality was proverbial. People in Calcutta still remember his party when he came here in 1867 as a Member of the Supreme Council.

We do not know any person of his position who stooped so much to show kindness and courtesy to all with whom he came into contact. It was really a treat to meet that charming old man whose gracefulness of manners and buoyancy of spirits had a bewildering effect. The deceased Nawab gave his son a better and more liberal education than what he had received. Nawab Ahsanulla's English education was supervised and conducted by Europeans. Those who know him thoroughly say that he is one of the best educated and enlightened noblemen of India.

It is 20 years since that the deceased Nawab first commenced to train up his son, the present Nawab, in the management of his estates. Gradually he increased his powers, ultimately reserving himself only as an appellate authority in important matters.

The father and son were much attached to each other. Nawab Abdul Ghani was equally fortunate in his wife, Nawab Ahsanulla's mother, a model lady with accomplishments suited to her status in life and time, with goodness of heart, excellence of character and open-handed charity. She was a true help meet to him in a family of nearly 200 members, exercising a wholesome influence not only on her husband but on the whole family as well, and in forming the character of her son.

The Nawab leaves a worthy son to succeed him. Nawab Ahsanulla's second son, Nawab Alikulla, who is now being brought up as the next successor, is a charming and lovable boy.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

August 7.

Imperial Parliament. Interest was centred last night in the House of Lords when the Irish Land Bill went into Committee. The evening proved a disastrous one to the Government. It was defeated by its own supporters in three divisions, the first placing them in a minority of 50, the second in a minority of 47, reduced in the third and last to 19. The position of the Government is a humiliating one, Lord Salisbury being defeated by his own supporters in spite of Lord Rosebery and the few Separatist peers present giving him the benefit of their support in the division lobbies. The Committee meets again this afternoon, when Lord Salisbury may possibly say what the intentions of the Government are. Last night, he maintained an ominous silence. The proceedings were of the dullest and most depressing character. The Irish peers who took part in the debate, nearly all read their speeches. Of course, this remark does not apply to seasoned debaters like Lords Ashbourne and Macnaghten. I was present during a part of the evening, but the brother Barristers Messrs. Monamohun and Lalmohun Ghose could give most of them a start of five miles in the race of eloquence, and beat them with ease. You will notice how the majorities fell off. Before the dinner hour, 58. During and afterwards, 47.

Then, as the evening advanced, the bucolic peers evidently preferred their beds to the gilded benches of the House of Lords, and the 58 came down to 19. Then at 12-15, Lord Salisbury thought they had enough for one night, and proposed an adjournment to this afternoon. If you are to believe a Gladstonian paper, some of the Irish peers, whipped up for this special occasion, had never been in the Houses of Parliament before, and had to be directed by the police in attendance to their proper Chamber. But this, I fancy, must be a joke. It is unfortunate the landlord party should have placed itself in such violent antagonism to that of the tenants. It is in a policy of "give and take" that the future peace of Ireland must be found, and the Bill that has roused into such bitter temper peers like the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Londonderry and their followers, cannot be such a harmful one to the landlords when it is pronounced, on behalf of the tenants, by Mr. Dillon, to be a "sham and a fraud."

The House of Commons has been three days over the Scotch Rating Bill, which has at last gone to the Upper House. It was too good an opportunity for the two Scotch bores in *excelsis*, Messrs. Dalziel and Caldwell, to distinguish themselves. How often the latter spoke in Committee no one can possibly tell, and I do not suppose the honourable member himself knows. The former tried some of his impertinence on the Speaker, but was promptly and peremptorily silenced. Mr. Gully will stand no nonsense. Last night, Dr. Tanner, being in his usual state after ten o'clock, attempted to insult the Speaker. He, however, caved in, craven as he is, the moment Mr. Gully threatened to report him to the House.

Cricket has suddenly become an Indian question over Prince Ranjit Singji. It is a great triumph for him that he has pushed himself to the front in this great national English game. Many competent judges pronounce him to be the very first all-round batter in England. The question now being fiercely debated is, shall the Prince play in the final match between the Australians and an all-England eleven? Having qualified himself as a member of the Sussex County Club, and, if I mistake not, of the M. C. C., I do not well see how exception can be taken to him. This morning's "Daily Mail" has telegrams from Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane, from representative papers, all agreeing he should be included in the eleven. He is a most popular player, and no one, not even the great chief himself, Dr. Grace, is more heartily cheered by the crowds that attend the leading matches throughout the country. He has apparently also domiciled himself in England, and so I hope he will hereafter be included in all international matches. Indeed, our friends in the antipodes hope he will be included in the English eleven that are to go to Australia next season.

Natives of a very different stamp must be Messrs. Buldeo Prasad and Balgobind Bajpai, so called "Bankers" of Allahabad. Their business circular has fallen into the hands of the editor of "Truth." Their special function apparently is to "meet the requirements of families of limited means." "Truth" remarks the facilities to people of limited means "offered by those two worthies throw into the shade anything given by the money-lending fraternity at home." The circular, after quoting the terms on which small advances are made, goes on to remark: "The object of the firm by framing these easy terms is to meet the requirements of persons of limited means." Mr. Labouchere's remark on these words is to the following trenchant effect: "So far as I can make them (the terms) out, a family man of middle means, who did business with this firm would speedily come to the end of his resources and find his family in the work-house."

Water Famine. Your editorial of the 11th ultimo on this subject as affecting Bengal, appeals to us in London here, as, owing to the long continued drought, our water-supply is threatened. Already, in the East End, supplies are limited to three hours in the morning and three in the evening. The vast population in that neighbourhood consists principally of the struggling poor and their sufferings are already acute; while zymotic diseases are threatening to decimate the inhabitants, unless some relief can be found.

Crete. There is a report to-day of a change of Russian policy in regard to its treatment of the Cretan question, and of its attitude towards the Porte. Events seem to betoken some immediate action on the part of the great Powers, but it will be some days before the world is made acquainted with the precise steps to be taken.

The United States. A late issue of the Edinburgh "Scotsman" contains a very interesting letter on the forthcoming Presidential election, by a well informed correspondent, from Chicago.

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

After tracing the history of the country since the close of the civil war, he goes on to discuss the present outlook. He points out that while "slavery was the excuse" the real cause of the war was for supremacy. Reference is then made to the terrible financial troubles of 1873 and 1893, and to the gigantic strike of 1894. He gives Mr. Cleveland all credit for the masterful way in which he met the crisis. But the feeling of unrest instigated by the labour trouble of 1894 has now been "shifted partly from the shoulders of the city and urban labourers to those of the farmer and miner." A great wave in favour of silver has swept over the West and South like a cyclone, and "during twenty-two years' experience of the conditions of this country, we have seen nothing like it." The writer proceeds to point out what a force for good has been the institution of the Supreme Court, which, so far, has been able to keep both Republicans and Democrats "in restraint." He then gives utterance to the following portentous sentence: "Politically this country is rotten to the core, and honeycombed with fraud." But he admits this is due more to the system than to the people, and he winds up with the warning that deeper than gold or silver, Free Trade or Protection, lies in the future the "great labour question." "While we may disguise the facts, the network of competition is drawing round us, and unless we face the difficulties of the situation we may be strangled before we can escape."

Meanwhile Mr. Mackinley and Mr. Bryan seem to be taking a rest after the excitement of the St. Louis and Chicago conventions. They will soon be on the war path again, and Mr. Bryan announces his intention of inflicting a great speech on the politicians of New York. Mr. Smalley, the American correspondent of the "Times," has evidently no liking for Mr. Bryan. He describes him in Carlyle's often quoted phrase as going off into "wind and tongue." Senator Palmer, of Illinois, a Democrat of standing, says of him: "Mr. Bryan is the best possible representative of the Populists and semi-Populists who nominated him. He is all mouth." Mr. Smalley asks himself the question, "Has Mr. Bryan in him the stuff of a revolutionary leader, for it is a revolution he is trying to lead." He is the mouth-piece of the "discredited, the discontented, the disloyal, for they are disloyal to the Republic as it is and to society as it is. They want a new heaven and a new earth. Is Mr. Bryan the man to give it them, to work miracles? He believes the masses to be downtrodden and oppressed, but he has only smooth words for the oppressor. If he has any great intellectual superiority, any overmastering power of will, any gift of difficult leadership, any commanding authority over his heterogeneous legions, he has yet to show it. If he be only an acrobat, a mere politician, clever in speech and clever in electioneering, he will soon be found out. He is an unknown quantity, probably unknown also to himself."

The Daily Mail. This new first class morning daily paper beats the record in English journalism. It is published at a half penny, and contains not only all the ordinary intelligence supplied by such old penny journals as the "Standard," the "Telegraph," "Daily News" and "Chronicle," but has its own correspondents in all the principal cities of the world. It is also to be put almost immediately in telephonic communication with Paris. Another strong feature in its management is the sending of special correspondents, highly qualified, to keep its readers abreast of the many exciting topics of general political movements. One of the most important of these correspondents is about to start for America to keep us in full touch with all the developments of the exciting Presidential election in the United States. The "Daily Mail" began with an average circulation, in May, of 171,121 copies. The sale in last month reached the enormous total of 5,496,622, or a daily average of 203,578 copies. This is a story of marvellous success, and reflects the very highest credit on Mr. Harmston, to whose genius for organization and splendid energy we are indebted for this latest and most important addition to the number of our morning newspapers. The editor is not indifferent to India. In the issue of the 5th instant, an Anglo-Indian correspondent discusses the frontier question. There is also in the same issue the report of an interview with Mr. J. M. Maclean (formerly of Bombay) on the injudicious, haphazard remarks of our Commander-in-Chief, on the Native Army, before the Royal Commission sitting on the financial relations of Great Britain and India.

Lord Wolseley, as Mr. Maclean justly observes, knows nothing of the present native army. His experience of the Indian soldier is antediluvian, and not worth a brass farthing. The Gladstonian penny-a-liners are very fond of giving Mr. Chamberlain the sobriquet of "pushing Joe." The term "pushing" might more appropriately be given to Lord Wolseley. He has pushed himself to the first place in the front ranks of the army. If you wish to see how poor and contemptible a man he really is, you have only to read his treatment of the late Sir Bartle Frere, when the latter was High Commissioner at Cape Town and was superseded in Natal by Wolseley. His conduct at that time stands out in dastardly contrast to that of the noble Indian Army Bayard, the late Lord Napier of Magdala. What a colossal fortune I could make if I could only buy Lord Wolseley, at my valuation, and sell him at his own! The Transvaal millionaires would not be in it.

Letter to the Editor.

THE FOOT-BALL IN CALCUTTA.

The Foot-ball demon has possessed Calcutta. Good or bad, it can not be denied that foot-ball excites more interest here at the present time than anything else. A casual observer can not but be struck with the lively appearance presented by the *maidan* of a clear afternoon. Every available spot, as far as the eye can reach, is converted into a foot-ball ground, and it would be a rude intrusion to tread its sacred precincts. Each ground is the property of a club or clubs, for the use of which the Police charges a nominal annual rent. The more respectable clubs have tents pitched at convenient places close to the grounds and the latter are kept in good order at considerable expense. It needs but little discernment to distinguish a foot-ball ground from the surrounding fields, the former is so well kept. Truly it has been said that a plot of green grass is the most refreshing sight on the face of the earth. The foot-ball season commences about the middle of June and lasts till the middle of October. During this period the grounds in the *maidan* are busy every day of the week with lusty young men kicking a leather ball; and it really does one's heart good to see the enthusiasm evinced by the players as well as the on-lookers, in this noble game. We will speak only of the part taken by Bengalee youths in the foot-ball rage. Young Bengal take a very keen interest indeed in foot-ball—more perhaps than they ever did in the Hon. Mr. Banerjee's political agitations. The interest is real, for they know what they are about. It is active, for they are impelled by something within and not set by the ears by a strong band from behind. The interest is also very widespread. This is amply proved by the large number of Bengal's sons—students, teachers, clerks, pleaders, attorneys, brokers, shop-keepers, in fact members of almost every walk of life—who on a "match" day pour in from a variety of quarters towards the scene of action. According to the *Englishman's* computation, no less than 35,000 people assembled to witness the final competition for the Indian Association challenge shield, and the Bengalees without doubt formed the major part of the gathering. We know of people coming down from Hughli and such neighbouring places to witness an exciting "match" in the *maidan*. The wave of enthusiasm has reached the remote villages of Bengal. Reports are now and then published of inter-subdivisional or inter-district matches. Narail, a small village in the district of Jessore, contains no less than three foot-ball clubs and each has a respectable number of members. Speaking of Calcutta, the number of foot-ball clubs is very large indeed and is yearly increasing. Some of these are very curiously named, e. g., "The Stalwarts", "Students' Amethyst Gymnastics," &c. The playing members of most of the clubs are students, and if a statistics can be prepared it will be seen that a large percentage of the student community of Calcutta takes to this exercise. The Baboo Junior, taking a fancy to this particular form of exercise does not date back more than five or six years. Within this short period the leather ball has assumed such gigantic proportions that it has completely filled his imagination. Clubs have sprung up like mushrooms with ever-lengthening lists of members and one of their representatives has been even given a place in the Council of the Indian Foot-ball Association.

It is evident from what has been written above that the Bengalee student has rather suddenly been roused from his native lethargy. He is no longer content with only stocking his brain with scraps of information on every possible and impossible subjects. He must do something to improve his body. A great impetus was given by our late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Charles Elliott, in this direction, and we must not forget to mention in this connection the beloved and honoured name of the late lamented Mr. Harry Lee, the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, who, of all others, did the most in introducing a spirit for athletics among the younger generation. A need for some sort of bodily exercise had been felt, and its introduction was looked with favour and even furthered by high officials. Foot-ball naturally attracted the attention of the young men as being at once the cheapest and most exciting form of exercise and best calculated to suit their convenience as regards time, ground, &c. All that was needed was complete; and like the mysterious force which suddenly converts a liquid in a state of high tension into a crystalline mass when a slight motion is imparted to, or a nucleus introduced into it, the impetus given, Young Bengal all of a sudden broke forth into a fit of enthusiasm for foot-ball. The first effervescence has not yet subsided, and at the sight of this unwonted activity cautious men—unfortunately for our country we have too many of them—are denouncing the movement as tending to distract the attention of the students from their studies. Instances are quoted with the object of proving the danger of the innovation. A certain boy was one day told by his father to stay at home one afternoon. He came from school as usual, ate his tiffin and did not go out. But as the time was drawing near for the

members of his club assembling in the play-ground, he began to show signs of restlessness, till at last he could bear the strain no longer—he actually fell into a swoon. Whatever might be the objections of "old women," it can not be denied that we have need of the robust student in the place of his stooping, dyspeptic predecessor. Without pausing one moment to argue such feeble objections, we may without hesitation say that the Bengalee student with a stronger physique has a brighter future before him. Reviewing the life of the late Kristodas Pal, Mr. N. N. Ghose remarked that when Mr. Gladstone first entered the House of commons, Kristodas was not yet born and when Kristodas died, Mr. Gladstone had not yet introduced his *magnum opus*—the Home Rule Bill—into the House. This pregnant expression speaks perhaps more than can be said in a single article in favour of the Bengalee boys taking to a manly game, such as the foot ball is one. Mr. F. J. Rowe, of the Presidency College, is said to have humourously remarked the other day that, among the Indians, there are now only three great men living—Dr. J. C. Bose, Dr. P. C. Roy and Kumar Sri Ranjit Singji. Whatever that might be worth, it must be admitted that it will be a blessed day for Bengal when the best foot-ball player will be hailed with as much enthusiasm, if not more, as the Prem Chand Roy Chand scholar of the year.

A Member of the Mohanbagan Athletic Club.

Aug. 27, 1896.

WE MUST HAVE THE TOOLS.

ROBINSON CRUSOE, you remember, made a big boat or canoe out of the trunk of a tree. It was a laborious and tedious job. And that wasn't the worst of it. When he got the boat done he couldn't launch it. It was too heavy for one man to handle. If he had only had an arrangement like the capstan of a ship he might have managed. He *understood* how to do it, but lacked the tools. How often we find ourselves at a dead stand for that same reason. Let me give you a fresh illustration, tied up for the moment in the following letter, which must first be read before we can rightly come at the point.

"In the spring of 1884," says our correspondent, "I got into a low weak way, not being able to imagine what had happened to me. My strength kept ebbing away till I had scarcely the desire or ability to do anything. I felt as tired as if I had just arrived home from a long, hard journey, yet no tax more than usual of any kind had been laid upon me. My mind, too, was weary; so that I turned from things that obliged me to think, plan, or consider.

"Side by side, so to speak, with all this was the failure of my appetite. Of course I continued to eat, or make an effort to eat, but food no longer tempted me as it does a person in health. I picked and minced over my meals, and the little I took neither tasted good nor did me any good after I had eaten it. Instead of warming, comforting and stimulating me, as it used to do, it gave me distress at the stomach, pain at the chest, and a singular feeling of tightness around the waist, as though a belt were buckled too snug around me.

"After a time the condition of my stomach seemed to grow worse. There was that sense of gnawing, so often mentioned by others, and occasionally a feeling of faintness and sinking, almost like the ground giving way under one's feet."

[REMARK: An eminent London physician, in one of his books, describes this sinking feeling as one of the most appalling and frightful that it is possible to experience. It is not the body but the *mind* that suffers. I, the present writer, have had two attacks of it, and pray to have no more. It is like unto the overshadowing of the Death Angel's wing, with the *mind fully conscious of the situation*. The cause is uric acid poison in the blood, one of the products of prolonged indigestion.]

"When this sinking feeling came on," continues the letter, "it weighed me down like a nightmare. Finally I got to be so weak I could only walk slowly and feebly. The doctor who prescribed for me said my complaint was *dyspepsia*, but his medicine had no perceptible effect.

"I continued like this for eight years; not always the same, but now better and then worse. Yet in all that long time ~~there~~ was not a day when I could say I was well. No medicine or treatment seemed right for me, and I almost began to think I never should recover my former health.

"In March, 1892, Mother Seigel's Syrup was recommended to me as having done wonders in cases like mine, even when they were of long standing and everything else had failed. No harm to try it, we thought, and got a bottle from Mr. Grime, the chemist, in Bolton Road; and after taking it I felt great relief. My appetite quickly improved, and I could eat without pain. When I had taken two or three bottles more the bad symptoms had all gone, and I was as well as ever. My husband also took the medicine with the same good results. You may publish my letter and refer inquirers to me. (Signed) (Mrs.) Elizabeth Wilson, 5, Northcote Street, Bolton Road, Darwen, March 1st, 1895."

The lesson in this interesting narrative is too plain for us to miss it. Our old friend Crusoe was not able to launch his boat for the want of machinery. Similarly the doctor who attended Mrs. Wilson was not able to cure her because he did not possess the right remedy. His opinion as to her complaint was entirely correct. She was suffering from chronic dyspepsia, precisely as he told her. But alas! it is one thing to know what ought to be done and quite another to have the knowledge and means to do it.

Between these two things (over this wide gap) stands Mother Seigel's Syrup, just as between the two sides of the Thames stands London Bridge.

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The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

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It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

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WHOLE NO. 741.

WEEKLYANA.

THE 19th annual meeting of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science was held at the Hall of the Association on Saturday last. In the absence of the President, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Vice-President, Father Lafont, presided. The Honorary Secretary, on being called by the Chairman, read the Report of the Committee of Management for the past year, from which it appears that altogether 159 lectures were delivered in physics, chemistry, and biology, and 24 practical demonstrations were held in physics and chemistry. A noteworthy fact was that five students, who were allowed to work in the laboratory to prepare themselves for the M. A. degree of the Calcutta University, were successful in obtaining that degree. Of the eight students who underwent the examination of the Association in physics and chemistry, three were entitled to receive prizes and medals. The receipts and expenditure of the Association showed progressive financial prosperity. The Association is continuing to receive monthly, quarterly, and annual subscriptions from the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, from Maharaja Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore Bahadur, Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, and others. The Association has Government securities, in the custody of the Bank of Bengal, of the nominal value of Rs. 1,24,400, which is more by Rs. 3,400 than what it had in 1894.

After the reading of the Report, Dr. Mithendralal Sircar, addressed the meeting as follows :—

"Gentlemen,—It must be a relief to you to learn that I am not going to inflict a speech upon you. The chief burden of my speech from year to year was the endowment of professorships, with special reference to the one which the Association resolved to found in the name of Lord Ripon so far back as 1884, that is, twelve years ago, for which we had not only his lordship's permission but his donation of a thousand rupees. From the report of your Committee which I have just read you have seen that two members of the Association have out of pity to the secretary, for which he cannot be too thankful, removed that burden from his to their shoulders. They have not only come forward with munificent donations, but have determined to see that at least the Ripon professorship fund do not remain a standing disgrace to the Association and a blot upon our national character, the noblest feature of which has in the past been gratitude. I only hope that Justice Gooroo Dass Banerjee and Babu Ganes Chunder Chunder's example and practical appeal will bear fruit, and that before the year expires we shall be in a position to carry out the suggestion of the committee, namely, to endeavour to secure a whole-time professor as soon as the realized donations give us an income of Rs. 100 a month.

You no doubt feel that the Association must be in the lowest stage of evolution when it has not yet been able, after an existence of twenty years, to provide even so poorly for a single professorship, that is, for a man who can carry on investigations within its walls, unhindered with the thought of providing for the simple necessities of life. Each of you, therefore, gentlemen, who have helped in establishing the Association with the object of enabling your countrymen to cultivate science in all its departments, ought not to rest contented till you have enabled it to fulfil that object. You have to see to the endowment not of one but of several professorships. For it is no longer possible for one man to cultivate all the branches of science, though a general acquaintance with as many of them as possible helps in the proper and successful cultivation of especial branches.

The branches of science have multiplied so much in these days that fifty professors for a scientific institution would not be too many. And there are in fact institutions in Europe which do actually maintain such a number of professors. I do not expect that number in our Association within the life-time of any of us here present, though if funds were forthcoming the thing is not beyond the range of possibility. But under the circumstances of our country, to think of so many professors

for our Association would be but indulging in an idle dream. I must therefore limit myself to speaking of such professorships as have become an imperative necessity. After physics and chemistry, the next subject that has a legitimate claim upon our attention is biology. Before providing for physics I could not venture to ask for the endowment of a chair for biology. But now that some provision has been made for chemistry by H. H. the Maharaja of Cooch Behar's monthly subscription of Rs. 100 a month, and assuming, which Justice Gooroo Dass Banerjee and Babu Ganes Chunder Chunder have enabled us confidently to do, that the Ripon professorship will ere long be an accomplished fact, I think I may now go about with a begging bowl for biology in hand.

I am glad to tell you that I do not appear before you with altogether an empty bowl. At the Hare Anniversary held here in June last, one of our colleagues, Babu Nilmani Kumar, read an address on the Calcutta Medical College, which in its infancy was an object of Hare's philanthropic solicitude and care, and thus concluded the address: 'Before resuming my seat, I beg to make a suggestion, the adoption of which, I humbly think, will perpetuate the memory of David Hare better, because more fittingly, than the statue which was erected by his immediate pupils. The suggestion is, to invite public subscriptions for the establishment of a professorship in his name in this institution (the Science Association), which may be said to have owed its existence to his influence, because founded by one who commenced his education in the Hare School and completed it in the Calcutta Medical College.'

The meeting, before which this address was delivered, was a large one, and the following resolution was passed: 'That this meeting is unanimously of opinion that the suggestion of the learned lecturer be carried out, namely, that a professorship in the name of David Hare be established in connection with the Science Association, and that the enlightened and generous public be invited to make suitable contributions towards that object.' You will, I doubt not, be pleased to learn that the mover of the resolution was no less a person than our distinguished colleague, Dr. Gooroo Dass Banerjee, who, in the course of an eloquent speech, suggested that the subject of the professorship should be biology; and what is of more interest to us is, that he did not rest contented with moving the resolution, but came forward with the first subscription, the munificent sum of Rs. 1,000, in aid of the professorship. This created such an enthusiasm amongst the audience that a further sum of one thousand three hundred and six rupees was subscribed on the spot; so that altogether I have promise of Rs. 2,306 to begin with.

No further advance has since been made, but that is, I believe, simply because the public of Calcutta and the people of Bengal have not been made sufficiently and properly acquainted with the object and importance of the professorship. My persuasion, Gentlemen, is that this is the case with the Ripon professorship, and, indeed, with the whole scheme of the Science Association.

I must confess I have not been able to do my duty at all adequately in this matter. I have not succeeded in impressing my countrymen with the importance of Science-cultivation as under the present circumstances the most important factor of not only their improvement, but of their actual regeneration. I have certainly not succeeded in inspiring the general educated community with love of science, far less with missionary zeal and enthusiasm for its propagation. It would be the height of ingratitude in me to say that I have derived no help from my educated countrymen. All the help, in fact, has come from them but this was spontaneously rendered, without any prompting from me. And the number of those who have so helped is few, very few, indeed, infinitesimal, compared to the number who may be said to have received a liberal education. The fact remains that the majority of our educated community have not awakened to an adequate sense of their responsibility in this matter of supreme importance; which you may interpret, if you like, as meaning that, from whatever cause it may be, I have not been able to reach the mind and the heart of that community which alone can influence the country.

If you are inclined to take an indulgent view of the situation you may take it that it is not possible for one man, weighted with other duties which could not be safely and conscientiously neglected, to do all that was necessary to be done in order to carry out such a large scheme as that of the Science Association, for which both the material and the moral support of the whole country is required. If you will be

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

pleased to take this indulgent view then I may consider my own humble work done.

I have all along maintained that the original Aryan vigour of intellect, which in the past caused the light of knowledge to radiate from our country to the rest of the world, is only dormant in us and not gone beyond recovery. That I am not a visionary or a vaunting patriot, has been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt by admittedly superior display of intelligence in other fields than pure science, and very recently even in the field of pure science itself. I allude to the success which has attended the labours of Professor Jagadish Chandra Bose whom, some of you may remember, I was the first to welcome in this very hall as a young man of promise. He has kept his promise exceedingly well. I can scarcely express in words the delight I feel at his success, and I sincerely tell you that that delight could not have been greater than if he had been my own son, or if I myself had been in his place. Indeed, Gentlemen, if I could lay bare my heart I could have shown you I am rejoicing much more simply because he has shown that Indians are not mere speculative and impractical dreamers, but that they can, if they but will it, be as practical as any nation on the face of the globe.

Yes, Gentlemen, you have but to will it, and victory even in the domain of practical science is yours. What is it which prevents you from taking that determination? What is it that has produced such an inertia of the will as to render you so unmindful of your best interests? The answer to this question furnishes, in my humble opinion, the key to our decadence as a nation, and suggests also the means by which we can not only regain our lost prestige, but even yet take rank with the most civilized nations of the world. So long as we were earnest and diligent in exploring the secrets of Nature we had mastery over her and could hold our own, but from the moment we gave ourselves up to luxury and ease and were taught by an idle priesthood to depend upon invoking the aid of the gods without doing the necessary work ourselves, we began to fall from our high estate, and our present condition shows how great has been that fall. The moral is obvious, and my whole life has been spent in preaching it to my countrymen, I hope not in vain."

The Resolutions for (1) the adoption of the Report, (2) the appointment of office-bearers, and (3) the appointment of the Committee of Management for the current year, were passed. The Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Bose, in moving the 2nd resolution for the appointment of office-bearers, made an eloquent speech in which he paid a glowing tribute to Sir Alexander Mackenzie for his services in the cause of education and for being the first Lieutenant-Governor who has sent an Indian on a scientific deputation to Europe. He also spoke highly of the Vice-Presidents, Father Lefont and Raja Peary Mohan Mookerjee, and of the Honorary Secretary. He hoped and prayed that Dr. Sircar would live long to see his cherished dream realized,—the Association with a multitude of professors diffusing the blessings of science, and many a young man successfully prosecuting scientific researches, bringing honour and glory to him as their venerated sire.

The Rev. Father Lefont, after distributing the prizes and medals, spoke of the Association as the only national Indian institution for the cultivation of science, for which reason he has helped its founder, Dr. Sircar, since the very inception of his project. Science was still an exotic, and the natives of this country could make it indigenous only by cultivating it themselves. The cultivation of science, which means the discovery of truth, by the study of God's works, will do them good and no harm, and while he would not recommend them to borrow anything else from Europe, neither literature, nor philosophy, nor even religion, he would earnestly recommend them to borrow science from her as much as they could. They should do more than merely borrow. They should add to the stock of scientific knowledge, and this they could only do, as he had already said, by carrying on scientific investigations themselves, which they were quite capable of doing. He was quite confident that they had to engage in such researches with patience, earnestness and zeal, and it would not be long before they met with their reward in the shape of some striking or useful discovery. He had, therefore, great pleasure in cordially supporting the appeal for funds in aid of the establishment of professorships.

MR. F. GANESCO, a French journalist, travelling through Shimonoseki when Li Hung Chang was acting as Ambassador to Japan after the war relates the following in the *Revue Bleue* :—

"Mr. Ganesco sought to interview the Viceroy, but it was pointed out to him that if an interview were granted in this case the same favour would have to be extended to all the other journalists present, and they were legion. Mr. Ganesco is enterprising. Meeting a friend whose influence in high quarters is great, he proposed that since Li Chung Tong would not grant him an interview, he (Mr. Ganesco) would be pleased if the Viceroy would condescend to interview him instead. Pulling the right string, and in good time, will work wonders, especially in Japan, and Mr. Ganesco knew this, with the result that he was pleased to allow the Viceroy to interview him. The conversation, which lasted ten minutes, is told by Mr. Ganesco as follows :— 'Li Chung Tong, extending his hand to me, said, "Good day, sir, how do you do? I am very pleased to meet you." Then ensued a hurried consultation with his Excellency's interpreter. I knew we should pre-

sently exchange confidences. In this I was not mistaken, for the interpreter at once began : "Speaking for his Excellency, sir, would there be objection in asking what your age might be?" How sorry I was that humour is not my strong point, for here was a fine opportunity for a pretty reply. Alas, for the narrowness of my wit! I had to state my age pure and simple. Li Chung Tong answered with an extraordinary exclamation; but whether that was intended to be complimentary or otherwise, I cannot say; it might have been anything, in fact. Directly after he blurted out with great rapidity the following cross-examination :—"Have you been here long?" "How did you come?" "When are you leaving?" "France is a great country!" Then the Viceroy thought that possibly some State secrets had still been unrevealed to me, for he promptly added, with much gravity, "It is a very fine day, is it not?" Full of gratitude in having gained the evident confidence of so great a man, I bowed respectfully and took my leave. I felt feverish from the responsibility of all that had passed between us; and I was glad of the refreshing breeze as I wended my way back to the hotel!"

THE Turk is more complimentary than the Chinaman. Hear Kinglake :—

"I think I should mislead you if I were to attempt to give the substance of any particular conversation with orientals. A traveller may write and say that 'the Pasha of So-and-so was particularly interested in the vast progress which has been made in the application of steam, and appeared to understand the structure of our machinery—that he remarked upon the gigantic results of our manufacturing industry—showed that he possessed considerable knowledge of our Indian affairs, and of the constitution of the Company, and expressed a lively admiration of the many sterling qualities for which the people of England are distinguished.' But the heap of commonplace thus quietly attributed to the Pasha will have been founded perhaps on some such talking as this :—

Pasha.—The Englishman is welcome; most blessed among hours is this, the hour of his coming.

Dragoman (to the Traveller).—The Pasha pays you his compliments.

Traveller.—Give him my best compliments in return, and say I'm delighted to have the honour of seeing him.

Dragoman (to the Pasha).—His Lordship, this Englishman, Lord of London, Scornor of Ireland, Suppressor of France, has quitted his governments, and left his enemies to breathe for a moment, and has crossed the broad waters in strict disguise, with a small but eternally faithful retinue of followers, in order that he might look upon the bright countenance of the Pasha among Pashas—the Pasha of the everlasting Pashalik of Karaghoolkoldour.

Traveller (to his Dragoman).—What on earth have you been saying about London? The Pasha will be taking me for a mere Cockney. Have not I told you *always* to say, that I am from a branch of the family of Mudcombe Park, and that I am to be a magistrate for the county of Bedfordshire, only I've not qualified; and that I should have been a deputy-lieutenant, if it had not been for the extraordinary conduct of Lord Mountpromise; and that I was a candidate for Boughton-Soldborough at the last election, and that I should have won easy if my committee had not been bribed. I wish to heaven that if you do say anything about me, you'd tell the simple truth!

Dragoman.—[is silent].

Pasha.—What says the friendly Lord of London? Is there nought that I can grant him within the Pashalik of Karaghoolkoldour?

Dragoman (growing sulky and literal).—This friendly Englishman—this branch of Mudcombe—this head purveyor of Boughton-Soldborough—this possible policeman of Bedfordshire—is recounting his achievements and the number of his titles.

Pasha.—The end of his honours is more distant than the ends of the earth, and the catalogue of his glorious deeds is brighter than the firmament of heaven!

Dragoman (to the Traveller).—The Pasha congratulates your Excellency.

Traveller.—About Boughton-Soldborough? The deuce he does!—but I want to get at his views in relation to the present state of the Ottoman empire. Tell him the Houses of Parliament have met, and that there has been a speech from the Throne pledging England to maintain the integrity of the Sultan's dominions.

Dragoman (to the Pasha).—This branch of Mudcombe, this possible policeman of Bedfordshire, informs your Highness that in England the talking houses have met, and that the integrity of the Sultan's dominions has been assured for ever and ever by a speech from the velvet chair.

Pasha.—Wonderful chair! Wonderful houses!—whirr! whirr! all by wheels!—whizz! whizz! all by steam!—wonderful chair! wonderful houses! wonderful people!—whirr! whirr! all by wheels!—whizz! whizz! all by steam!

Traveller (to the Dragoman).—What does the Pasha mean by that whizzing? he does not mean to say, does he, that our Government will ever abandon their pledges to the Sultan?

Dragoman.—No, your Excellency, but he says the English talk by wheels and by steam.

Traveller.—That's an exaggeration; but say that the English really have carried machinery to great perfection. Tell the Pasha (he'll be struck with that) that whenever we have any disturbances to put down, even at two or three hundred miles from London, we can send troops by the thousand to the scene of action in a few hours.

Dragoman (recovering his temper and freedom of speech).—His Excellency, this Lord of Mudcombe, observes to your Highness, that whenever the Irish, or the French, or the Indians rebel against the English, whole armies of soldiers and brigades of artillery are dropped into a mighty chasm called Euston Square, and, in the biting of a cartridge, they rise up again in Manchester, or Dublin, or Paris or Delhi, and utterly exterminate the enemies of England from the face of the earth.

Pasha.—I know it—I know all; the particulars have been faithfully related to me, and my mind comprehends locomotives. The armies of the English ride upon the vapours of boiling caldrons, and their horses are flaming coals!—whirr! whirr! all by wheels!—whiz! whiz! all by steam!

Traveller (to his Dragoman).—I wish to have the opinion of an unprejudiced Ottoman gentleman as to the prospects of our English commerce and manufactures; just ask the Pasha to give me his views on the subject.

Pasha (after having received the communication of the Dragoman). The ships of the English swarm like flies; their printed calicoes cover the whole earth, and by the side of their swords the blades of Damascus are blades of grass. All India is but an item in the ledger-books of the merchants whose lumber-rooms are filled with ancient thrones!—whirr! whirr! all by wheels!—whiz! whiz! all by steam!

Dragoman.—The Pasha compliments the cutlery of England, and also the East India Company.

Traveller.—The Pasha's right about the cutlery: I tried my scimitar with the common officers' swords belonging to our fellows at Malta, and they cut it like the leaf of a novel. Well (to the Dragoman), tell the Pasha I am exceedingly gratified to find that he entertains such a high opinion of our manufacturing energy, but I should like him to know, though, that we have got something in England besides that. These foreigners are always fancying that we have nothing but ships and railways, and East India Companies; do just tell the Pasha, that our rural districts deserve his attention, and that even within the last two hundred years there has been an evident improvement in the culture of the turnip; and if he does not take any interest about that, at all events you can explain that we have our virtues in the country—that we are a truth-telling people, and, like the Osmanlees, are faithful in the performance of our promises. Oh! and by the by, whilst you are about it, you may as well just say, at the end, that the British yeoman is still, thank God! the British yeoman.

Pasha (after hearing the Dragoman).—It is true, it is true: through all Feringhistan the English are foremost and best; for the Russians are drilled swine, and the Germans are sleeping babes, and the Italians are the servants of songs, and the French are the sons of newspapers, and the Greeks are the weavers of lies, but the English and the Osmanlees are brothers together in righteousness: for the Osmanlees believe in one only God, and cleave to the Koran, and destroy idols; so do the English worship one God, and abominate graven images, and tell the truth, and believe in a book; and though they drink the juice of the grape, yet to say that they worship their prophet as God, or to say that they are eaters of pork, these are lies—lies born of Greeks, and nursed by Jews.

Dragoman.—The Pasha compliments the English.

Traveller (rising).—Well, I've had enough of this. Tell the Pasha I am greatly obliged to him for his hospitality, and still more for his kindness in furnishing me with horses, and say that now I must be off.

Pasha (after hearing the Dragoman, and standing up on his divan).—Proud are the sires, and blessed are the dams of the horses, that shall carry his Excellency to the end of his prosperous journey. May the saddle beneath him glide down to the gates of the happy city like a boat swimming on the third river of Paradise! May he sleep the sleep of a child, when his friends are around him; and the while that his enemies are abroad may his eyes flame red through the darkness—more red than the eyes of ten tigers!—farewell!

Dragoman.—The Pasha wishes your Excellency a pleasant journey. So ends the visit."

THE "Scientific American" (supplement) of July 18, writes:—

"In Austria drunkards are treated under the Curatel law, that applies to persons mentally afflicted and to spendthrifts, their affairs being placed in charge of an administrator. A person suffering from excessive indulgence in drink may be brought judicially under this law. But in Galicia, Cracow and Bukovina there are special laws for the punishment of persons drunk in public places, while persons convicted of drunkenness three times in one year are prohibited from visiting public houses. A Bill has been introduced in Austrian Reichsrath providing for the erection of public asylums for drunkards, who may be detained for two years on complaint of their relatives or of the public authorities."

England is also for a law restraining the action of the drunkards. The English love of liberty is in the way of restraining spendthrifts. In fact, so long as a man lives, he is free to act as he likes. It is not till his death, when his will comes before the Courts that they examine his intellectual power to protect his property from faulful or illegal disposition. In death he is more cared for than in life.

..

In Paris, the cheapest lodging house, if house it may be called, is "le cabinet" with space for only a cot and costing the lodger £6 a year. It is only a shelter from wind and weather. The next is the "chambre" with a fire place and a window, the rent varying from £7½ to £12½. The "chambre et cabinet," and the "lodgement" consist of two rooms and kitchen with a fire-place and windows. With the "petit apartment" begins the gen-

* That is, if he stands up at all: oriental etiquette would not warrant his rising, unless his visitor were supposed to be at least his equal in point of rank and station.

tility. An "apartment" embraces a whole suite, the rent being £25 and upwards. For the luxurious there is the private hotel.

THE new Superintendent of the Calcutta School of Art and Art Gallery is Mr. Ernest Binfield Havell, appointed by the Secretary of State.

..

SIR Alfred Croft having fallen ill and about to go on leave, Dr. C. A. Martin, Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi and Burdwan Circle, is acting as Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

..

THE *Englishman*, of August 28, has the following editorial note on Dr. Bhattacharya's latest work:—

"The Yogi has to sit with his right leg on his left thigh, and his left leg on his right thigh, and in that uncomfortable position to point his eyes towards the tip of his nose." This is only the first of a series of physical feats which the Yogi has to perform preliminary to undergoing a course of mental gymnastics. Dr. Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya in his latest work in 'Hindu Castes and Sects' (Messrs. Thacker, Spink) tells us that while seated in the method described above the devotee must close up one nostril and inhale through the other. When the lungs are entirely inflated a certain number of formulas must be repeated before he may again expire. The whole operation is very simple, says Dr. Bhattacharya, 'and yet the man who can go through it with a little pantomimic skill and seriousness can, at a very little cost, acquire a character for superior sanctity.' The subject which Dr. Bhattacharya treats of in this book is, as may be imagined, a highly complicated and difficult one, but it is dealt with in a manner which renders it extremely interesting, and with an evident earnestness of purpose which makes it a valuable contribution to the literature of the question. His work is thorough, unaffected, and the result of patient research."

..

THE following Note by the Mail is from the *Englishman*. It is introduced under the sub-heads—Some Humours of the French Census. Thirty-Year-Old Centenarians:—

"In the last census returns appeared the names of several persons who were alleged to be over one hundred years old. These wonderful examples of longevity were said to have been born in Paris, and to have spent all their lives inside its walls, only now and then, like other economical citizens, taking a cheap trip down the river or enjoying fresh air in the woods near the metropolis. From this it was argued that Paris, after all, was no unhealthy place, and that its inhabitants had as much chance of living long as though they dwelt in the country. The persons, however, who thus painted the advantages of the metropolis have had to bear keen disappointment. An attempt has been made to see the 'centenarians' in the flesh and it succeeded—up to a certain point. Two of them, says the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, were found to be young women who could not muster fifty years between them. They are dress-makers, and were energetically plying their needles when the investigator burst in upon them. Hearty was their laughter when he informed them that they had been set down in the census returns as grandams, who had been born about the time when Louis XVI. was guillotined by the Revolutionists. Another supposed centenarian was a hale and hearty carpenter, forty years old, of the Rouquette district, who laid down his adze when told that he was born over a century since, and said that he had no objection to have his age stated at 100 years if the Government gave him a pension. It appears that, after all, there is only one authentic centenarian in Paris—namely, the old dame of the Salpêtrière Hospital, whose longevity has already been celebrated in prose and poetry."

A BOSTON journal soliloquizes:—

To advertise or not to advertise—

That is the question

Whether 'tis nobler in a business man to suffer

The loss and slowness of unbought bargains,

Or, by advertising, sell them.

There's the nightmare of neglected opportunity—

Of space unoccupied in the daily press—

That might enrich the merchant's pocket

By emptying his plethoric shelves—

All these, and other things to prize,

Should lead the wise to advertise.

..

LAST month, 550 male and 200 female Europeans and 31,569 male and 10,003 female Natives, or in all 42,322 persons, at a daily average of 1,840 for the 23 public days, visited the Indian Museum.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,
OUR OWN NEWS
&
THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

DETAILS of the raid of the Armenians on the Ottoman Bank shew that they parleyed with Sir Edgar Vincent at the window, and declared that their object was to demonstrate against their desertion by the Powers. They stipulated that they should have safe conduct and retain their revolvers. These conditions were granted, and they were conveyed to Sir Edgar's yacht. They then safely sailed for Marseilles. During the Armenian occupation of the Bank, the Mussalman mob massacred, it is said, 5,000 innocent Armenians in the streets. The troops took no part, but were passive spectators of the butchery. British residents took shelter in different places. Marines have been landed from the guardships at Constantinople for the protection of the different embassies. President Cleveland has ordered a despatch of cruisers to Turkey. The foreign Ambassadors at Constantinople have appealed directly to the Sultan to put a stop to the horrors perpetrated in the city. They refer to the violation and looting of foreign domiciliaries, and point to the possible grave results that may follow. The foreign Embassies refused to illuminate on August 31, in honour of the Sultan's accession, and are drafting a note pointing to the late massacres as being organised with the connivance of the authorities. The excitement has subsided, but the Armenians are hidden in warehouses, and have several times thrown bombs and fired on the soldiers. The Porte has appointed a special commission to try the rioters and murderers and also the police who tolerated their misdeeds.

THE Sultan has sanctioned the scheme of reforms in Crete formulated by the Powers on condition that the Cretans accept it. A new organic law embodying reforms has since been promulgated. A manifesto has been issued by the Mussalmans in which they appeal to all Mahomedans to resist the proposed reforms. The Governor of Crete, replying to the foreign Consuls, states that he cannot employ troops against the Mahomedans.

VIOLENT rain storms have destroyed twelve miles of the Nile railway south of Sarras. The operations of the expedition are in consequence delayed. Rain and sandstorms have further damaged the Railway. Six thousand troops are working day and night, and have restored most of the railway. The Dervishes at Dongola are strongly fortifying a hill two miles inland, and a vigorous resistance to the Egyptian advance is considered probable. Sir Frederick Carrington reports that operations are now proceeding against six rebel forces located chiefly in the Bulwayo and Salisbury districts. The palavers between Mr. Rhodes and the Indunas have concluded without any conclusion, the rebels in the Matoppo hills retaining their arms.

ALL is quiet at Zanzibar. A detachment of Sikhs has arrived from Mombassa. Said Khalid is still at the German Consulate. Germany has refused to extradite him, on the ground that he is a political offender. The new Sultan of Zanzibar, in notifying his accession to President Faure, says that he hopes the friendship between France and Zanzibar may increase. The *Times* is surprised at this style of address from a protected ruler. The *Englishman* "regards the friendly overture in the light of a joke," and almost pities the *Times* for its notice of the new Sultan.

THE National Convention of Gold Democrats held at Indianapolis has adopted a platform upholding the gold standard and opposing the free coinage of silver. It has also nominated General Palmer, of Illinois, for the Presidency.

PRINCE Lobanoff, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, died suddenly while returning to Kieff from Vienna with the Tsar and the Tsarina. He died of aneurism of the heart at a country station. It is the general opinion that his successful policy will be continued. The Tsar will continue his tour. Count Shouvaloff too has had a paralytic stroke, and his condition is critical.

ITALY is sending Signor Martino, of the Diplomatic Service, on board a cruiser on a special mission to Rio to demand redress for the recent attacks on Italians there and the settlement of the claim made by the Italians for losses suffered in the last revolution.

SPAIN is sending 2,000 reinforcements to the Philippines owing to the spread of the Separatist rebellion there. Latest advices state that the Spanish troops have defeated a force of 3,000 rebels near Manila, and that a state of siege has been proclaimed. H. M. S. Redpole has left Hongkong for Manila at the instance of the British Consul there.

A TELEGRAM received at New York states that the members of a secret society have destroyed thirty Catholic missions in Shantung.

IT is reported at Brussels that news has been received from the Congo that Baron Dhanis has occupied Lado and concluded alliances with the tribesmen.

LI HUNG CHANG has arrived at New York, and had a grand reception. Government officers boarded the steamer, and welcomed him on behalf of President Cleveland. The forts and warships saluted him, and he was escorted to the hotel by troops.

A SERIOUS earthquake has taken place in the north-east of Japan, in which the town of Rokugo was demolished and other towns were damaged. Many inhabitants have perished.

SEPTEMBER 8 will be the last Tuesday mail day in Calcutta. From the week after, that is, from the 16th, the mail will close in this city on Wednesdays.

THE real celebration of the Millennial Festival of Hungary took place between June 5 and 8. On the 5th, the insignia of Hungarian royalty, the sacred crown (given in the year 1000 by Pope Sylvester II. to Prince Etienne, and afterwards, surmounted by a cross, to Mathias the Just), the purple robe, the mound and the sceptre were carried from the royal palace to the church of Mathias Corvin, where they were exposed to view for three hours. On the 8th they were taken in solemn procession to the new Parliament buildings. There were no end of decorations and joyous festivities. The new Parliament is an immense Neogothic structure facing the Danube. It is 885 feet long and covers about 21,528 square yards of ground. The height of the vanes surmounting the towers is 274 feet above the low water mark of the river, and the summit of the central dome is 351 feet high. The roofs of the halls are discernible on each side of the dome, below which lies the immense gala hall intended for solemn celebrations, like the present one, in which the two legislative bodies, the magnates and the deputies participate. The cost of the building is given at 16,000,000 fls.

LADY Tennyson, widow of the late Poet Laureate, died on August 30, at Aldworth, of congestion of the lungs supervening upon an attack of influenza. She was the daughter of Mr. Henry Sellwood, and niece of Admiral Sir John Franklin, born in Berkshire, July 9, 1813, married June 13, 1850. In the dedication to her, by Francis T. Palgrave, of the "Lyrical Poems of Alfred, Lord Tennyson," occurs the following passage descriptive of the Lady:—

"You have allowed me, in this dedication, to grace it with a name honoured, wherever Lord Tennyson's name is known, as that of the one dear, near, and true to him from youth to age, the counsellor to whom he has never looked in vain for aid and comfort, the wife whose perfect love has blessed him through these many years with large and faithful sympathy."

Only on August 8, she expressed satisfaction that she had been enabled to make and finish the corrections of the proofs of the biographical portion of the life (in preparation) of her late husband. She survived him by nearly four years.

THE "Journal of Hygiene" writes:—

"Forty years ago, Mentone was a happy village in France, where lived peasantry happy in their farms and in their superb physical state, conditioned by the climate. It was discovered that the region was a most healing one for consumptives, and it became Mecca for the unfortunates of Europe so stricken. The inhabitants abandoned their

farms to wait upon the strangers. The strong, healthy women forsook their dairies, and became the washerwomen of the consumptives' clothes. No precautions were taken; the disease was not then understood as now, the theory of tubercle bacillus not having been discovered. The place today is bacillus-ridden, a pest hole, a death itself. The hitherto strong inhabitants are emaciated, a coughing, bleeding people, filled with the germs of consumption. The soil and air are both contaminated with the tubercle bacilli. It is no longer a health resort."

We are afraid the fate that has overtaken Mentone, awaits our sanatoriums in Sonthalstau—Madhupur and Daghur. Kuelwar, on the Soane, once recommended for the lung-diseased, is now totally forsaken. The condition of the inhabitants is also becoming worse. A leper asylum will complete the ruin. Such an asylum, instead of helping segregation, is a powerful incentive to aggregation of lepers. Homes for the diseased, specially the infectious, must, therefore, be away from inhabited and in isolated localities.

A REPRESENTATION from 1,200 native residents and rate-payers of municipal Calcutta, headed by Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter, the retired Judge of the High Court, has been made to the Municipal Commissioners, to call, with the permission of Government, the newly opened Hospital at Bhawanipore, after the first native Judge of the High Court—the Shambhu Nath Pandit Hospital. It is not a mere sentimental wish to honour the deceased Judge, who, however, every way deserved to be honoured. There is a substantial monetary basis for the recommendation. It appears from the letter addressed to the Chairman of the Corporation that in, 1840, in the Southern Suburbs, Government opened a dispensary both for indoor and outdoor patients, and named it the Bhawanipore Dispensary. In 1871, the Shambhu Nath Memorial Committee made a grant to it of Rs. 21,445, when Government changed the name of the Dispensary into the Shambhu Nath Pandit Hospital. Two years after, the indoor branch was transferred to the Presidency General Hospital under the name of Shambhu Nath Pandit Ward. This Ward was abolished in 1878 and not revived in the Shambhu Nath Pandit Hospital. This institution hitherto under the management of a Committee, later on, as desired by Government, came under the control of the South Suburban Municipality, and since 1889, the Suburbs being amalgamated with the town, the dispensary has passed on to the Calcutta Corporation. It is understood to be in contemplation "to merge the Shambhu Nath Pandit Charitable Dispensary in the new institution as its outdoor branch retaining the illustrious name of Shambhu Nath Pandit." We are not aware of any official objection. Grounds may not be wanting against naming the new Hospital after the late Judge. As the people of Bhawanipore are to be chiefly benefited by it, we are sure there is not a man in that locality who, knowing the name of Pandit Shambhu Nath will not wish its perpetuation in the way proposed. Whether as a Judge, a neighbour and a friend, Pandit Shambhu Nath or his name will always be honoured, even if the Government or the Commissioners, on any technical ground, refuse the no unreasonable request of the 1,200 signatories.

THE report of the operations of the Survey of India, during the year 1894-95, shows a steady progress under each of the several branches—Trigonometrical, Topographical, Forest, Cadastral, Traverse, Geodetic, Geographical and Special. A feature of the year is the reorganisation of the Department into an Imperial, a Provincial and a Subordinate Service, with effect from the 27th March 1895. The general administration remained in the hands of Colonel Sir H. R. Thuillier, K.C.I.E., R.E., until the 26th March 1895, on which date he retired from the service after 36 years in the Department, during the last 9 of which he controlled it as Surveyor-General, and Colonel C. Srahan, R.E., who succeeded him. Besides those of Colonel Thuillier, the Department lost the services of two other officers of the Imperial List—Colonel J. R. McCullagh, R.E., Superintendent, who retired on the 1st January 1895, after having served for 26 years, and Lieutenant P. J. F. Macaulay, R.E., Assistant Superintendent, attached to the survey party with the Waziristan Delimitation Commission, who was killed in action on the 3rd November 1894, during the Mahsud-Waziri attack on the British camp in the Wana Valley. Six vacancies occurred in the Provincial List, viz. four by the deaths of Messrs. H. E. T. Keelan, C. W. F. Seyers, D. Campbell, and T. J. J. Mills, and two by the deputation of officers to the Provincial Service of the N. W. P. and Oudh.

The field operations of the year were carried on by 20 parties

(of which two were double parties) and 7 small detachments. Of these one party was employed on trigonometrical surveys; five parties and three detachments on topographical surveys; four parties on forest surveys; six on cadastral surveys; one party and one detachment on traverse surveys; three parties on scientific operations; and three detachments on geographical surveys. The aggregate area surveyed on all scales amounts to 1,25,384 square miles. This is exclusive of 5,018 square miles of traverse survey in the Central Provinces and the N.-W. P. and Oudh, to furnish a basis for field surveys under the Settlement Department.

The *trigonometrical* surveys were confined to Burma, besides completing the work of beacon-fixing along the Indus delta. *Topographical* surveys on various scales were continued in the Bombay Presidency, Beluchistan and the Himalayas. Regular topographical survey of Upper Burma was for the first time undertaken, that hitherto done being only the preliminary geographical survey. The detachments employed during the past two seasons on the survey of the Indus river in Sind completed it during the year. One detachment accompanied the Waziristan Delimitation Commission, and did an area of 3,680 square miles. That with the Pamir Commission surveyed 250 square miles and that with the Chitral Relief Force, 215 square miles. The areas topographically surveyed on various scales amount to 21,588 square miles against 16,072 of the previous year. *Forest* survey operations were continued in the Central Provinces, the Bombay and Madras Presidencies and in Lower Burma, and a small area of forest lands in the Himalayas, with a total on various scales of 4,228 square miles. The number of parties told off for *cadastral* operations were as follows:—two double parties in Bengal and one party in Assam. In the Bengal Province they were engaged in continuation of the work of previous years, in the cadastral survey and preparation of the record-of-rights in temporarily-settled tracts and in Government and private estates. The principal work was in the Muzaffarpur and Champaran districts of North Bihar; in the Darjeeling district; in the Government estate in Palamau; and the Government estates and the Tikari Ward's estate in the Gaya district. In addition, the survey and record-writing of the Chaurasi estates, district 24-Parganas, and of eight villages comprising the Tantubna estate, District Khulna, were completed. The total outturn, 6,934 square miles, however, shows a decrease of 1,346 square miles as compared with that of the previous year. The *traverse* surveys in the Central Provinces and the N. W. P. Oudh, with a view to furnish a skeleton basis for Settlement Surveys by local agency, give a total of 5,018 square miles. Two *astronomical* parties under Captain Burrard and Lenox-Conyngham were occupied with determining, by the electro-telegraphic method, the difference of longitude between Greenwich and Karachi. The work is one of considerable magnitude and is not yet concluded. The *tidal* operations were kept on. A large area was *geographically* surveyed, mainly in Birma and Sam. Some native surveyors worked independently in Persia and Arabia. Kun Bihadur Sheik Mohiuddin alone reconnoitred about 45,000 square miles of new country in Western Beluchistan and Persia; while Kun Bihadur Yusuf Sharif, with an assistant, succeeded in mapping about 19,000 square miles between Bandar Abbas and Jask. In Arabia, a reconnoissance of about 3,000 square miles was effected by Khan Bimalur Imun Sharif who had accompanied Mr. Theodore Bent on his tour of exploration.

The geographical surveys have an immediate interest, inasmuch as they have in some cases deep and far-reaching political significance. The boundaries of the Italian Empire, where it borders on the Chinese or the Russian Empires or the Buffer States on the North-West or the East were more definitely settled. The detachment under Colonel Holdich, accompanying the Pamir Commission in June 1895, surveyed an area of 4,800 square miles, and about 40 points and peaks were fixed by triangulation, the series being successfully carried from Darkot Pass to the Pamir, when a very satisfactory junction was effected with the work of the Russian party. The area in Upper Burma, to be ceded to China, under the Anglo-Chinese Convention, was surveyed by a small detachment; and the M-kong Mission enquired into the proposed limits of Buffer State on the Mekong river. The Chitral Relief Force was accompanied by a detachment under Captain Bythell and the results comprised an area of 1,900 square miles. The aggregate areas geographically surveyed during the year on the Eastern and Western frontiers come up to 92,600 square miles.

In the face of these figures the Survey Department may be congratulated on the work done during the past official year.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 5, 1896.

OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

IN noticing the honour recently paid to the illustrious Arnold of Rugby, our London correspondent observed:—"What a day it would be for India if you had a native Arnold in every province, directing and stimulating the energies of your young countrymen so as to enable them to confer on their own Fatherland the priceless heritage bequeathed by Arnold to our public schools!" Arnolds are rare in every country. England is scarcely the country which can give birth to many men like the great Rugby teacher. In almost all modern countries, the relations between the teacher and the taught are mercenary. Pupils are admitted into public or private seminaries for the fees they pay. Preceptors take charge of their education for the pay they receive. This is unfavourable to the growth of those sentiments of reverence, love, and affection which Arnold inspired. Superior men do sometimes succeed in prevailing over circumstances and asserting their individuality. But this does not happen often. In India, however, the relations between preceptors and pupils, before the establishment of schools and colleges on the modern plan, were always satisfactory. The preceptor was looked upon by the pupils as their father, and the pupils were looked upon by him as his children. They were fed by the preceptor and housed by him in his own quarters. The majority of preceptors were distinguished by all the moral excellencies that adorned the great headmaster of Rugby. If example is more efficacious than precept, the students had the advantage of the best examples before them in the blameless lives of their teachers. The system of education was different. The pupils, when they left the professor, were not called upon to govern men. Most of them were averse from entering into active life. The world had no opportunities of judging the effects on their character due to the education they received. They tried, however, in their own simple ways, to serve the society of which they were members and which in its turn honoured them for their learning and character. They were distinguished by many sterling virtues. They were good neighbours, good fathers, good sons, good brothers, and good husbands.

With the abolition, however, of the Sanskrit *toles*, teachers of the Arnold type have become extinct in this country. A new race of teachers have appeared in the schools and colleges we now have. We are in the midst of a period of transition. The minds of our students are now being moulded in a manner different from what was observable in the indigenous institutions of the country. The start now, in education, is for the opposite pole. Instead of fitting the pupil for a contented life of quiet and peace along the ancient groove, the ambition of the modern system is to destroy ancient traditions and make a potter's, or a blacksmith's or a washerman's child as good as a Brahman's, a Kshatriya's, or a

Kayastha's, with the inevitable tendency of making him discontented and unhappy. The ancient system of education was not very bad, after all. It did not produce discontented men. Knowledge was cultivated for its own sake and not as a means for the acquisition of this or that sordid end. That system frequently produced men whom the whole country loved and delighted to honour. They knew very little of history and geography, but as regards *belles lettres*, and philosophy, and dialectics, and secular and religious law, and their own religious scriptures, they were thorough masters. The *toles* were supported entirely by the people. On occasions of weddings and *shrads*, and various other religious rites, benefactions to these educational institutions swelled the expenses incurred. Every man of respectability was bound to make gifts to learned men employed in teaching. It was a sort of educational cess levied not by authority and realised, in case of default, not by sharp penalties, but imposed and collected by force of custom. As regards mass education, that also was in the hands of the people. Every village had its *Gurumahasaya*. The fees were such that persons who desired to give their sons the sort of education those unpretentious elementary schools generally imparted, were not unable to find them. The *Gurus* were highly accommodating. Many boys were admitted free. The solicitude felt by the British Government for mass education in India and the step it has taken of subsidising the *Pathashalas*, have been perfectly uncalled for. The indigenous system that flourished for ages upon ages has given way. An artificial stimulant has been created. *Pathashalas* have come to be established, sometimes only a few days before the annual departmental examination, to disappear after the examination and the distribution of rewards to the *Gurus* according to their so-called success. The fact is, the Education Department has done its best to break up the indigenous system and bring about something very unreal and hollow in its place.

The higher class English schools aim at imparting an education that is scarcely solid. The great ambition with both students and their guardians now is to secure an appointment under Government. Knowledge is no longer valued for its own sake. Its equivalent in money is sought by all. The cultivation of the intellect after school days by private study is almost unknown. Readers of English novels may be found among our graduates, but nothing substantial engages their minds. Professional men are, for the most part, destitute of those very books which relate to their branches of learning. Ignorance with vanity is the common characteristic of many of our educated men. Our schools and colleges are so many shops for selling fifth-rate learning. The schoolmaster is abroad, but then he is so for trade. In Calcutta, schools have become a profitable business. Their popularity, in some cases, bears an inverse ratio to the capabilities of the teachers employed. New schools spring up into existence, competing with the old ones and impairing their efficiency. The proprietors do not endeavour to perpetuate them by the creation of any funded capital. The profits, if any, of the concerns, are appropriated by them and their heirs. It is good to see private schools multiply every year, but then none of them has a solid foundation. The law of the survival of the fittest holds good with these as well as with the Government and the Missionary institutions.

The Metropolitan Institution and the City College,

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 9th, at 5-30 P.M. Subject: Barometer, its uses—Boyle's law, its application.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 10th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. Subjects: The Protozoa, Coelenterata.

Lecture by Dr. Manendra Lal Sircar, Friday, the 11th Inst., at 7 P.M. Subject: Change of State by Heat.

Lecture by Babu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.S., &c. Saturday, the 12th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. Subject: Morphology of Plants—Flowers (continued).

Lecture by Dr. Nilantan Sirkar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 12th Inst., at 6-30 P.M. Subject: Histology—

due to private enterprise, have some chance of out-living others of their kind. They are located in buildings of their own. They are not, however, out of danger on account of the competition of new institutions. Canvassing for pupils is the order of the day with most of the founders of schools. Brahmanical influence has still a hold on Hindu society. Brahman canvassers very generally win, by various ways, a threat of curse being their last resort. The holy thread can still subdue the most obdurate Hindu, through his mother, or father, or other near relative. With ignorant guardians, whose number is very large in even the metropolis, such tactics are always successful. The inter-school rules framed by the Education Department have made matters worse. One of these rules is to the effect that no boy is to be admitted into a school unless and until he obtains a certificate from the school to which he belonged, stating that he has paid all his dues. It has been, further, provided that such certificate, if applied for, should be promptly granted. Delay in granting it may lead to the disaffiliation of the school as, indeed, the admission of a boy without it may lead to the same result in the case of the school admitting him. What happens, however, in many inferior private schools is this: an intelligent boy, with fair chances of passing the matriculation examination, is admitted free. His name, however, is shown on the rolls as a paying pupil. If he applies for a transfer, a large sum is demanded from him, in the form of arrears of schooling fees, which he has no chance of paying. Practically, therefore, he is unable to leave the school, and has to adhere to it however inefficient the teaching establishment may be. These inter-school rules enable unscrupulous proprietors to practise a regular extortion on boys. Delay in granting certificates is punishable, but then if the Inspectors be written to, those gentlemen very seldom attend to the matter. The consequence is a considerable waste of time and a serious interference with the progress of the boys. We know a case in which an application for transfer made in February was answered in August. The Inspector of Schools had been repeatedly written to. When at last he attended to the matter he not only punished the school which had refused to grant the certificate but also the school which had admitted the applicant out of humanity, just for preventing a waste of time. If the rules are to stand, the officers of the Education Department should be more alert than now. They should themselves be subject to penalties for not deciding matters brought to their notice as quickly as possible.

The establishment of new schools, to the detriment of the older ones, has, we understand, recently been the subject of enquiry by the Director of Public Instruction. The syndics of the university are also desirous of taking it up. The inertia of authority is very great; hence nothing tangible can be expected soon. Influential teachers of old schools take advantage of their influence on the students and set up new institutions with many boys from the old schools. Sometimes they go to such extremes as to catch boys in the streets and bring them to their institutions without the knowledge of the guardians who are generally informed of it a few days afterwards. They assure the ignorant by stories of their having secured a very superior staff of teachers, and of the old school having become thoroughly bad. Sometimes the question of religion is brought to the fore for blinding the guardians. The school is advertised as established

under the patronage of this or that holy man—a Swami or Swan who is himself in need of a puff. The immediate result is that most of the boys are led to violate the inter-school rules laid down by the Director of Public Instruction. Recently a new school has been refused affiliation to the University. For all that, it exists and carries on its illegal practices. In another case the Syndicate of the Calcutta University disaffiliated an institution for a grave irregularity. The Senate, however, when the matter was brought before it, allowed its existence with a warning against a repetition of similar malpractices. It is a fact that on account of too many bad schools in the metropolis, discipline among boys cannot be properly maintained. The proprietors of schools act more with an eye to income than to the maintenance of discipline. With a view to get a handsome profit they entertain low-paid establishments without the claims of efficiency being at all considered. They begin with respectable establishments for acquiring a reputation and then reduce them for increasing their profits. This is scarcely marked by the public. The reductions in pay generally affect the lower classes. For the higher classes an efficient staff is generally maintained. Numerous errors are taught while the minds of the boys remain very plastic. The result is that in after days considerable difficulty is experienced in unlearning those errors.

The evil days for school discipline may be said to have set in with the establishment of Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee's Ripon College. Its easy success gave an unhealthy impetus to competition in the same line. Pundit Vidyasagar's son transferred the College department of the Metropolitan Institution to Mr. Surendra Nath, with the result that the once flourishing college began to decay. The Principal was alarmed. It has now come back to its own: the Trustees of the Vidyasagar Institute have now the control of the both the School and the College departments. The interference, for good or evil, of Mr. Banerjee has ceased, and the Professors breathe more freely.

Another dangerous practice has grown up among our school boys. It is their political activity. A national fund was attempted to be raised by stump oratory. Some of the schools closed to hear a national hero babbling on politics. The boys are taught from their early days the principles of a destructive political creed. The only good sign is that their tendency towards politics, awakened and kept up by classroom oratory, does not last beyond their school days. The evil effects of the modern system of education have become more manifest in the metropolis than in the provinces. In Calcutta, only forty per cent. of the candidates sent up for the first examination of the University pass; formerly, the percentage of successful boys averaged sixty. The country students have taken the place formerly occupied by the metropolitan. For this reason some guardians have transferred their boys to schools in the interior. There is now a rage for politics among the Calcutta boys due distinctly to lack of discipline.

The sanitary condition of most of the proprietary institutions is wretched. The Government and the Missionary schools are generally beyond reproach in this particular. The Metropolitan Institution and the City College are accommodated in buildings of their own, without sufficiently spacious compounds. A good play-ground and well-ventilated rooms are absolutely necessary for a

school. Most of the Calcutta schools, however, are conspicuous for the absence of both these. The trade on the intellects of our boys is carried on in a way that loudly calls for drastic reform. The Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act provides against the increase of too many markets, but there is no provision in it against the creation of ill-ventilated and insanitary schools by which the health of the boys is sure to be ruined. We hope the Government of Bengal will attend to this matter. Our "patriots" have not a word to say about the multiplicity of unhealthy schools. The fact is, our "patriots" are more guided by interest than anything else. Good relations between the teachers and the taught, are, as we have already said, things of the past. We had in David Hare, perhaps, more than an Arnold, though teaching was not his profession. His sympathy with the boys was genuine. His heart yearned after them. Though an Englishman, his coffin was borne by Hindu boys without any objection, on religious grounds, from their parents or others. Offerings have been given by his Hindu admirers to his soul at the *Vishnupada* at Gya. Another David Hare may achieve wonders amongst us. Our children are now being sacrificed at the altar of Mammon. English children are not so unfortunate. They receive an education that fits them for all the duties of life. It is very true that "the world is still largely governed from Eton, Harrow, Winchester and Rugby, and the man who moulds the young Englishmen of his generation, and trains them in unshrinking courage, in lofty ideals, in love of truth and in the higher patriotism, is conferring more good on the human race than all the theologians of the Vatican and all the controversialists of the Sorbonne." Alas! the day is very distant when it will be possible for any one to use similar words with regard to the people of India. Our schools are ruled by a very inferior race of men, as the politics of the unthinking portion of our community are ruled by a very inferior race of writers.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

August 14, 1896.

The Queen's Message to her "beloved people," demands the first place in our items of Home news. On the 23rd of September our gracious Sovereign will have reigned longer than any of her predecessors. There has been a movement to have a national demonstration on that day, but the good sound common sense of our Queen and your Empress has done the proper thing. If spared to the 20th June next, she will commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of her accession, and she has determined that that shall be the day of national rejoicing. Among other advantages, such as the season of the year, Parliament in session, ministers and ambassadors in London (all which would be lost on the 23rd September), there is the crowning felicity of such an event, so long provided for in anticipation, that India and all our colonies can arrange betimes, to be worthily represented. And what a day to those who live to welcome it, will that day be! Our venerable and truly beloved monarch, surrounded by all her great dignitaries of the State, Parliamentary and Municipal, and of the churches,--- with her relatives from the Courts of St. Petersburg and Berlin--- and the representatives of Her Indian and Colonial Empires,--- what a spectacle for the pen of Macaulay, or the brush of the lamented Leighton and Millais!

Parliament will be prorogued to-night. The Irish Land Bill was saved in the House of Lords by six votes. Had it been the other way, it must have resulted in a collision between the two Houses, which has been happily averted. With the exception of Sir W. Harcourt, all are agreed that Mr. Balfour's new rules for Supply have worked most admirably and reflect great credit on his leadership. It is this that makes the Leader of the Opposition so angry. Of course, during the recess, the Opposition is entitled to make what capital it can out of the unfortunate fiasco of the Education Bill. But the rank and file of the Opposition, throughout the country, are more generous than the leaders, always excepting Sir Henry Fowler. Mr. John Morley cannot allow any good legislation to be done for Ireland by a Unionist Government without a snarl and a growl. While Sir W. Harcourt's treatment

of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain has been the outcome of a sour and discontented temper. After the setting down he got from Mr. Chamberlain on Tuesday evening, he will not again venture to draw swords with him, if he has any regard for his Parliamentary future. The next five months will give a much needed rest to the Rollits and Bowles on the one side and the Caldwells and Dalziells on the other. If these four could only be eliminated from the House, how smoothly business would roll on! Sir A. Rollit might find refuge in the House of Lords, Captain Bowles in some snug naval sinecure on shore, while something, not necessarily of any great importance, might be found in Scotland for the arch Gladstonian obstructors.

Turkey and Crete. There is a strange rumour in circulation (requiring confirmation) that Russia and Great Britain, with the approval of France, have come to terms over the more pressing Turkish questions of Armenia and Crete, Russia with her army to be responsible for the former, while Great Britain with her incomparable navy, makes herself answerable for the latter. Meanwhile, Crete is getting quite out of hand, and, to add to Turkey's troubles, revolutionary risings are spreading to Macedonia. The last move in Crete is to demand absorption by Greece. But will Greece care to have it? Those best informed say, as regards wild, savage cruelty, there is little to choose between the Christian population and the Mahomedan.

The Czar's Journey to Breslau, Vienna, and eventually Paris, seems now to be quite arranged for. He pays a domestic visit to Copenhagen and then crosses to Aberdeen, whence he goes on to Balmoral to pay a family visit to the Queen. The select list of royalties who are to meet him at our Queen's Highland home, is now published. But more interest will be felt in the addition of the name of Lord Salisbury.

The Czar is to be accompanied by the Chancellor of the Empire, Prince Lobanoff, who, with Lord Salisbury in concord with him, rules the destinies of Europe.

Li Chung Tong is making the most of his stay here, and is evidently gratified with his reception, and with all he has seen. The reports of his conversations at the Bank of England with the governor, and with the leading officials at Woolwich, indicate the astute old statesman of great intellectual power. Unfortunately, having to leave a week earlier than was originally contemplated, owing to his having to catch the China steamer at Vancouver, he is deprived of the opportunity of visiting Manchester, Liverpool, and Sheffield. To-morrow he pays a brief visit to Mr. Gladstone at Hawarden, on his way to Barrow-in-Furness, and on Monday proceeds to Glasgow, visits the Forth Bridge on his way to Elswick, where he will witness the gigantic works of Sir W. Armstrong & Co.

Lord Walsley has made a quasi apology for his ill-natured remarks on the native army of India, and seeing that over 4,000 of his British forces are unfit for military duty, he would have exercised a wiser discretion had he maintained a studious silence. Lord George Hamilton (in the course of his Budget speech last night) took occasion in a passing remark to administer a gentle rebuke to the Commander-in-Chief, by calling in the expert evidence of Sir Henry Brackenbury who had borne testimony to the efficiency of the Indian army, and who Lord George Hamilton declared to be "of all living authorities the best acquainted with the conditions of foreign service."

Opium. I see a report that China is now cultivating this invaluable article of commerce and is now an exporter on a small scale. Our consul says it is a mere matter of time as to when China shall be independent of India for its supplies, not a pleasant matter for some of your future Chancellors of the Exchequer, who will see the most important item on the credit side of the Budget swept away, and the dreams of the anti-opium fanatics realised.

Rhea fibre. In the article on "Indian Affairs" in the "Times" of the 10th instant, is a most important as well as instructive reference on this "source of unused wealth." The Government of India as far back as 1869 endeavoured to attract experts, by the offer of a prize of £5,000 "for the invention of a machine or process which should separate the delicate fibre from the bark." Various machines were invented, but then all failed "in regard to the essential element of cheapness." Dr. Royle, "industrial adviser to the India Office," declared that the rhea fibres "are exceeded by none in fineness, excel all others in strength, and may be fitly compared to the trunk of an elephant which can pick up a needle or root up a tree." He insisted if the difficulty of separating the fibre could be overcome, "the benefits to India and the world will be incalculable." In spite, however, of the genius of France and Germany, no machine was discovered at once "cheap and serviceable." The great distinction of solving the problem belongs apparently to a Eurasian of Portuguese descent, Gomess by name. So great are the possibilities in the future, that Dr. Royle does not hesitate to say "facts seem to point to the conclusion that we are on the dawn of an industry which even promises to rival jute cultivation." The fibres take the "most beautiful dyes and can be worked into every variety of fabric from gorgeous velvets to cheap drills and delicate laces."

All apparently now depends on the cultivation of the plant, and it is here, I cannot help thinking, the initial difficulty will be met with. But doubtless there is enough British energy in India, to face and conquer the difficulties.

The writer in the "Times" then goes on to give praise to "Professor Kanai Lal Dey, of the Calcutta University" for his "exploitation" of the indigenous drugs of India. His work "brings to completion the researches of Ainslie in 1826, of O'Shaughnessy in 1844, and of Waring in 1868." Mr. Dey has brought to his work "a wealth of practical knowledge which could only have been accumulated by a chemist who has passed his life in the country, and who is intimately conversant with the languages, the customs, and the requirements of the people." Praise of no mean kind is also given to Mr. T. N. Mukharji, F.L.S., lately of the Imperial Museum, Calcutta. The article in the "Times" concludes: "At one time it seemed as if our Indian Universities were only to produce lawyers and literary men. They are now producing men of research, whose work takes a distinguished position in the scientific journals and libraries of Europe. They are also disclosing, in no small measure, that rarer quality by which men of science bring their labours to bear on the wants and the welfare of their own country. Rapid as has been the growth of Indian vernacular literature under British rule, the progress of Indian science and technical knowledge, represented by investigators like Professor K. L. Dey and Mr. T. N. Mukharji, is perhaps even more striking."

Your new Chief Justice has been entertained at a complimentary dinner by prominent members of his circuit. The only drawback I have heard to his appointment is, that for many years as a master in lunacy, he has been withdrawn from daily contact with the work of the law courts, in chancery, and at the Queen's Bench. But he is said to be a man of such plodding industry and indefatigable energy, that he will no doubt quickly adapt himself to his new sphere.

WATER ANALYSIS BY PHARMACISTS.

By Henry W. Schimpf, Ph. D.,

Professor of Inorganic Chemistry in the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy.

Druggists frequently have samples of water submitted to them for analysis and for opinions as to their potability.

To put a sample of water through a complete sanitary analysis involves considerable time and application and comparatively few pharmacists have either the time or the inclination to enter upon such a task.

A complete

SANITARY EXAMINATION OF WATER

should include a measurement of the following:

1. Colour and odour. 2. Total Solids. 3. Loss on Ignition. 4. Ammonia. 5. Albuminoid Ammonia. 6. Nitrates and Nitrites. 7. Chlorine. 8. Oxygen consuming power. 9. Phosphates. 10. Hardness.

It is necessary in some cases to determine the amount of dissolved gases, as well as to make a microscopic examination of the sample.

COLOUR AND ODOUR.

Water which is distinctly turbid and possesses an unpleasant taste and odour will, of course, be rejected on these grounds alone without further analysis.

The odour and taste of water, like its colour, are not however to be taken as positive indications of its quality. The practised nose can occasionally detect evidences of pollution which may be afterwards verified by a detailed examination.

COLOUR ESTIMATION.

The colour value of a suspected water may be estimated by looking down through a column of water in a colourless glass tube about two feet long standing upon a piece of white paper, and comparing this with an equal volume of distilled water contained in a similar tube.

THE ODOUR

may be satisfactorily determined by heating three or four ounces of water to 100°F. in a closed flask and shaking. The distinctive odour may be at once recognized on withdrawing the stopper.

ESTIMATION OF TOTAL SOLIDS.

The total solids are determined by evaporating on a water bath 100 c. c. of the water in a weighed platinum dish. The dish and the contents are then placed in an air oven and heated 212°F., or until the residue ceases to lose weight. Finally cool under a desiccator and weigh. The increase in weight of the dish represents approximately the total solids contained in the water taken.

But the figure thus obtained for total solids does not truly represent the organic and mineral matters, since much of the former as well as some of the latter is volatilized during the evaporation. Thus the figure is often lower than the actual weight; while on the other hand, certain salts retain with great tenacity their water of crystallization, and in this manner bring about an error in the opposite direction.

It will be seen then that the determination of total solids is only an approximation, and little real value can be attached to it. The organic and the inorganic matter present may either of them be injurious or not. An unusual amount of total solid residue may indicate pollution, though no absolute maximum or minimum of quantity can be assigned as a limit of safety. An arbitrary maximum limit of 60 parts per 1,00,000 has, however, been fixed by sanitary authorities.

LOSS ON IGNITION.

Though the mineral constituents must be taken into account to some extent in judging of a water, the organic matter is of far greater importance. The organic matters probably constitute the really injurious constituents, and the determination of their quantity and character is of chief importance. It was naturally supposed that by igniting the residue of total solids the organic matter would be burned out, and the loss of weight would then represent the amount originally present; but as water usually contains some earthy carbonates, which upon ignition are deprived of carbonic acid gas, and other salts which are decomposed or wholly volatilized, the loss on ignition does not truly represent the organic content. The loss on ignition should never reach 50 per cent. of the total solids.

OXYGEN CONSUMING POWER.

Potassium permanganate, as is well-known, readily yields its oxygen in presence of a strong mineral acid, oxidizing many salts and organic matter. This property led to the idea that this salt might be used for burning up (chemically speaking) the organic matter in water, and that the quantity of permanganate used could be relied upon as a means of measuring the organic matter in water. A high oxygen consuming power usually indicates the presence of organic matter, and the process is therefore of considerable importance.

THE DETECTION OF ORGANIC MATTER.

The process is conducted as follows: Five one pint bottles, perfectly clean and provided with stoppers, are placed side by side. Into each is placed 250 c. c. of the water and 10 c. c. of diluted sulphuric acid. Into the first bottle is introduced 2 c. c. of potassium permanganate solution, into the others 6, 8 and 10 c. c. respectively. The bottles are examined hourly and the discolouration noted. If all are discoloured at or before the end of the fourth hour, an additional 10 c. c. of the permanganate solution should be added to each bottle. With ordinary waters the permanganate in the first, and probably that in the second will be decolorized; and the greater the amount of organic matter present, the more rapid will be the decolorization. This method has the advantage over some others in that the rate of oxidation can be readily observed—something which is considered by some analysts to be of more importance than the actual amount of oxygen consumed. It must, however, be kept in mind that nitrites, ferrous salts, sulphides, etc., take up oxygen in the same way as does organic matter. The permanganate solution used in this process is of such strength that each cubic centimeter represents 0.0001 gm. of oxygen.

ESTIMATION OF CHLORINE.

This may be estimated by the use of decinormal or centinormal silver nitrate solution, but analysts use a solution of such strength that each cubic centimeter will represent 0.0001 gm. of chlorine.

THE PROCESS.

In a beaker put 100 c. c. of the water to be examined, followed by a few drops of neutral potassium chromate, which is the indicator, and add the silver nitrate solution from a burette until the precipitate assumes a reddish tint, indicating that all the chlorine has been thrown down. Each cubic centimeter of the silver nitrate solution used to produce the colour reaction represents 0.001 gm. of chlorine. Example: If 4 c. c. of silver nitrate solution be required, the 100 c. c. of water contains 0.004 gm. of chlorine.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHLORIDES IN WATER.

Food contains considerable amounts of chlorides, and still more is added by way of condiment in the shape of salt. The chlorine thus taken up in the system is discharged in the excreta and is found afterward as a constituent of sewage; hence the presence of large quantities of chlorine in water is taken as an indication of pollution by sewage. The chlorine itself is not a dangerous constituent of water, and is in fact always present, but if it is found in large quantities (over 5 parts in 1,00,000) it is looked upon as an unfavourable indication. Nevertheless too much dependence must not be placed on the chlorine content as a means of estimating the purity of a water, since a dangerous contamination of organic matter may exist in the water without its presence being indicated by chlorine.

The maximum amount of chlorine per 1,00,000 given by the Rivers Pollution Commission is 21.5, the minimum 6.5 parts, though over 5 parts in 1,00,000 is taken as an unfavourable sign. But various conditions affecting the proportion of chlorine in potable waters must be taken into account, such as the nature of the strata through which the water passes, proximity to the sea, etc. A well near the sea may contain much chlorine and still be free from pollution.

AMMONIA AND ALBUMINOID AMMONIA.

When organic matter decomposes spontaneously, it first forms ammonia, then nitrite and finally nitrates. Thus the presence of ammonia in water is generally conceded to indicate decomposing organic matter, and hence its determination is an important detail of the sanitary examination of water.

PROCESS FOR THE DETECTION OF AMMONIA.

Introduce into a clean glass retort 500 c. c. of the water to be tested, together with about 5 c. c. of a twenty per cent. sodium carbonate solution. The condenser is now attached and the distillation started. When 50 c. c. of distillate passes over, it is transferred to one of the colour comparison cylinders, and 2 c. c. of Nessler's reagent is added; a yellow colour is produced, which develops more fully on standing, the intensity of colouring being proportionate to the amount of ammonia present.

The colour produced is exactly matched by introducing into another cylinder 50 c. c. of pure water and an accurately measured quantity of standard ammonium chloride solution, and 2 c. c. of Nessler's reagent as before. According as the colour so produced is deeper or lighter than that obtained from the water under examination, other solutions are prepared for comparison containing smaller or larger proportions of ammonium chloride, until the colour is exactly matched.

The distillation is continued and successive portions of 50 c. c. of distillate are taken and tested until the liquid no longer reacts with Nessler's solution. The sum of the figures obtained from the several distillates gives the total ammonia in the 500 c. c. of water taken.

THE ALBUMINOID AMMONIA

is estimated by adding to the water left in the retort 50 c. c. of an alkaline permanganate solution, and resuming the distillation, the ammonia in each 50 c. c. of distillate being estimated as before.

NITRATES AND NITRITES.

Five hundred cubic centimeters of the water is acidulated with oxalic acid, and equal parts of this are poured into each of two wide-mouthed bottles. Into one of these bottles is put a copper-zinc couple, made by taking a piece of sheet zinc and rolling it into a loose coil and immersing it into a dilute solution of copper sulphate until coated with a black, spongy coating of copper.

Cork both bottles, and at the end of twenty-four hours remove 50 c. c. from each, and treat with Nessler's solution, as directed under ammonia.

The nitrates and nitrites are completely reduced to ammonia by the copper-zinc couple, and the difference between the two figures obtained gives the ammonia due to reduction of the nitrates and nitrites.

Each molecular weight of ammonia so obtained stands for one molecule of nitrous and nitric acid; hence the result includes both of these, if present, so that the nitrites must be separately estimated and deducted.

To estimate the nitrites it is advantageous to use an acid solution of metaphenyldramin. This gives, with nitrous acid, a yellowish brown colour, and comparison can be made with a solution containing a known quantity of sodium nitrite, in exactly the same way as ammonia is estimated by Nessler's solution.

PHOSPHATES.

Sewage contains large amounts of phosphates, but water usually contains alkaline or earthy carbonates which precipitate the phosphates. Therefore, drinking water contains but very small quantities of phosphates, if any, and its absence does not indicate purity. The estimation is usually approximate, and is made by means of ammonia molybdate.

HARD WATER.

The hardness of water—that is, its soap destroying power—is due principally to the presence of calcium salts. Hard water is very wasteful of soap and bad for boilers. It is not necessarily unhealthy for drinking, though it is said to often cause the formation of calculi in the human system. The principal importance attached to hard water in a sanitary analysis is its bearing upon the question as to whether or not the water is polluted with sewage. Two kinds of hardness are recognized.

Temporary hardness is due to the presence of calcium or magnesium carbonates. This form of hardness is got rid of by boiling the sample, which reduces the bicarbonates to insoluble carbonates which are precipitated, and in this way removes the hardness.

Permanent hardness is due to salts which are not removable by boiling such as the sulphates.

ESTIMATING THE HARDNESS.

The method generally used to estimate the hardness of water is that known as Clark's.

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A solution of pure Castile soap in diluted alcohol is prepared of such strength that each cubic centimeter of the soap solution represents about 0.001 gm. of calcium carbonate. This is a convenient strength, because, if 100 c. c. of water be operated on, each cubic centimeter of soap solution will represent one part CaCO₃ in 1,000,000 parts of water, which is spoken of as 1 degree. Measure 100 c. c. of the water into a well-stoppered half pint bottle, and add the soap solution 1 c. c. at a time from a burette, shaking the bottle after each addition of soap solution, until a soft lather is obtained, which, if the bottle is at rest, remains continuous over the whole surface for about five minutes.

If more than 16 c. c. of soap solution is required, a smaller quantity of water should be taken—25 to 50 c. c.—and made up to 100 c. c. with distilled water, and the quantity of soap solution then used multiplied by 4 or 2.

English chemists usually operate upon 70 c. c. of soap water instead of 100 c. c. Each cubic centimeter of soap solution then represents 1 grain per imperial gallon (70,000 grains) or one degree of hardness.

Permanent hardness, or hardness after boiling, is determined by boiling a measured quantity of water briskly for half an hour, adding distilled water from time to time to make up the loss by evaporation. Then allow to cool, make up to its original quantity with recently boiled distilled water, filter and test in the manner described above. By deducting the permanent hardness from total hardness we obtain the temporary hardness.

—American Druggist.

WE MUST HAVE THE TOOLS.

ROBINSON CRUSOE, you remember, made a big boat or canoe out of the trunk of a tree. It was a laborious and tedious job. And that wasn't the worst of it. When he got the boat done he couldn't launch it. It was too heavy for one man to handle. If he had only had an arrangement like the capstan of a ship he might have managed. He *understood* how to do it, but lacked the tools. How often we find ourselves at a dead stand for that same reason. Let me give you a fresh illustration, tied up for the moment in the following letter, which must first be read before we can rightly come at the point.

"In the spring of 1884," says our correspondent, "I got into a low weak way, not being able to imagine what had happened to me. My strength kept ebbing away till I had scarcely the desire or ability to do anything. I felt as tired as if I had just arrived home from a long, hard journey, yet no tax more than usual of any kind had been laid upon me. My mind, too, was weary; so that I turned from things that obliged me to think, plan, or consider.

"Side by side, so to speak, with all this was the failure of my appetite. Of course I continued to eat, or make an effort to eat, but food no longer tempted me as it does a person in health. I picked and minced over my meals, and the little I took neither tasted good nor did me any good after I had eaten it. Instead of warming, comforting and stimulating me, as it used to do, it gave me distress at the stomach, pain at the chest, and a singular feeling of tightness around the waist, as though a belt were buckled too snug around me.

"After a time the condition of my stomach seemed to grow worse. There was that sense of gnawing, so often mentioned by others, and occasionally a feeling of faintness and sinking, almost like the ground giving way under one's feet."

[REMARK: An eminent London physician, in one of his books, describes this sinking feeling as one of the most appalling and frightful that it is possible to experience. It is not the body but the *mind* that suffers. I, the present writer, have had two attacks of it, and pray to have no more. It is like unto the overshadowing of the Death Angel's wing, *with the mind fully conscious of the situation*. The cause is uric acid poison in the blood, one of the products of prolonged indigestion.]

"When this sinking feeling came on," continues the letter, "it weighed me down like a nightmare. Finally I got to be so weak I could only walk slowly and feebly. *The doctor who prescribed for me said my complaint was dyspepsia*, but his medicine had no perceptible effect.

"I continued like this for eight years; not always the same, but now better and then worse. Yet in all that long time there was not a day when I could say I was well. No medicine or treatment seemed right for me, and I almost began to think I never should recover my former health.

"In March, 1892, Muther Seigel's Syrup was recommended to me as having done wonders in cases like mine, even when they were of long standing and everything else had failed. No harm to try it, we thought, and got a bottle from Mr. Grime, the chemist, in Bolton Road; and after taking it I felt great relief. My appetite quickly improved, and I could eat without pain. When I had taken two or three bottles more the bad symptoms had all gone, and I was as well as ever. My husband also took the medicine with the same good results. You may publish my letter and refer inquirers to me. (Signed) (Mrs.) Elizabeth Wilson, 5, Northcote Street, Bolton Road, Darwen, March 1st, 1895."

The lesson in this interesting narrative is too plain for us to miss it. Our old friend Crusoe was not able to launch his boat for the want of machinery. Similarly the doctor who attended Mrs. Wilson was not able to cure her because he did not possess the right remedy. His opinion as to her complaint was entirely correct. She was suffering from chronic dyspepsia, precisely as he told her. But alas! it is one thing to know what ought to be done and quite another to have the knowledge and means to do it.

Between these two things (over this wide gap) stands Mothe Seigel's Syrup, just as between the two sides of the Thames stand London Bridge.

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Memorial

TO THE LATE

SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

Subscriptions will be received by Lieutenant-General McLeod Innes, 9, Lexham Gardens, Cromwell Road, London, W.

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from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodprasad.
from Bell, the late Major Evans.
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.
to Chelu, Ru Bahadur Ananda.
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.
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from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.
to, from Duffrin and Ava, the Marquis of.
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.
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to Ghose, Babu Nabo Kissen.
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to Mookerjee, late Raj Dikshitaranjan.
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.
from McNeil, Professor H. (San Francisco).
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.

from Nayarathna, Mithan thopadhyaya M. C.
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to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.
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to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.
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Mittra, Mr. B. C.
Mitter, Babu Sidheshur.
Mookerjee, Raja Peary Mohan.
Mookerjee, Babu Surendra Nath.
Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.
Routledge, Mr. James.
Roy, Babu E. C.
Roy, Babu Sarat Chunder.
Sanyal, Babu Dinabundho.
Savitri Library.
Tippera, the Bara Thakur of.
Vambéry, Professor Arminius.
Vizianagram, the Maharaja of.

POSTSCRIPT.

After paying the expenses of the publication, the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal of the family of the deceased man of letters.

Orders to be made to the Business Manager, "An Indian Journalist," at the Bee Press, 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Borington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its primeval days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his life and letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of some of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than inviolable.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

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(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

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AND

Review of Politics, Literature, and Society

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DROIT ET AVANT

Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 742.

ON LENDING A PUNCH BOWL.

BY THE LATE DR. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

This ancient silver bowl of mine—it tells of good old times,
Of joyous days and jolly nights, and merry Christmas chimes ;
They were a free and jovial race, but honest, brave, and true,
That dipped their ladle in the punch when the old bowl was new.

A Spanish galleon brought the bar—so runs the ancient tale—
’T was hammered by an Antwerp smith, whose arm was like a flut ;
And now and then between the strokes, for fear his strength should fail,
He wiped his brow, and quaffed a cup of good old Flemish ale.

’T was purchased by an English squire to please his loving dame,
Who saw the cherubs, and conceived a longing for the same ;
And oft as on the ancient stock another twig was found,
’T was filled with caudle spiced and hot, and handed smoking round.

But, changing hands, it reached at length a Puritan divine,
Who used to follow Timothy, and take a little wine,
But hated punch and prelacy ; and so it was, perhaps,
He went to Leyden, where he found conventicles and schnaps.

And then, of course, you know what's next—it left the Dutchman's
shore

With those that in the Mayflower came—a hundred souls and more—
Along with all the furniture, to fill their new abodes—
To judge by what is still on hand, at least a hundred loads.

I was on a dreary winter's eve, the night was closing dim,
When old Miles Standish took the bowl, and filled it to the brim ;
The little captain stood and stirred the posset with his sword,
And all his sturdy men at arms were ranged about the board.

He poured the fiery Hollands in—the man that never feared—
He took a long and solemn draught, and wiped his yellow beard ;
And one by one the musketeers, the men that fought and prayed,
All drank as 't were their mother's milk, and not a man afraid !

That night, affrighted from his nest, the screaming eagle flew,
He heard the Pequot's ringing whoop, the soldier's wild halloo ;
And there the sashem learned the rule he taught to kith and kin,
“Run from the white man when you find he smells of Hollands gin !”

A hundred years, and fifty more had spread their leaves and snows,
A thousand rubs had flattened down each little cherub's nose ;
When once again the bowl was filled, but not in mirth or joy,
I was mingled by a mother's hand to cheer her parting boy.

“Drink, John,” she said, “’t will do you good—poor child, you ’d never
bear

This working in the dismal trench, out in the midnight air,
And if—God bless me—you were hurt, ’t would keep away the chill ;”
So John *did* drink—and well he wrought that night at Bunker's Hill !

I tell you, there was generous warmth in good old English cheer ;
I tell you, ’t was a pleasant thought to bring its symbol here ;
’T is but the fool that loves excess—hast thou a drunken soul,
Thy bane is in thy shallow skull, not in my silver bowl !

I love the memory of the past—its pressed yet fragrant flowers—
The moss that clothes its broken walls—the ivy on its towers—
Nay, this poor bauble it bequeathed—my eyes grow moist and dim,
To think of all the vanished joys that danced around its brim.

Then fill a fair and honest cup, and bear it straight to me ;
The goblet hallows all it holds, whate'er the liquid be ;
And may the cherubs on its face protect me from the sin,
That dooms one to those dreadful words—“My dear, where *have* you
been ?”

WEEKLYANA.

TAKING time by the forelock, and waylaid into forgetfulness of the future by the successful operations of the present, the Government of India have issued another notification for conversion of certain 3½ per cent. loans into the current 3. We will not wonder, if they found a way, in spite of the assurance of a fixed currency, to reduce the interest on all loans to 3. without waiting for the stipulated period. A *Gazette of India* Extraordinary dated Simla, Friday, September 4, 1895, publishes the Notification which is numbered 3850, and dated the date of the *Gazette*. We reproduce it in its entirety :—

“[In the following Notification ‘Notes’ means ‘Promissory Notes of the Government of India’ and includes ‘Stock certificates issued in lieu thereof.’]

1. Notice is hereby given that all the Notes of the following three and a-half per cent. loans, namely,—

The three and a-half per cent. loan of 1853-54,
The three and a-half per cent. loan of 1893-94,
will be discharged at the General Treasury of Fort William (Public Debt Office, Bank of Bengal, Calcutta) on the 30th January, 1897, on which date the interest on such Notes will cease.

2. Proprietors of Notes hereby advertised for discharge have the option, which must be exercised before noon of the 2nd October, 1896, of tendering their Notes for transfer to the three per cent. loan of 1896-97 on the following terms :

(1) The new Note will be of the same amount as the old Note.
(2) The new Note will bear interest from the 31st December 1896.
(3) Interest on Notes tendered for conversion will be paid at once as follows :

Loan of 1853-54.

For four months from the 31st August to the 30th December, 1896, namely, Re. 1-2-8 per cent.

Loan of 1893-94.

For six months from the 30th June to the 30th December 1896, namely, Re. 1-12-0 per cent.

3. Notes may be tendered for transfer at the Public Debt Office, Bank of Bengal, Calcutta, or at any other Bank (including the Bank of England) or Treasury to which they are for the time being assigned for payment of interest. Notes so tendered must bear the following endorsement duly signed :

“Received the amount of this Note by transfer to the 3 per cent. loan of 1896-97 under Notification No. 3850 of the 4th September 1896.”

4. If by reason of the duly certified absence from India of the proprietor or any of the proprietors of a Note included in the terms of this Notification, a legal signature to the endorsement mentioned in clause 3 cannot be given by noon of the 2nd October 1896, then in such case the tender will be accepted if the Note be left before that time in the

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgement through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

custody of the Public Debt Office, Bank, or Treasury, as the case may be, and the tender be duly signed on or before the 24th October 1896. This clause does not apply if the proprietor has an attorney in India empowered to sell.

5. In addition to the above payment of interest, a further payment of two annas per Rs. 100 will be made as brokerage or commission to the receipt of the person, whether proprietor or agent, who tenders the Note for transfer.

6. The Secretary of State will issue a Notification in London, stating the terms on which Notes hereby advertised for discharge will be received for transfer by the Bank of England.

J. F. FINLAY,
Secretary to the Government of India."

How much lower do the Government intend going?

It is notified that His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General will leave Simla on Monday, the 2nd November 1896, and visit Delhi, Ulwar, Ajmere, Oodeypore, Jeypore, Bikanir, Jodhpore, Baroda, Surat, Indore, Oojein, Jubbulpore and Benares, and will arrive at Calcutta on Thursday, the 10th December 1896.

ON a reference from the Bengal Government, the Government of India have held that dynamos and accumulators do not come within the exemptions accorded to prime-movers; and are chargeable with import duty unless they form part of machinery intended for the special purposes mentioned in (a) to (p) under article 14. The order explains that "a dynamo is a machine for the generation of electricity, which is ordinarily set in motion by the application to it of a steam engine, or other prime-mover; and it is therefore not a prime-mover itself. An accumulator is still more remote than the dynamo from the source of motion, and therefore is also excluded from the definition of prime-mover."

It is not enough that the legislature lays down the law. The Executive Government claim the power not only to explain the intention of the law but also to rule how or in what instances it is to be employed. The Governor General has the right to exempt an article from duty. Has he the power to include any for the tariff?

"HELLE" is the latest operatic success in Paris. It has been heard in London by electrophone.

BATOUN harbour has, at a cost of 7,50,000 roubles, been deepened to 26 ft. at the point where naphtha is loaded, to enable it to be used by the Black Sea fleet in all weathers. The previous cost on the port was 5,000,000 roubles.

THE Austrian journal, the "Zeitschrift fuer Elektrotechnik" has the following table showing the number of rides on passenger railways taken per year by each individual in a number of cities:

In New York	...	267	In Paris	...	84
" Berlin	...	140	" Budapest	...	59
" London	...	116	" Vienna	...	46
" Hamburg	...	9	" Prague	...	22

"MADE in Germany" need no longer cause a titter. England's oak is now made in Germany. At least the great roof beams of Winchester Cathedral are being renewed with wood from Stettin.

THE "Popular Science News" announces a new invention—a scare-mouse. It is a luminous cat, struck or stamped from sheet metal, or other like material, representing in appearance the exact counterpart of its animated feline sister, painted over with a luminous paint, and shining in the dark as a cat of flame. It is said that, after its being used for about week, a place is for ever free of either mice or rats. Is it the counterfeit cat or the fire that scares away the mischievous little ones?

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

AT the Industrial Exposition, at Zurich, Switzerland, was exhibited an air tester shewing the degree of contamination in a room or work-house. "The apparatus is described as consisting of an airtight, closed glass vessel filled with a red fluid. Through a glass tube, that dips into the liquid and is bent at the top, a drop falls every one hundred seconds on a cord that hangs beneath and that is somewhat stretched by a weight. The fluid from which the drop comes has the property of changing its colour by the action of carbolic acid. The more carbolic acid there is in the air, the quicker this change in colour takes place. If the air is very foul, the drop becomes white at the upper end of the cord, while the change of colour, corresponding to a slight proportion of carbonic acid, does not take place till the drop has run further along the cord. The exact condition of the air can be ascertained by observing a scale that is placed alongside the cord and divided into convenient parts, bearing the designations, 'extremely bad,' 'very bad,' 'passable,' 'pure.'"

THE House of Commons. Kitchen Committee report that, during the last session, 13,327 luncheons and 22,316 dinners were served in the dining rooms, that £258-50s-7d. was expended in cigars, £1,782-13s-5 in wines and £6,28; in provisions.

THE *Bee*, stinging and vivacious, writes:—

"A curious rumour has—together with something else—been permeating a large public office situated not many miles from Government House. It appears the establishment in question has recently been so unfortunate as to lose its oldest and best known hand in the person of its Chief Superintendent, who was a *Rai Bahadur* to boot. The rumour now is that his well-known, stalwart figure, clad in his flowing *chupkan*, &c., wanders nightly through the deserted corridors of the office. This apparition, it is said, has been seen by the *durwans* and *chowkidars* in charge of the buildings, and that they have duly reported the matter to the European Caretaker to whom they are subordinate. It is further believed that some of the office records are mysteriously disarranged of a night, some of the bound files being discovered next morning actually strewn about the marble floor! And it is also asserted—we do not vouch for the truth of this—that the Caretaker has submitted a written report to the office authorities embodying the strange rumours, and suggesting that the room lately occupied by the deceased in his life-time, should at once be white-washed, and temporarily divested of all its furniture in the shape of racks, records, &c.—But will this becalm the perturbed spirit of the *Rai Bahadur*? It is not often in these matter-of-fact days that one hears of a ghost-haunted office. *Credat Judeus!*"

If the Superintendent had consulted the Durwan or other native assistants in the office, he would have been informed of the only way of quieting the disturbing spirit down. An offering to the Vishnu pada at Gya will have the same chastening effect on the *Rai Bahadur's* ghost as the arrival of dawn or Christmas has on roaming Christian spirits.

IT goes on:—

"Do not our Aryan brethren sometimes express themselves queerly? A native contemporary, for instance, has the following note:—'M. Henri Montague, a first-class clerk in the French Indo-China Government service, was recently devoured by a tiger at Nhatrang, and died.' The cause and effect, it will be observed, are very clearly set forth in the above.—A friend informs us that he had to send to a highly respectable firm of Native Chemists last week for some medicine, and being in a hurry at the time he merely scribbled off a memo.—'Please send a Phenacetin powder (10 grains) for adult suffering from headache.' The bearer duly brought back the powder neatly packed and sealed. The label, however, bore the legend '*Phen. gr. X. For A. Dult, Esq.*'"

Does our contemporary understand the following line in the sign-board of a grog shop?

THE GAMBOOR WINE COMPANY.

MAHARAJA Joteendro Mohun Tagore has ceased to be a Trustee of the Indian Museum. The vacancy has been filled by his son and heir Kumar Prodyot Coomar.

MR. R. E. Hamilton having been granted three months' privilege leave, Mr. T. H. S. Biddulph, Deputy Auditor General, has been recalled from privilege leave to officiate as Accountant General, Bengal.

THE Secretary of the Doveton College has filed a suit in the High Court against Babu Upendralal Basu, an attorney of the said court, for Rs. 2,680, being arrears of schooling and boarding fees for six of his children.

THE District Judge of South Canara sentenced three natives, toddy drawers, to penal servitude for life, the form of punishment reserved by the Indian Penal Code for Europeans and Americans. Was there none in court to point out the mistake to the District Judge? Was it no part of the duty of the Government prosecutor to remind the Judge of the law? The error had to be rectified by the Madras High Court.

CHARLES B. ROUSS, the New York millionaire, has offered a million dollars for the cure of his failing eyesight.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Tsar and Tsarina arrived at Breslau on Sep. 5, and were met by the Emperor and Empress and the German Princes at the station. The reception was a splendid one. A grand review of troops took place later, followed by a banquet in the evening at which the Emperor William toasted the Tsar as "the bulwark of peace." The Tsar in responding said he was animated by the same friendship towards Germany as his father was before him. The Emperor William was most effusive, but the Tsar was most brief. Prince Hohenlohe had an hour's audience of the Tsar next day. The Tsar and Tsarina, after witnessing a splendid review of troops at Goerlitz, started for Kiel. The Emperor William, speaking at a banquet at Goerlitz after the departure of the Tsar, said that the Tsar desires only to employ his troops in the service of civilization and for the protection of peace, and the Emperor added "He and I are working in complete accord to unite the peoples of Europe on the ground of common interests and for the protection of most sacred possessions." The tone of the German press seems to indicate that closer relations between Germany and Russia are expected from the visit. The Russian papers dwell upon the Tsar's visit to Germany, and regard it as a pledge of durable peace in Europe, which will enable the Continental Powers to thwart British designs in the far East. The reserve and brevity of the Tsar's reply to the Emperor William's toast at Breslau has greatly disillusioned the German and Austrian press regarding the anticipated rapprochement between Russia and the Triple Alliance; nevertheless his tour is construed into a distinct pledge of peace. The Tsar has sailed from Kiel for Copenhagen.

FURTHER details of the seizure of the Ottoman Bank, shew that twenty-five Armenians, well dressed and educated men, entered the Bank at midday in twos and threes, while porters, who followed them, introduced bags into the building which were ostensibly filled with bullion, but actually, with bombs. Suddenly several of these bombs were thrown by the conspirators, who, during the alarm caused by the explosions, closed the Bank doors, keeping a hundred clerks prisoners. The siege was then maintained with bombs and revolvers for twelve hours when the conspirators surrendered to Sir Edgar Vincent. The collective Note from the Powers to the Porte recites a series of facts proving that the Police at Constantinople and the Municipalities supplied the mob with cudgels in the riots, and strongly hinting that some of the rioters were under the protection of the Sultan. The Porte in reply casts the whole blame on the Armenians. The Porte has commenced a wholesale deportation of Armenians from Constantinople. The Powers, however, intervened, and obtained a temporary cessation of the measure. Notwithstanding the objections of Great Britain and Italy the Porte has despatched another vessel packed with Armenians from Constantinople, and has taken rigorous measures to prevent their return, and to watch the deported wherever they are landed. Constantinople is still in a condition of nervous unrest. The trade of the place is paralyzed, and the treasury is empty. The *Standard* plainly recommends the deposition of the Sultan. Poor Turkey!

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

THE Cretan Assembly has accepted the scheme of reforms lately promulgated in the island and proposed by the Powers. A scheme has been mooted for the establishment of a European Gendarmery for Crete.

THE Nile Railway has been reopened. The twenty miles, washed away, have been relaid in ten days. The third brigade of the Nile expedition has arrived at Absarat, and the cavalry has occupied Dulgo, and sighted a strong Dervish patrol.

MAKONI, Chief of the Mashona rebels, has been court-martialled and shot. Major Watts, who is responsible for both the trial and execution of Makoni, has been suspended, pending an enquiry into the matter. He has been placed under arrest.

TWO Arab editors in Cairo have been sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment each for insulting the Queen of England.

PRESIDENT Faure will not reply to the Sultan of Zanzibar's telegram until he has consulted the French Consul there. Lord Salisbury knows nothing of the telegram in question.

LORD Roberts, speaking at a banquet at Belfast, said he was proud to think that the Indian Army was thoroughly efficient and ready and able to share in the defence of the Empire in any part of the world. He afterwards dwelt upon the value of India as a training ground for the British Army owing to the great tracts of country where manœuvres were possible.

A FRENCH squadron has been ordered to the Levant, where a powerful British squadron already is.

SIR John Willoughby, the Hon. H. F. White, and the Hon. R. White have been retired from the army with ordinary privileges of retirement. Dr. Jameson's other officers will be permitted to return to their regiments.

REUTER'S agency learns that the negotiations between the Indian Government and the Amir are likely to result in a satisfactory settlement by appointing a joint delimitation commission. The *Times* suggests that Newagai and Mittai be included in the British zone.

THE *Times*' Singapore correspondent states that the rebellion in the Philippines is spreading, and that the Spanish officials are concealing the gravity of the situation there. A stubborn encounter has taken place between the rebels and the Spanish troops, in which the former were repulsed with a loss of forty-eight killed, and the troops lost eight in killed. Large reinforcements have arrived from Spain.

LI-HUNG-CHANG is making a triumphant progress through the towns on the Canadian-Pacific railway. He has made anxious enquiries about the proposal which has been mooted to increase the poll-tax on the Chinese immigrants from fifty to five hundred dollars.

REPLYING to an article in the *Cologne Gazette* which suggested that the time had come to abrogate the Dardanelles treaty, the *North German Gazette* declares that any modification of the treaty in question would be contrary to the principles of the German policy.

A MOST destructive cyclone took place at Paris in the afternoon of the 10th which, though only of a few minutes' duration, did immense damage. Trees were uprooted, barges on the Seine sunk, and omnibuses and cabs overturned by the force of the wind. The Palais de Justice and Observatory suffered severely. Many people were killed and injured.

NOW that the Conference on railway schemes is sitting at Simla under the presidency of the Viceroy, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has addressed two letters to the Bengal Government, in the Public Works Department, on the subject of railways and railway communications. In the first, the Chamber lays stress on a line from Mogul-Serai to a point on the Bengal-Nagpur Line near Parulia

or Sini, either crossing the Sone near Dehri or taking a curve under Rhotas and thence to Daltongunge and so on eastward. The line, it is urged, "would be of the utmost use to the districts served by the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway," "would be of the utmost value as a source of fuel supply to the whole of Upper India, for by this railway, coal would be mined within 170 miles of Mogul-Serai." It would also be an opening of capital, Indian and English, and "develop not only in the provinces of Bengal but in the whole of Upper India, new, valuable and most needed industries, such for instance as a great iron industry." It is calculated that the line would command no less than 5 coal fields, or serve about 1,000 square miles of coal-bearing country, capable of producing at least 12,000 million tons of coal. The Chamber is opposed to the work of this railway being done by branches from the Grand Chord Line of the East Indian Railway.

The next recommendation is a branch line between the Jheria coal-fields and Midnapore, through Anara or Murulia and Bancoora. The third proposal is a line running northwards from Ranaghat crossing the Ganges in the vicinity of Bhagwangola and proceeding through Maldah to Katihar on one side, and through Sultanpore and Bogra on the other to the Brahmaputra. This for the extension of jute industry.

The second letter deals with railway rates on goods and fares for passengers. "Viewed from the standpoint of Calcutta," the letter argues, "it is only natural that the tendency of the railway policy to fix uniform minimum mileage rates for all Provinces and to all ports of export, ignoring physical and other advantages, should have been observed with disfavour. A careful consideration of the subject induces the Committee to believe that the consequences of this policy are more far reaching than its good or evil effect upon the fortunes of any individual port." It goes on to say: "It has long been accepted that the desire and intention of Government in the working out of its Railway policy, is the benefit of India as a whole, by the development of the resources of the country. But it would appear that in its details this policy, under existing conditions, is not in touch with causes which affect traders very closely." Facilities for trade, the Chamber must remember, are not the first object of railways in India.

In his Report on the Administration of the Jails of the N.-W. Provinces and Oudh for the year ended 31st December 1895, the last of Sir John W. Tyler's, the Inspector-General of Prisons deplores:—

"It is an unfortunate circumstance that our Indian Statute Book contains no provision such as that corresponding to the Conditional Release of First Offenders Act, in force in England, whereby it is enacted that 'in any case in which a person is convicted of larceny, or false pretences, or any offence punishable with not more than two years' imprisonment before any court, and no previous conviction is proved against him, if it appears to the court before whom he is so convicted that, regard being had to the youth, character and antecedents of the offender, to the trivial nature of the offence, and to any extenuating circumstances under which the offence was committed, it is expedient that the offender be released on probation of good conduct, the court may, instead of sentencing him at once to any punishment, direct that he be released on his entering into a recognizance with or without sureties.' Such a provision especially in times of scarcity, when the labour market is overstocked and prices of food grains are frequently beyond the means of the starving peasantry, would be a most humane one. For I think it is incontrovertibly established that in seasons of agricultural depression, a large number of persons are for the first time in their lives, driven to the perpetration of crime entirely by the desire of providing the absolute necessities of life, both for themselves and the helpless ones dependent upon them. Others again (and our prison records will bear me out in this) preferring death to imprisonment, have put an end, or attempted to put an end to their unhappy existence after all honest efforts to obtain food have been exhausted. I am aware that under the existing law, punishment, however lenient, must follow conviction; but I submit, and I must earnestly and respectfully submit, that the law should be modified so as to provide for extreme cases.

I have long felt the necessity for the introduction of some such provision as the above in our penal laws. It not unfrequently happens that a person of hitherto unimpeachable character, under very extenuating circumstances, or actuated by some uncontrollable passion, commits an act which brings him within the pale of the law. It is highly improbable that he is likely to repeat his offence, he is sincerely penitent, and is desirous of making the utmost reparation in his power. Surely under such circumstances it is not politic to commit the offender to jail. Several years ago I applied to the Government of Sir Auckland Colvin for a copy of this Act with a view to making certain recommendations for its introduction into this country, but I was unable to obtain it. Subsequently I personally renewed the subject in a conversation with Sir Charles Crosthwaite, the late Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner.

I venture therefore to suggest that, in view of the great increase of crime which is more or less of a petty nature, the time has now arrived when the matter should be seriously considered."

On this the Resolution of the Government of Sir Antony MacDonnell says, "Sir John Tyler expresses his regret that Indian law contains no provisions similar to those of the English Statute for the conditional release of first offenders. The subject had already engaged the attention of the High Court and of the Local Government, and enquiries preparatory to the submission of proposals for legislation have been initiated."

The number of Europeans convicted rose from 15 in 1894 to 22 in 1895. There was also an increase in the number of juvenile offenders from 214 to 334. The last increase is attributed to the general agricultural depression due to the failure of the *kharrif* in two successive previous years. Sir John thinks that boys should not be sent to jail for short terms. Their jail should be the reformatory and the period of sentence sufficiently long for them to be admitted and instructed there. His further suggestion is that boys under 16 years of age and girls be not punished by imprisonment. For the boys are "apt to become contaminated by the evil influences of hardened adult prisoners: They leave jail with the brand of prison life upon them, and their prospects of obtaining honourable employment at discharge are in many cases irretrievably blighted. It is through incarceration under such conditions that our juveniles first sip the poisonous honey of crime, and eventually develop into veritable habituals." And "it is a deplorable spectacle to witness unfortunate little girls of tender ages ranging from 9 to 12, mixing indiscriminately with hardened prostitutes and female criminals of the deepest dye." The recommendations are to apply, as a merciful act, the provisions of the Probation of First Offenders Act to these hapless little ones, if it cannot at present be adopted in its entirety in the case of adults, and to open a Reformatory School at Fatehgarh, like the one at Bareilly for boys, in the buildings vacated by the Sansar boys and girls, which would be the first of its kind in India.

The system of hiring out prisoners to municipalities and to private individuals and employing them on outside Government work, has been discontinued.

We very much fear that with the retirement of Sir John Tyler, the Society for affording aid to Discharged Prisoners will languish into decay. Already, the present Government has disclaimed all connection with it and no fresh efforts have been made to keep it up. It has an invested fund of Rs. 31,500 in Government 3½ per cent. securities. Sir Antony MacDonnell, while believing that there are reasons why the society should remain independent of the Government, "takes an interest in its labours, as he does in every other public movement which aims at ameliorating the condition of any section of the people." It may be true statesmanship of the present Governor to dissociate all public movements with the Government. But the country has been governed too long in the opposite direction for the present policy to take any effect in any appreciable time, even if all the Governments and Administrations adopted it.

UPHOLDING the conviction by the Chief Magistrate, the High Court has dismissed the appeal of Culloden sentenced to 9 months' hard labour for highway robbery. This case is remarkable in more ways than one. Culloden is admittedly a person of no means, yet he had the best legal assistance of the Police bar. It speaks of the liberality of Calcutta or of a certain section of the community, that a youth charged with a grave offence is not allowed to go undefended. He was enabled also to take up his case to the High Court where, if he had not any prominent senior counsel to advocate his cause, he had as his defender an able and experienced junior barrister who has large criminal practice and has officiated as Legal Remembrancer and his Deputy. In the lower court the case was made to branch out into a trial of the reverend gentleman, Frederick Maule Stewart, on whom the offence was committed. For, grave insinuations were made against his moral character. The trial was unusually a protracted one, the judgment of the Magistrate in which he found the prisoner guilty being as long as 14 closely printed foolscap pages. It opens with the significant sentences—"This is a case in which the story of the prosecution depends almost entirely on the evidence of the complainant. One of the main questions in this case is whether the evidence he has given is such as to impress the Court with its truthfulness and such as the Court can accept in its entirety, uncorroborated as it mostly is." The evidence of this gentleman outweighs all that on the other side, of various sorts and degrees, and his evidence is taken to rebut all damning evidence against him. He is both complainant and

defendant in the same trial—no cross prosecution. He comes out triumphant in both. The witnesses against him are all disbelieved as either deliberate perjurers or gross libellers. His own witnesses who deposed against him were no better having been won over. The Police too receive a castigation from the Magistrate for turning against the man of religion and education. In the course of the trial, the *Sunday Times* is brought up on charges of defamation and it makes its peace with the reverend gentleman by apology. But there is no prosecution for any conspiracy against him, or of any of the witnesses who deposed against him for perjury.

In the High Court, the Advocate-General obtained special leave of Government to appear. He intervened to ask the court to put an end to the system of double trial introduced in the case in the lower court. He denounced the conduct of the Pleader for the defence and was determined, so long as he remained at the head of the bar, to see that the scandalous practice was not repeated. This intervention of the Advocate-General is said to have caused surprise at the bar. We welcome it. The privilege of cross-examination is being so much abused that it is necessary to put some limit to it. And if Sir Charles Paul be the means of introducing a reform in that behalf, he will do a service indeed to the public, and be remembered for it. The High Court remarks:—

"When the trial began it was allowed without objection by the public prosecutor or intervention on the part of the Magistrate to virtually take the form of a proceeding in which Mr. Stewart was to be on his trial for several offences, some of a very grave nature. The result was that a case which could have been disposed of in one or two sittings, was prolonged beyond all ordinary limits; and we have the unusual spectacle of the public prosecutor refusing to call a police officer on the ground that he could not be relied upon for the prosecution, and a Presidency Magistrate declaring in his judgment that all the police officers were against the complainant.

The Advocate-General has called upon us to put an end to this form of trial. We extremely regret it. But the law allows the public prosecutor the carriage of the case, while the officer who presides over the trial has ample authority under the Evidence Act and other enactments to compel practitioners in his Court to conduct themselves with propriety. If this authority is not exercised, irregularities, if nothing worse, are unavoidable."

The judgment concludes with the words—

"A great deal of verbal criticism has been expended on the words 'morally certain.' It seems to us that the explanation given by Mr. Stewart himself is that which must be accepted, and it does not show that his evidence is unworthy of credit.

On the whole, we are satisfied that the appellant is guilty of the offence of which he has been convicted in the Court below, and we dismiss the appeal."

The Bench that delivered the judgment was composed of Justices O'Kinealy and Jenkins. Do the Police now consider themselves cleared of the aspersions cast on them by the Chief Magistrate?

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 12, 1896.

THE NEW METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE SCHEME.

MR. A. J. Hughes, the new engineer to the Calcutta Corporation, delivered, at the Dalhousie Institute, on the 20th July last, a lecture on the Drainage System of Calcutta. It was a good presentation of the subject as it is and as it is to be. He explained the proposed outlet of storm water for the town proper and the new scheme for the added area. He began with the visit of Mr. Baldwin Latham, in March 1891. The celebrated sanitary engineer differed from some of the views entertained by Mr. James Kimber, the late engineer to the Corporation. The discussion was carried for a period of six years, but the chief points of difference were not mentioned in the lecture. We begin from the very beginning. A minute of the Marquis of Wellesley, dated the 16th of June 1803, pointed out "that an original error has been committed in draining the town towards the river Hooghly. And it is believed that the level of the country inclines towards the Salt Water Lake." A committee was formed to take into consideration ten items of business, namely,

(1) to make a survey of Calcutta, (2) to ascertain the relative level of the water in the Hooghly, (3) to suggest the description of drains, (4) to report on the cost of maintaining them in workable condition, (5) to consider the condition of the burial grounds, (6) to examine bazars, meat markets and slaughter houses, (7) to enquire into all existing nuisances, (8) opening of new streets and roads, (9) suggestions about the health and comfort of the inhabitants and (10) to submit an estimate of expense required to complete all proposed improvements.

It is not known what report was made. The second step was the Fever Hospital Committee's Report, submitted in the year 1840, by Messrs. J. P. Grant (Chairman), C. W. Smith, J. Young, J. R. Martin, Prosonno Coomar Tagore, R. Scott Thomson, Dwarka Nath Tagore, Rustomjee Cowasjee and Russomoy Dutt. Mr. Nicolson was too ill to sign it. It was the outcome of a letter addressed to the governors of the native hospital by Surgeon J. R. (afterwards Sir Ranald) Martin. In this letter he pointed out the urgent necessity for establishing a fever hospital in the town of Calcutta. Accompanying it was a very able note on the medical topography of Calcutta and its Suburbs. The governors, after arriving at certain resolutions, communicated them to Sir C. T. Metcalfe, then Governor-General of India. Two public meetings were held, in which considerable sums were raised for the hospital. In 1836 the Earl of Auckland succeeded to the Government of India and formed a committee for the following objects. First, to establish an hospital, secondly,

to submit to the consideration of Government the sanitary state of Calcutta and its Suburbs, and the suggestion of local improvements for the purpose of producing and maintaining greater salubrity, of both which objects also His Lordship most cordially approved—but to these two objects he suggested the addition of a third, the framing of a plan of local management and taxation.

The committee divided itself into three sub-committees. The first, to inquire into the present system of assessing, collecting and appropriating the town-taxes. The second, to inquire into the present state and management of the conservancy department, that is, the drainage, cleansing, etc., of the town, in regard to salubrity and means of improving it. The third, to conduct all measures connected with the proposed Fever Hospital and the circulation of subscription books, &c.

After a minute, careful, and somewhat tedious investigation of the matters referred to them, the committee agreed upon a report embracing the results of the inquiries of the three sub-committees, which they submitted to the Government of Bengal, on the 7th January 1840. A table of levels was furnished by Lieutenant Abercrombie from surveys made by officers employed by the Lottery Committee, and by the Government, namely, Major Schaleh, Major Taylor, Captain Prinsep, Captain Forbes and Mr. Blechynden. Among others, Mr. Ryper, apothecary of the Guranhatta Dispensary, Mr. Brett, Surgeon to the Governor-General's Body Guard, Dr. J. R. Martin, Dr. W. Graham, and Dr. Modusoodun Gupto were examined by the Committee and they condemned the tanks, the drainage, and the roads. They also spoke of the great mortality then occurring in the town. Babu Ram Comul Sen and Dr. Jackson submitted a joint paper on these topics, on the 21st May 1835. The committee reported:

I. That there is no natural impediment, nor any difficulty which a due application of science and capital cannot readily overcome, to the thoroughly draining, cleansing, and ventilating, and supplying with wholesome water, the whole city and suburbs of Calcutta.

II. That the parts of the city inhabited by the Natives, forming a great population, to whose numbers the British inhabitants bear a very small proportion, and the whole of the suburbs, are, in all these respects, in a condition of such total neglect, as to render them necessarily the seats of diseases destructive of individual happiness, and of life, and inconsistent with moral improvement."

and political prosperity; and that the still imperfect, though improved, condition in these respects of those parts of the city inhabited by the British, and the noxious exhalations produced all round them by the state of the Native Town, and the Suburbs, and the marshes called the Salt Water Lake, produce in these parts effects inconsistent with salubrity.

III. That the removal of the causes, which now generate the pestilential seeds of disease to so frightful a degree, would be effected by the thoroughly draining, cleansing and ventilating the city and Suburbs, and draining the Salt Water Lake—and that an ample supply of water for watering the roads, and for all purposes of cleanliness, and of good and wholesome water for drinking, and preparing food, would be afforded to every part of the city by the formation of a sufficient head of water within it, and the excavating a sufficient number of tanks—and thus the city would be rendered a healthy residence for the Natives of the climate, and no otherwise injurious to European constitutions than through the operation, during the greater parts of the year, of tropical heat, in a climate, no doubt naturally damp, but unassisted by wholesome exhalations from the soil, or miasmata.

On the 4th September 1851 Colonel Forbes submitted a scheme to the Commissioners of Calcutta which was forwarded by their Secretary, Mr. J. O. Beckett, to Mr. W. Grey, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, on the 8th November 1854. Mr. W. Clark, secretary and engineer to the Commissioners, made ready his scheme on the 20th November 1855, and it was forwarded by the Commissioners, Messrs. G. F. Cockburn, H. L. Thuillier, Tariney Churn Bannerjee and Dinobundhu Dey, to Mr. F. J. Halliday, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on the 29th December 1855. The Commissioners under advice sent the scheme to Messrs. M. and G. Rendel, the celebrated engineers of London, under date the 21st April 1858, for their opinion. A reply was received on the 12th November of the same year. Mr. Clark submitted another report commenting on the objections taken by Messrs. Rendel, which was sent up to Mr. F. J. Halliday, on the 21st March 1859. In April following the final sanction was received. A progress report was made in 1861, to Mr. J. P. Grant, Lieutenant-Governor, by three Municipal Commissioners, Messrs. S. Wauchope, H. L. Thuillier, and A. M. Dowleaus. The usefulness of "the Drainage of Calcutta" was explained by Mr. Clark at a meeting of the Bengal Social Science Congress held on the 2nd February 1871, at the Town Hall. The principal features of Mr. Clark's project, as given by Mr. Hughes,

"were to be two main discharging sewers running along the Upper and Lower Circular Road with a large main outfall sewer taking off from the end of Dhurmtola Street, and discharging into the tides of the Salt lakes at Palmer's bridge. There were four other receiving sewers running east and west from the Hooghly to the Circular Road, and the surplus storm water was discharged at Manicktollah into the Circular Canal. To meet the absence of a water supply Mr. Clark took advantage of the differences of tide level between the Hooghly and the Salt lakes to secure tidal flushing at certain seasons; under favourable conditions, I think, that this aid will be always useful to you."

The defects now found are:

(1) The mistake in taking levels of the rise of water in the Hooghly and Salt water lake. (2) The actual commencement of the drainage project before the water supply. (3) The construction of Chitpore and Dhappa locks in the Circular Canal in 1881. (4) Insufficient outlet of storm water. (5) Insufficient power for sewage disposal of the Palmer's Bridge pumping machines.

The miscalculation of the tide levels and the time during which they occur was a great drawback and led to the imperfect drainage of both the storm water and the sewage. The flow tide in the lake commences nearly an hour and a-half later than the rise of the Hooghly at Calcutta. During the low-tide only, the sewage gets a real exit, while some portion of it returns with the rise of the water in the lake. The consequence is that the outflow of storm water is possible during the ebb-tide, and during the flow tide the drains become water-logged and the

streets are under water. This view of ours is corroborated by Mr. Hughes. He says:—

What happens is that the sewage is discharged into a channel 13,360 feet long and 80 feet wide, freely open to the tide. During the flood tide this channel ceases to discharge altogether and the heavier particles of sewage are deposited in the bed of the cut. This channel is emptied in the ebb tide and in the last quarter of the ebb most of the deposit is carried out to meet the first rush of the flood tide and most of the solid sewage is carried by the flood into the comparatively shallow channels at and above Dhappa.

The main drainage system is a combined system for both sewage and storm water. They are separated at Palmer's Bridge. The sewage is there lifted and pumped into a high-level sewer, where under present arrangements, it is possible for the sewage to escape into the storm-water open cut, to be discharged by the Makalpota sluice, just below the Dhappa lock. This sluice was constructed in 1881.

The second blunder was the construction of the sewers before the water works. The two schemes were proposed at the same time. Messrs. Rendel in their recommendation had pointed out the simultaneous necessity of water-supply and drainage. They remarked that "to construct sewers without at the same time providing an ample supply of water to keep them clear of deposits would be a worse than useless expenditure of money." Yet, the drainage operations were taken up in 1859, while works for the supply of water did not commence till so late as 1867.

The locks at Chitpore and Dhappa in the Circular Canal were constructed by the Government for various reasons. In order to keep the Canal sufficiently navigable, they were a necessity. Further, they removed the nuisance of silt and sewage deposit. Notwithstanding, it was not a wise plan to empty storm water and sewage into the Canal. That operation converted it into a great depository of sewage. The mistake was corrected by the construction of the Makalpota sluice. Mr. Hughes says:

Mr. Clark had to consider the question in 1857; it was governed by two conditions which do not exist at the present day. In the first place, he found a very efficient tidal outfall channel skirting the city on the east in the shape of the Circular Canal which was freely opened to the low tides of the Salt lakes and closed to the higher tides of the Hooghly and which was available for the escape of storm water; and in the second place, his proposals were governed by the condition that you had no water supply and therefore it was a point of some difficulty and importance to arrange that the sewers should be self-cleansing.

It is not known on what authority Mr. Hughes asserts that the Canal "was freely opened to the low tides of the Salt lakes and closed to the higher tides of the Hooghly," for there were no locks before 1881 in the Canal to perform this function.

The insufficient outlet of storm water was another blunder which is now admitted by all. The assertion of the lecturer that "you are all aware that flooding in the city never took place when the Circular Canal was open to you," does not seem to rest on any solid foundation. The city used to be flooded in the days of the Marquis of Wellesley as much as when the drainage operations were perfected before 1881. Mr. Clark designed the sewers to be capable of discharging quarter of an inch of rain per hour. Mr. Hughes says, "I have no hesitation in saying that in heavy rains the sewers can discharge nothing like a quarter inch per hour, and that the escape of storm water must be increased moreover." Add to this the incapacity of the Makalpota sluice, and you have another cause for flooding. But it is by no means certain that the cause of the city being under water is to be found, after 1881, in the locks in the Circular Canal and the Makalpota

sluice. There are other defects in the drainage system.

The crown of the intercepting sewer is higher than the crown of the sewer it was constructed to relieve. The longitudinal section is defective in other ways, and it was built 4 feet too high. It was designed to discharge 28,770 cubic feet. As a fact, it cannot dispose of more than 16,447 cubic feet per minute.

The level of the water at the Dhurmatollah sewer junction with the main sewer is probably not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet higher than the water at Palmer's Bridge.

The effect of any heavy rainfall would be an almost complete collection of water without sufficient exit. Regarding the storm water open cut, the Engineer remarks :

I have tried to find out on what principle this open cut (which has been such a misfortune to you) was designed, without success, and I have tried to get some guidance from the recorded facts of the working of the cut with the small result. What appears to happen is that the banks freely breach after heavy rainfall, and the water escapes over the country.

Is it not strange that records would be wanting to explain such expensive works undertaken and completed? Such absence may lead to other costly blunders, and we hope Mr. Hughes will not rush to any more without full enquiry and will leave a full record of his doings.

Insufficient power of the Palmer's Bridge pumping machine for disposal of sewage has been another source of trouble. The pumps, by incessant working, are only just able to deliver 3,600 cubic feet per minute and hardly able to deal with the present discharge of sewage.

Mr. Hughes proposes to remedy these evils by his project which is intended to drain the added area as well. For this purpose he divides that area into four divisions :

1. The canal area, including the additions in wards Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 9, up to the Circular Canal in the east. 2. Suburban drainage south of Tolly's Nullah. The area includes wards Nos. 23, 24 and 25. 3. Drainage of Suburbs north of Tolly's Nullah to suburban outfall. 4. Suburban drainage system north of the outfall.

The last two divisions contain wards nos. 19, 20, 21 and 22.

For the Canal area as well as for the city proper, Mr. Hughes proposes new works. He says :

I do not know at present a city with a worse outfall than Calcutta, whether for sewage or drainage. The first step you have to take, therefore, is to put your storm-water outfall in order. The storm-water outfall that we have designed for you to meet these conditions is based on the results of tidal drainage works, which are familiar to many of you, for the drainage of the Howrah, Dancoonee, and Rajapore swamps. In the case of these drainage works we were able to secure reservoir capacity by discharging upland drainings on low paddy fields at a suitable level. In the case of your outfall the levels of the low lands are not suitable, and we have to excavate a channel of sufficient reservoir capacity. Very briefly, we propose to construct a reservoir 16,700 feet long and 450 feet wide and $4\frac{1}{4}$ feet deep, which will store a quarter inch of rainfall during the flood tide and discharge its contents and the drainage of the town on the ebb through suitable channels provided for the purpose. So that the reservoir will empty to low-water level, and be again ready for use with the rise of the flood tide. This reservoir will be connected with Palmer's Bridge by a cut 70 feet wide, about twice the width of the present open cut. It will be emptied by the present Makhalpotah sluice, and an additional sluice of five spans of 17 feet fitted with Stony's roller gates, which we propose to construct at Byntollah. It is anticipated that under extreme circumstances of heavy rainfall this reservoir can never fill up to the level of 12.50 for more than a few minutes, and that at this level the outfalls of this city sewer can never be submerged. The Makhalpotah sewer and the previous expenditure on land will be fully utilized by these proposals. The work, in this form, will be capable of dealing with six inches of rainfall in twenty-four hours, and will probably meet the case of such rainfalls as eight or ten inches in twenty-four hours, such as occur once in twenty years. In the case of smaller rainfalls the reservoir will give an increased fall of three to four feet to the whole system of your sewers, and enormously increase the flushing powers of average rainfall. It will also confer a new value to the Hooghly flush, which will always be safe and useful.

Mr. Hughes' assurances are very hopeful. By his method he is almost sure to clear the plague spot in the Canal area. But does he find nothing

wrong in the existing drainage of the city? We have seen that he dates the obstruction to the flow of drainage wrongly from the locking up of the Circular Canal. That may be an addition to other causes. We suspect the insufficient fall of the sewers especially at the Circular Road and Dhurmatola junction is one grave error. If the proposed reservoir fail to draw all the water of the Calcutta streets, then the Engineer will have another huge problem to solve, and the solution will not be easy. The eradication of plague spots is always an old tale. We have had such an assurance during the sittings of the Fever Hospital Committee. Mr. Clark was equally dogmatic as he believed his drainage system perfect and capable of draining Calcutta of all its evils. We have now Mr. Hughes' very encouraging words. The last epidemics of small-pox and cholera approached in intensity to outbreaks that occurred thirty years before.

The machines at Palmer's Bridge will be added to for rendering them fully efficient. "The plant will be designed to dispose of the full quantity of sewage with ample standby; and when all the pumps are in good order they will be able to dispose of the sewage, and a sufficient volume of flush water from the Hooghly up to 10,000 cubic feet per minute, about one-third of the total discharging capacity of the main outfall sewer, so that it will not be necessary to discharge flush water into the storm water outfall in future." The advantage of the combined drainage of the combined areas is thus told: "With regard to the alignment of the new high level sewer and the general arrangements for disposing of sewage, we consider that the sewage of the city and the suburbs must be combined into one outfall channel, because the larger the volume of the sewage, the easier it is to maintain a sewage channel, and it is clearly advisable to have a single sewage channel, instead of two separate sewage channels."

The present outfall of the Makalpota sluice has often been the subject of complaint for the terrible nuisance it causes. It is proposed to remedy the defect in the following way. "The present discharge of sewage into the Balliaghatta Canal will be increased by 40 per cent. in the near future by the construction of the suburban sewage works; and this state of things will daily become worse and more unbearable. * * The bulk of the offensive portion of the sewage is now discharged at Khanabari, immediately below a shallow section of the Canal. It will be carried as close as possible to the Byntolla Khal entrance into a section of the Canal 20 feet deep at low water, and, instead of the discharge being concentrated as at present into the last quarter of the ebb, it will be uniformly pumped during two flood and two ebb tides during twenty-four hours."

The Suburban drainage south of the Tolly's Nullah includes wards Nos. 23, 24 and 25. Accepting partially the scheme of Mr. Latham, Mr. Hughes proposes to construct a low level syphon under the bed of Tolly's Nullah and place the pumping station on the north bank of the Nullah, as suggested by the expert. But he does not think that it will be possible to lower the proposed level of the sewer so as to avoid the pumping station at the Budge Budge Road, as suggested by Mr. Latham. To give effect to the recommendation of the Committee of the Corporation to avoid the pollution of Tolly's Nullah, Mr. Hughes proposes "to dispose of as much foul drainage,

as well as sewage, as may be practically possible within the reasonable limits of cost in the new sewers, so that the surface drainage which has no possible outlet, except the Nullah, may be purified to the utmost extent possible." On the whole, the drainage of this area is simple compared to the rest of the work.

Drainage of the Suburbs north of Tolly's Nullah to Suburban outfall includes an area covered by wards Nos. 21 and 22.

Many modifications are being made of the existing proposals. The suggestion of Mr. Braunfeld, one of the Commissioners, about a separate storm water outfall for the Suburbs has been accepted. The proposed extension of the Lansdowne Road and the Bidhapara Road will simplify the drainage arrangements. Mr. Hughes' next project is to carry the main sewer from the Kalighat crossing to a station which will be the second Palmer's Bridge. Here the same kind of work will be done as in the existing pumping station. Tolly's Nullah is to be relieved of its reception of the foul surface drainage which is now admitted into it.

The outfall works for the Suburban sewage system will consist of machines to lift the pure sewage into a high level sewer which will fall into the high level sewer for the city. "When the pumps are overpowered by storm water, the surplus will be discharged into a reservoir constructed at precisely the same levels as the main storm-water reservoir. The reservoir will be discharged into Balliaghata Canal by a sluice with a water-way of three spans of 17 feet with Stony-roller gate. The reservoir will not only dispose of the storm water of your main sewer but it will also receive the escape from the Lower Circular Road sewer." The sewer running through Bidhapara Road will be separate from the existing sewer in Russa Road, which will require enlargement. The flushing of the last mentioned one will be done with unfiltered water from a reservoir.

The Suburban drainage system north of the outfall includes wards Nos 19 and 20. The engineer had no definite proposition to advance for this portion, for want of a proper survey. He thinks, however that

"it may be possible to lay our pipes 20 feet below the surface. On the line of the main sewer it will be necessary to pump the sewage to a height of about 8 feet from the pumps into the sewer."

He divides this area into two sections. By a distinct compact project he means to drain the whole of ward No. 19 and a portion of ward No. 20, the sewer discharging itself at Palmer's Bridge. The sewers for the remaining portion of ward No. 20 are to be emptied by another pumping machine.

SIR COMER PETHERAM.

WITH the rising, on Tuesday, of the High Court for the Long Vacation, Sir Comer Petheram left for home to return no more. He retires from the service from November next. His has been a pleasant sojourn in India. He left it, as no other Chief Justice in Bengal has done, highly honoured and feted. Native Calcutta had once, in public meeting assembled, resolved upon a petition for recall of a Puisne Judge, but never in its previous history, had Europeans and Natives combined to honour a retiring Chief Justice, though we had far abler Chief Justices than the present. Besides the public demonstration at the Dalhousie Institute, there was a round of festivities for Sir Comer. The bar gave him a dinner. The diners, headed by the Advocate-General, were loud in their praise of him and enthusiastic in the merriment of the night. Not to be outdone, the Pleaders and Attorneys presented him addresses at the last

moment. There were also private entertainments in native houses. Khan Bahadoor Mahomed Yusuff had provided one and the Maharaja Joteendra Mohun Tagore another. The Hon'ble Chunder Madhub Ghose invited a party at his residence to bid the retiring Chief Justice farewell and had some good words for his Chief. He spoke more as a native citizen than a Judge. A number of gentlemen, European and Native, went to the railway station to wish the good Sir Comer Petheram *bon voyage*. We publish below Sir Comer's reply to the public address.

"Maharajas, Rajas, Nawabs, ladies and gentlemen,---When a man in my position is about to lay down the office which he has held for so long, he is naturally led to hope that by his conduct in his official life and in the discharge of his judicial duties he has succeeded in securing the approval and in winning the confidence of the people among whom that life has been passed. The character of the meeting at which the address which has just been read was approved and accepted, the composition of the present assembly, as well as the language of the address itself encourage me to entertain the belief that in the performance of my duties as Chief Justice of Bengal, I have given satisfaction to, and gained the approval, respect, and confidence of, a great portion of the people of this province---a belief which, I most earnestly assure you, will ever be to me the greatest source of pride and happiness, and will at all times serve to recall with the keenest pleasure the recollection of the years spent by me in this country. A very important portion of your address is that in which you refer to the position of the Judges of the High Courts in India, as to which I am constrained to say that my opinion is entirely the same as your own. When I came to India in 1884, the value of the rupee was about one shilling and eight pence, and one shilling and nine pence, and the period of service for a full High Court pension was eleven years and-a-half. I need not remind you that the rupee is now worth less than one shilling and three pence, and that the period of service necessary to gain a full High Court pension has been increased to fourteen years and-a-half. I cannot help fearing that when the professions, both here and in England, fully appreciate the effect of these changes, it will be found that the field of selection has been dangerously narrowed. I also think that there is reason to fear that the extension of the period of service may have a serious effect upon the efficiency of the judges, for a reason which does not appear to have been considered by, perhaps was not within the knowledge of, the framers of the new rules. When I became Chief Justice of the North-Western Provinces I was forty-nine years old, and I have spent twelve hot seasons in the plains of India. My knowledge of my own health and strength tells me that if I were to attempt to carry on the work of Chief Justice of Bengal for another three years, it would be found that my energy and my patience have been so seriously affected by the work which I have already done in this climate, that it would be in the interest of the court, and the public, that the office should be in younger hands. What is true of myself will, I feel sure, be found to be true of many others, and for this reason I greatly fear that it will be very difficult for men who come to this country, after they have reached middle life, to perform the duties of the office of a judge, for fifteen hot seasons in the plains of India, with the energy and patience which the public have the right to expect. I do not think any medical man who has had much experience in India will be found to take a different view. It will perhaps be said that judges may obtain rest and strength by absenting themselves from time to time on furlough. As to this I can, of course, only speak of the office of Chief Justice. But in his case I am very strongly of opinion that it would not be in the interest of the court or the public that he should absent himself, and allow his duties to pass into the hands of another, if such a course can be avoided. The extension of the period of service has also, as you suggest, a bearing on the positions and prospects of the judicial branch of the Civil Service, which I think escaped the notice of the framers of the new rules. Very soon after the new rules were published, a very large number of the more experienced of the district judges retired, because, as I believe, they felt that under the new order of things, their hope of promo-

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Bahu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 16th, Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subject*: Boyle's law, its application.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 17th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subjects*: The Protozoa. Coelenterata.

Lecture by Bahu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 19th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subject*: Morphology of Plants ---Flowers (continued).

Lecture by Dr. Niranjan Sircar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 19th Inst., at 6-30 P.M. *Subject*: Histology.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Sept. 12, 1896.

Honorary Secretary.

tion to the High Court was gone. These numerous retirements have had two effects. First, they have thrown the judicial work in the districts into the hands of men of less experience, and so have affected the field from which the civilian judges of the High Court must in future be drawn; and, secondly, they have increased the number of persons who draw incomes from the pension fund, to an extent which, I expect, largely outweighs any gain which may have been derived from the increased term of service. Whether or not the commercial list, which is now kept on the Original Side of the High Court will prove of much assistance to the mercantile community, must depend upon the action, of the litigants themselves, and of the professional men by whom the litigation is conducted. I need not tell you that when an action comes before a judge for trial, he must try every issue which is disputed, and that if the parties to the suit insist on fighting to the end every possible question, whether there is any real dispute about it or not, litigation will continue to be very long and very costly. If, on the other hand, the parties before they go into court, eliminate everything from the enquiry, but the questions which are really in dispute, and require the judge to try those questions only, trials will take much less time and will cost much less money. But the matter is one in which neither the court nor any individual judge can do much to help the people, if they are not disposed to help themselves. It only remains for me to offer you my most sincere thanks for the good wishes and kind sentiments you have expressed, in regard to my future career in my native land. You may rest assured that all questions in which the interests of India are concerned will always receive at my hands a most careful and watchful attention, and, should opportunities arise, I shall deem it a high privilege if I can be of service or assistance in any matter affecting the welfare and prosperity of the people of this country."

OUR LONDON LETTER.

August 21.

Imperial Parliament. Shortly after posting my last letter to you on the 14th instant, the Parliamentary session came to an end, being duly prorogued until Saturday, the 31st October next, after the Lord Chancellor had read the Queen's speech. The general sentiment of the journals of all parties is, that, with the distinguished exception of the Speaker, no single member has added to his laurels by the session just brought to a close. The "Times" devotes six columns to its history. Full justice is done to Mr. Balfour's "brilliant intellectual gifts as well as his personal charm of manner." But these alone will not make a successful leader of the House of Commons. And Mr. Balfour had not only the advantage of leading the strongest Government we have seen since the Reform Act of 1832, but he had also to face an "enfeebled and discredited opposition." How then to account for the failure of this strong Unionist Government? "The fundamental error was the introduction of complicated and contentious Bills, going down to the roots of principles and stirring up angry controversies on all sides." Mr. Balfour is taken to task for his somewhat absurd boast that he "never reads the newspapers" and was a "child" in the ways of the House of Commons. It was by no such methods Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli asserted their position as leaders of the very first rank. Lord Palmerston entered the House of Commons in 1809 and with a short break sat in it till he died full of years and full of honours in 1865. He was in his seventy-first year when he was summoned by the voice of the nation to the grand position of Prime Minister, in 1855.

I was reading, only the other day, that when he was called to be Leader of the House of Commons, he set himself vigorously to a thorough study of its rules and practices, as if he were preparing for a college examination. And notwithstanding his advanced years, he was, as a rule, found on the Treasury Bench from four in the afternoon until one, two, and three o'clock of the following morning. As I remarked in a former letter, Mr. Balfour will have to follow such an example, if he is to earn his spurs as a Leader of the House. But all are agreed that Mr. Balfour deserves high praise for his new rules as to Supply. "They have worked admirably, the estimates being more thoroughly considered, the time devoted to them being better distributed, and none of the more important being left to be hurried through at the last moment, as was too often the case in recent years."

The grand fiasco of the Session was, beyond all controversy, Mr. Balfour's management of the Education Bill. Had Government concentrated all its energies until this great Bill had passed the House, subordinating all other measures to it, it is believed Mr. Balfour would have succeeded. But his unfortunate surrender to Sir A. Rollic; in spite of Sir J. Gorst's protest followed by the *volte face* of the meeting at the Foreign Office, and the ultimate withdrawal of the Bill, dealt, beyond all question, a serious blow at the administrative capacity of the ministry. I give you in full what the "Times" in its review of the Session says of the Suakin debate. "A more serious question arose in reference to the proposal to send Indian troops to Suakin.

It was learned with much surprise that Lord George Hamilton, who had refused to consent to charge India with any portion of the cost of two native regiments borrowed to serve at Mombasa, had decided, against the strong protest of the Indian Government, to require them to provide the ordinary pay and expenses of the Suakin contingent. The unwisdom as well as the meanness of thus insisting that India should be treated with different weights and measures as a lender and as a borrower of troops powerfully affected many of the most loyal supporters of the Government. An amendment to Lord George Hamilton's motion imposing the charge on the Indian tax-payers was moved by Mr. Morley and supported by Sir Henry Fowler, and, after an ingenious though over-subtle defence of the Government by Mr. Balfour, was rejected by 275 against 190 votes, the normal majority of the Government being reduced by nearly one-half. Some dissatisfaction was caused by the postponement of the Indian Budget till the very eve of the prorogation; but Lord George Hamilton's reassuring statement as to the Indian finances was well received."

Of personal characteristics we read that the Speaker has "made his mark. He has achieved for himself a high position amongst the many able and accomplished men who have occupied the chair. He is clear, prompt, and firm in the questions that come before him, of an imperturbable temper, and equally endowed with suavity and good sense." Mr. Chamberlain was "mainly occupied with the difficult administrative problems of his own department, but when he intervened in debate he showed all the energy and adroitness by which he has been distinguished throughout his career." Of subordinate ministers, Mr. Curzon, Sir J. Gorst, and Mr. Gerald Balfour come in for their meed of praise. Of the Lords, neither Lord Salisbury nor Lord Rosebery had any particular opportunity of coming to the front. Lord Lansdowne piloted the Irish Land Bill with "much urbanity and discretion." Turning to the front opposition bench, due acknowledgment is made of Sir W. Harcourt's "cheery audacity and uproarious humour." Sir Henry Fowler "alone has risen above the level of party, though only where India was concerned." Mr. Morley "has not improved his position." Sir H. Campbell Bannerman "has distinctly lost ground by sinking into the mere partisan." Mr. Asquith "has failed to rise above the level of a rhetorician."

Of private members, our friend Mr. Bowles is reminded "that buffoonery easily degenerates into boredom." The two Scotch bores—Caldwell and Dalziel are left in well merited contempt, and are not named, nor is Sir Charles Dilke, who might well take the hint and be less loquacious, as his interference in debate is an insult to the House.

Though prorogued to October, it is not expected that the House will reassemble for business until January, so for four or five months the hard-worked officials will have rest.

Li Chang Tung has "done" Barrow-in-Furness, Glasgow, the Forth Bridge, and the Elswick works at Newcastle since I last wrote. To-morrow he proceeds to Southampton and is due at New York on the 29th. After doing New York, Philadelphia, Washington, and Niagara, he becomes the guest of the Canadian Government who will see him by the Canadian Pacific railway transferred to Vancouver, whence he sails for Japan and China. He is as inquisitive as ever, particularly about the ages of the dignitaries that are introduced to him. On reaching Cragside, Lord Armstrong's splendid abode in Coquetland (not far from Newcastle) the first question put to his noble host was, "How old are you?" The answer was "Ten years older than Your Excellency." On the Duke of Devonshire asking him whether he ever shot game (he himself having just come from a couple of days' grouse shooting) the naive reply was "No! I only shoot rebels." On his way to Barrow he paid an hour's visit to Mr. Gladstone at Hawarden. His Excellency was in great force. "What do you think of Lord Salisbury?" to which Mr. Gladstone gave him the adroit reply "I admire his abilities but I do not always approve his policy."

I learn privately he was immensely charmed with the dinner given to him at the Crystal Palace by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and remarked of the fire works display provided for him, that it was the finest he had ever witnessed.

Dr. Nansen and the North Pole. This intrepid Arctic explorer has returned to Vardo in Norway, having failed to reach the Pole, but having got within 268 miles of it, or 170 nearer than any previous navigator. This of itself is a marvellous achievement, and will secure for Nansen an enthusiastic reception from all the geographical societies of Europe.

Sir John Millais was buried yesterday in St. Paul's Cathedral, where his dust lies contiguous to that of his illustrious predecessor, Lord Leighton. The Queen and Prince of Wales were duly represented, as was Lord Salisbury, while Lord Rosebery was one of the pall bearers. Many other leaders of society—in politics, science, and art—would have been present but for the general dispersion at this season of the year.

Rhea fibre. It would appear that the Government of India has not yet given any final decision on Mr. Gomes' discovery, referred to in my last. But the Inspector-General of Forests has given

his judgment on the process, and in time the Indian Government will no doubt give its imprimatur.

Royal Commission on Financial Relations between Great Britain and India. This not overburdened commission has risen, and will not meet again till January. The ways of royal commissions are past finding out. That on vaccination has, I think, spent seven years over its not very valuable report. The stinging paragraph in the "Pioneer" on Sir William Wedderburn and Mr. Naoroji, was thought to be of sufficient importance to be cabled to the "Times." But in fact no one of any position in regard to Indian questions cares a pin's head for the opinions of these two cranks. Sir W. Wedderburn thirsts for notoriety, while poor Mr. Naoroji has discovered that Great Britain did not exist until Clive and Hastings laid the foundations of its conquest of India! No doubt, a wonderful historical discovery, and, in season and out of season, the worthy Parsi airs his sad. But it is most unfortunate for India that a man, so well meaning, should be so eaten up with self-esteem, to use no harsher term, as to sink the real questions affecting India's well-being, into a mere parade of his own cranks and fads. He has been rebuked over and over again by the chairman—Lord Welby—for endeavouring to thrust his immature opinions on unwilling witnesses, and as a compromise Mr. Naoroji is to be examined himself as a witness, and for a time is to surrender his seat on the judicial enquiry. A small body of financial experts, say five, would have done the work infinitely better than this royal commission. Who cares a couple of straws for Mr. Caine's opinion on any question relating to India? He knows nothing of the people or the country, beyond having passed two or more cold weather seasons in scampering through the land as the guest of the Viceroy, Lieutenant-Governors and other dignitaries. To put such men as Wedderburn, Naoroji, and Caine on a commission where judicial gravity and a free open mind are the first requisities, reduces the whole thing to a sorry farce.

The Separation of Judicial from Executive Work. Your paper has been taking a vigorous and active interest in this all important question. Mr. Bhownagari took advantage of the evening devoted to the Indian Budget to bring it before the notice of the House of Commons. But the only way to bring about any successful issue to the controversy is for the Local Governments to move and, in time, get the Supreme Government to take it up. Were Sir Alexander Mackenzie, as the Lieutenant-Governor of the most advanced of the provinces of India, to bring his energy and thorough grasp of the subject, to bear upon it, a good beginning might be made. The letter which appeared in the "Times" of yesterday from Mr. J. P. Goodridge, formerly of the Bengal Civil Service, is a wise and moderate contribution to the discussion, and I hope you will be able to find room for it in an early issue of *R. & R.*

The Deaf in India. I also enclose a very interesting communication on this subject. Mr. Banerji appears to have done well so far and all he now requires is substantial pecuniary assistance from the Government. Why should Calcutta be placed in a worse position than Bombay? Is it that in the latter the missionaries have more influence with the Government? The work, it appears to me, should be thoroughly unsectarian, and Mr. Banerji is well deserving of all the assistance that Government and private individuals can give him.

Germany. The resignation of the War Minister is a matter of small significance. It throws a lurid light on the notorious duel which so agitated all Germany some months ago. The late War Minister and the present Chancellor, Prince Hohenlohe, were determined to introduce effective legislation to prevent a recurrence of such a scandal. A word from the Emperor would settle the matter, but his sympathies are known to be with the arrogant military party that refuses to bate one jot or tittle of its mediæval brutalities. The anxious question of the immediate future is, What will the Chancellor do? His personal sympathies are known to be with the late War Minister, and entirely antagonistic to the military coterie that surrounds the Emperor and enjoys his patronage. The future of Germany is an unknown quantity, and much will depend on the vagaries and whims of its eccentric and self-willed ruler.

France. The Prime Minister has announced the abandonment of the tax on *Rentes*. You will remember when announcing the intention of the French Government to introduce this tax, I pointed out the very serious opposition it would evoke throughout the entire country, and my forecast has been fully verified.

Italy. The announcement of the engagement of the Prince of Naples (the Crown Prince of Italy) to the third daughter of the Prince of Montenegro has produced lively satisfaction in Italy. The more than strained relations between the King and the Pope have rendered it a matter of difficulty to find a bride for the unfortunate Prince. The Princess of Montenegro belongs to the Greek Church, but she is willing to abjure her ancient faith and be converted to that of Rome, in prospect of one day sharing the throne of Italy. She is said to be very beautiful, and the Emperors of Russia and Germany have hastened to convey their personal congratulations to the happy couple. I have not seen that the Emperor of Austria has followed their example, and how far the

contemplated union is to affect the political relations of south eastern Europe remains to be seen.

Turkey and Crete. No settlement has yet been arrived at, but everything points to the former having to yield.

Spain and Cuba. Everything points in the direction I indicated some weeks ago. Revolution is not confined to Cuba. It is raising its hydra head in Spain itself. At Barcelona, Valencia and other centres, the Government has enough to do to keep down a feeling of widespread rebellion, while in Cuba yellow fever and floods are lending valuable aid to those who have risen against the Spanish Government. It is deplorable to read the accounts of the present state of that once prosperous island. Her chief planting interests—the backbone of her once considerable trade—sugar and tobacco, ruined. In the case of sugar the trade can never again be revived. The able correspondent of the "Times" at Havana writes: "In 1894 the world's production of sugar was 8,100,000 tons, 4,976,000 of this being obtained from beet-root and 3,125,000 from cane. Cuba produced 13 per cent. of the total amount. For 1896, in Cuba, the total of the crop just now finished is only 200,000 tons, or say 2½ per cent. of the world's production." * * * Nine out of every ten people in Cuba either directly or indirectly, obtain their means of livelihood from the sugar industry. The ruin of this industry means the ruin of the majority of the merchants, estate owners, brokers, retail dealers, farmers and, indeed, nearly every body."

The writer then points out that the future salvation of Cuba depends on its becoming by "purchase or otherwise," a state of the American Union. But here Spanish pride comes in.

ONLY A LITTLE AT A TIME.

THERE are sound objections to one's knowing too much about his own body. I am going to tell you what they are; not to-day, but soon. To make sure of them you will have to watch these articles sharply in the newspapers. Yet we should know a little; and a fraction of that little I will serve up now. Please favour me with your attention.

Right across the middle of the body is a large, thin, flat muscle, stretched like a canvas awning—the diaphragm. By it you are divided into two large storeys or compartments. The upper one contains the heart and lungs, the lower one contains (chiefly) the stomach, the intestines, and the liver. The most painful (internal) diseases occur downstairs, the least painful upstairs.

The entire right side of the lower compartment, from the top down to the short ribs, is filled by the liver which is suspended to a mere point of the diaphragm and shakes about with every movement you make.

Now, from the location of the liver we have a word used for ages to express one of the most unhappy conditions a human being can fall into—the word *hypochondria* (often abbreviated to "*hpo*"), the word meaning *under the cartilages*.

"For seven years," writes a correspondent, "I suffered from complaint of the liver. I was very bilious, my skin was sallow and dry, and the whites of my eyes yellow. I had much pain and weight at my right side, and was constantly depressed and melancholy. It seemed to be out of my power to take a hopeful or cheerful view of anything. The effect of this complaint on the mind was one of the aspects of it hardest to bear."

"I had lost my natural appetite, and ate to support life; but there was no more any genuine relish for food or drink. The bad taste in my mouth made all that I took taste bad. Sometimes I would be taken sick and throw up all I had eaten; and after a meal, no matter how slender and simple, I was troubled with fulness and pain at the chest. I used many kinds of medicines and while some of them may have relieved me for the moment, none conferred any lasting benefit, and I was soon as bad as ever."

"In March, 1892, I read in a small book of what Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup had done in cases similar to mine, and was especially interested in the account given in the book of the nature and duties of the liver, and its disorders. I got a bottle of the Syrup from Boots' Drug Stores, and after taking it a few days felt quite like a new man. It seemed to correct my stomach and liver and clear my system of all bile; and it left me in capital health. Since that time I have kept Mother Seigel's Syrup in the house as a family medicine and have commended it to all my friends as the best known cure for ailments like the one from which I suffered so miserably and so long. You can use this statement as you like. (Signed) John Gent, 59, Coventry Road, Bulwell, Nottingham, March 21st, 1895."

"In the spring of 1891," writes another, "I found myself in bad health. I had no appetite, and the little I did eat did me no good, gave me no strength. I had great pain and weight at the chest and right side, and my skin turned sallow and dry. My kidneys also acted badly, and from time to time I had attacks of gravel; and cold, clammy, weakening sweats broke out all over me. Being only seventeen years old when the trouble began I was greatly alarmed and anxious. No doctor was able to help me, and I continued thus for over three years. In June, 1894, I began to use Mother Seigel's Syrup and soon felt better, lighter, and more cheerful. And by taking it a few weeks longer I recovered my health and strength. Since then, when I have any stomach, liver, or kidney symptoms I resort to Mother Seigel's Syrup and it never fails to set me right. You can publish this letter. (Signed) C. Hanson, 6, New Inn Lane, Gloucester, May 31st, 1895."

The stomach, the liver, and the kidneys are all connected parts of the food and digestive system. When disordered (usually through torpidity of the stomach) they cripple the body and throw a gloom as of night over the mind. On the earliest signs of anything wrong with them use Mother Seigel's Syrup at once.

Sir George Chesney Memorial Committee.

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Memorial

TO THE LATE

SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

Subscriptions will be received by Lieutenant-General McLeod Innes, 9, Letham Gardens, Cromwell Road, London, W.

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Subscriptions will be received, in India, by Messrs. King, King & Co., Bombay ; Messrs. King, Hamilton & Co., Calcutta ; and by the Alliance Bank, Simla, and its branches at Calcutta, Cawnpore, Agra, Ajmere, Darjeeling, Lahore, Murree, Mussorie, Rawal Pindi and Umballa. Subscriptions are limited to a maximum of Rs. 32 in India.

By order of the Committee,
T. Deane, Col.,
Hony. Secy.

Simla, 18th July, 1896.

Sir W. Omer Petheram Memorial Fund.
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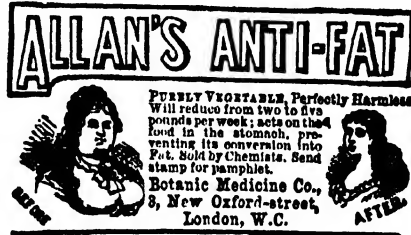
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VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1896.

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THE MAHAPRASTHANIKA PARVA OF THE MAHABHARATA.

[I now offer to the American public, through these pages, with all gratitude and attachment, this first, and faithful, version of the "Book of the Great Journey," being the seventeenth Parva of the Mahabharata.—Edwin Arnold.]

"THE GREAT JOURNEY."

To Narayen, Lord of lords, be glory given,
To sweet Saraswati, the queen in heaven,
To great Vyasa, eke, pay reverence due,
That this high story may its course pursue.

Then Janmejaya prayed: "O Singer, say
What wrought the princes of the Pandavas
On tidings of the battle so ensued,
And Krishna, gone on high?"

Answered the Sage:

"On tidings of the wreck of Vrishni's race,
King Yudhishtira of the Pandavas
Was minded to be done with earthly things,
And to Arjuna spake: 'O noble Prince,
Time endeth all; we linger, noose on neck,
Till the last day tightens the line, and kills.
Let us go forth to die, being yet alive.'
And Kunti's son, the great Arjuna, said:
'Let us go forth to die!—Time slayeth all.
We will find Death, who seeketh other men.'
And Bhimasena, hearing, answered: 'Yea!
We will find Death!' and Sahadev cried: 'Yea!
And his twin brother Nakula: whereat
The princes set their faces for the Mount.

"But Yudhishtira—ere he left his realm
To seek high ending—summoned Yuyutsu,
Surnamed of fights, and set him over all,
Regent, to rule in Parikshita's name
Nearest the throne; and Parikshita king
He crowned, and unto old Subhadra said:
'This, thy son's son, shall wear the Kuru crown,
And Yadu's offspring, Vajra, shall be first
In Yadu's house. Bring up the little prince
Here in our Hastinpur, but Vajra keep
At Indraprasth; and let it be thy last
Of virtuous works to guard the lads, and guide.'

"So ordering ere he went, the righteous king
Made offering of white water, heedfully,
To Vasudev, to Rama, and the rest,—
All funeral rites performing; next he spread
A funeral feast, whereat there sate as guests
Narada, Dwaipayana, Bharadwaj,
And Markandeya, rich in saintly years,
And Yajnavalkya, Hari, and the priests:
Those holy ones he fed with dainty meats
In kingliest wise, naming the name of Him
Who bears the bow; and—that it should be well

For him and his—gave to the Brahmanas
Jewels of gold and silver, lakhs on lakhs,
Fair brodered cloths, gardens and villages,
Chariots and steeds and slaves.

"Which being done,—

O Best of Bharat's line!—he bowed him low
Before his Guru's feet,—at Kripa's feet,
That sage all honoured,—saying, 'Take my prince;
Teach Parikshita as thou taughtest me.
For hearken, ministers and men of war!
Fixed is my mind to quit all earthly state.'
Full sore of heart were they, and sore the folk,
To hear such speech, and bitter went the word
Through town and country, that the king would go;
And all the people cried, 'Stay with us, Lord!
But Yudhishtira knew the time was come,
Knew that life passes and that virtue lasts,
And put aside their love.

"So, with farewells

Tenderly took of lieges and of lords,
Girt he for travel, with his princely kin,
Great Yudhishtira, Dharma's royal son.
Crest-gem and belt and ornaments he stripped
From off his body, and for brodered robe
A rough dress donned, woven of jungle-bark;
And what he did—O Lord of men!—so did
Arjuna, Bhima, and the twin-born pair,
Nakula with Sahadev, and she—in grace
The peerless—Draupadi. Lastly these six,
Thou son of Bharata! in solemn form
Made the high sacrifice of Naishtiki,
Quenching their flames in water at the close;
And so set forth, midst wailing of all folk
And tears of women, weeping most to see
The Princess Draupadi—that lovely prize
Of the great gaming, Draupadi the Bright—
Journeying afoot; but she and all the five
Rejoiced, because their way lay heavenwards.

"Seven were they, setting forth,—princess and king,
The king's four brothers, and a faithful dog.
Those left Hastinapur; but many a man,
And all the palace household, followed them
The first sad stage; and, oftentimes prayed to part,
Put parting off for love and pity, still
Sighing 'A little farther!'—till day waned;
Then one by one they turned, and Kripa said,
'Let all turn back, Yuyutsu! These must go.'
So came they homewards, but the Snake-King's child,
Ulupi, leapt in Ganges, losing them;
And Chitrangad with her people went
Mournful to Manipoor, whilst those three queens
Brought Parikshita in.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

"Thus wended they,

Pandu's five sons and loveliest Draupadi,
Tasting no meat, and journeying due east,
On righteousness their high hearts fed, to heaven
Their souls assigned; and steadfast trod their feet,
By faith upborne, past nullah, ran, and wood,
River and jheel and plain. King Yudhishtir
Walked foremost, Bhima followed, after him
Arjuna, and the twin-born brethren next,
Nakula with Sahadev; in whose still steps—
O Best of Bharat's offspring!—Draupadi,
That gem of women, paced, with soft, dark face,—
Beautiful, wonderful,—and lustrous eyes,
Clear-lined like lotus-petals; last the dog
Following the Pandavas.

"At length they reach

The far Lauchityan Sea, which foameth white
Under Udayachala's ridge.—Know ye
That all this while Nakula had not ceased
Bearing the holy bow, named Gandiva,
And jewelled quiver, ever filled with shafts
Though one should shoot a thousand thousand times.
Here—broad across their path—the heroes see
Agni, the god. As though a mighty hill
Took form of front and breast and limb, he spake.
Seven streams of shining splendour rayed his brow,
While the dread voice said: 'I am Agni, chiefs!
O sons of Pandu, I am Agni! Hail!
O long-armed Yudhishtira, blameless king,—
O warlike Bhima,—O Arjuna, wise,—
O brothers twin-born from a womb divine,—
Hear! I am Agni, who consumed the wood
By will of Narayan for Arjuna's sake.
Let this your brother give Gandiva back,—
The matchless bow: the use for it is o'er.
That gem-ringed battle-disc which he whirled
Cometh again to Krishna in his hand
For avatars to be; but need is none
Henceforth of this most excellent bright bow,
Gandiva, which I brought for Partha's aid
From high Varuna. Let it be returned.
Cast it herein!'

"And all the princes said,

'Cast it, dear brother!' So Arjuna threw
Into that sea the quiver ever-filled,
And glittering bow; then, led by Agni's light,
Unto the south they turned, and so southwest,
And afterwards right west, until they saw
Dwaraka, washed and bounded by a main
Loud-thundering on its shores; and here—O Best!—
Vanished the God; while yet those heroes walked,
Now to the northwest bending, where long coasts
Shut in the sea of salt, now to the north,
Accomplishing all quarters, journeyed they;
The earth their altar of high sacrifice,
Which these most patient feet did pace around
Till Meru rose.

"At last it rose! These Six,

Their senses subjugate, their spirits pure,
Wending alone, came into sight—far off
In the eastern sky—of awful Himavan;
And, midway in the peaks of Himavan,
Meru, the mountain of all mountains, rose,
Whose head is heaven; and under Himavan
Glared a wide waste of sand, dreadful as death.

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"Then, as they hastened o'er the deathly waste,
Aiming for Meru, having thoughts at soul
Infinite, eager,—lo! Draupadi reeled,
With faltering heart and feet; and Bhima turned,
Gazing upon her; and that hero spake
To Yudhishtira: 'Master, Brother, King!
Why doth she fail? For never all her life
Wrought our sweet lady one thing wrong, I think.
Thou knowest, make us know, why hath she failed?'

"Then Yudhishtira answered: 'Yea, one thing.
She loved our brother better than all else,—
Better than heaven: that was her tender sin,
Fault of a faultless soul; she pays for that.'

"So spake the monarch, turning not his eyes,
Though Draupadi lay dead—striding straight on
For Meru, heart-full of the things of heaven,
Perfect and firm. But yet a little space
And Sahadev fell down, which Bhima seeing,
Cried once again: 'O King, great Madri's son
Stumbles and sinks. Why hath he sunk?—so true,
So brave and steadfast, and so free from pride!'

"'He was not free,' with countenance still fixed,
Quoth Yudhishtira; 'he was true and fast
And wise, but wisdom made him proud; he hid
One little hurt of soul, but now it kills.'

"So saying, he strode on, Kunti's strong son
And Bhima, and Arjuna followed him
And Nakula, and the hound, leaving behind
Sahadev in the sands. But Nakula,
Weakened and grieved to see Sahadev fall—
His dear-loved brother—lagged and stayed; and then
Prone on his face he fell, that noble face
Which had no match for beauty in the land,—
Glorious and godlike Nakula! Then sighed
Bhima anew: 'Brother and Lord! the man
Who never erred from virtue, never broke
Our fellowship, and never in the world
Was matched for goodly perfectness of form
Or gracious feature,—Nakula has fallen!'

"But Yudhishtira, holding fixed his eyes,—
That changeless, faithful, all-wise king,—replied:
'Yea, but he erred. The godlike form he wore
Beguiled him to believe none like to him
And he alone desirable, and things
Unlovely to be slighted. Self-love slays
Our noble brother. Bhima, follow! Each
Pays what his debt was.'

(To be continued.)

—The International Review.

WEEKLYANA.

REGULATIONS respecting the examination of candidates for the Civil Service of India to be held in August 1897, are published in the *Gazette of India* of September 12, 1896. Copies may be obtained on application to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

THE same *Gazette* publishes the further correspondence, in continuation of that published with the notification in the Finance and Commerce Department No. 1636-A., dated the 10th April 1896, with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, relating to the proposal to take power from the Legislature to raise from eight to ten crores of rupees the limit up to which the paper currency reserve may be invested in Government securities. Lord George Hamilton, considering that the increase in the average circulation of the paper currency is sufficient to justify the proposed step, assents to the increase. He is also "of opinion that, in such a measure, the best course is to deal with the paper currency on its own merits, and not to allow the question of the proper reserve to be dependent on the possible effect which the addition of two crores of rupees to the supply in the market may have on the exchange value of the coin."

IN New York, during the great heat, the death-rate in one week was 18.65 per thousand, representing an aggregate of 1,710 deaths, including 651 from sunstroke. There were 552 deaths of children under five years of age, chiefly due to the heat. The heat mortality, says the *Standard* correspondent, is three times as much as the largest previous record. In St. Louis the mortality exceeded that caused by the recent tornado. The *New York Herald* estimates the loss in work, wages and trade in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and St. Louis at an aggregate of 25,000,000 dols.

WHAT will the rifle be that will displace the weapons now in use in different countries? The question is asked and answered by General Wille, a German officer who has made a study of the armament of troops.

"The rapidity of shooting is quite sufficient, and it would be dangerous from the point of view of the supply of ammunition to wish it any increased rapidity. Military reformers must look to the automatic rifle as the future weapon, because it averts all mechanical operation in loading, permits the soldier to concentrate the whole of his attention on the object and to take calm aim, suppresses the recoil, and renders misfires impossible. Up to the present automatic rifles are of four distinct systems—first, the barrel slipping backwards; second, the fixed barrel; third, the fixed barrel with a parallel tube; and fourth, the barrel moving forwards. The most remarkable types are the Maxim, the Mannlicher, and the C-ii, the last of which has just been tested in Italy with good results. In these weapons the force of the recoil is employed for charging and closing the breech, so that the firer has only to let off the shot in order to again load the weapon, so that the number of shots discharged without an effort is precisely the same as the total contents of the magazine. The mechanism of the automatic rifle is simplicity itself, and the only part of it that shows any strain is the springs. From recent experiments in Austria these were in some cases worn out after 10,000 discharges, but in others they were still good after as many as 40,000."

THE *Army and Navy Gazette* takes exception to the appointment of Sir Frederick Carrington at the Cape while retaining his own Command at Gibraltar:—

"The position of Sir Frederick Carrington in Matabeleland is in certain senses unique, and we question very much whether the precedent established in his case is one that is either wise or expedient. Against the employment of General Carrington not a word can be said. His qualifications for the duties entrusted to him cannot be questioned; indeed, he may be pronounced the very man for the situation, thoroughly acquainted as he is with the peculiarities of South African warfare, of which he has had exceptional experience. But Sir Frederick before he left for the Cape was commanding the brigade at Gibraltar; in that position he has not yet been succeeded. From all appearances the Matabele rebellion is likely to drag on for some time. Meanwhile the duties of General Carrington's Gibraltar command are being performed by deputy. This is an arrangement which seems open to serious objection. The system of dual commands has been very properly condemned. The War Office has even laid down that an officer shall not hold a dual commission in the Auxiliary forces, but in this case it has gone out of its way to stultify itself, and by doing so has done a rather serious injustice. There are several major-generals unemployed. What can be their feelings when they find one favoured individual relegating his legitimate duties to others week after week and month after month, and at the same time exercising an active command elsewhere with every prospect of gaining honours and distinction? It is calculated not only to cause discontent, but to create wrong impressions as to the judgment of those in high authority. The proceeding is, on the face of it, irregular; it is certainly unusual, and we are bound to admit that we agree with those who pronounce it—well, 'ridiculous.' Sir Boyle Roche laid it down as impossible that he, not being a bird, could be in two places at one time. The War Office clearly thinks that in certain circumstances a general officer to all appearances can."

THE famous chateau of Milmaison, every room of it reminding of Napoleon and Joséphine, is to be sold again. The prices paid for this property has varied in the most eccentric fashion. Joséphine bought it in 1798 for 160,000 fr. In 1826 a Swedish banker paid for it 250,000 fr. Queen Marie-Christine of Spain gave him 500,000 fr. for it in 1842; and Napoleon III. bought it for just three times the sum in 1861. The Duchesse d'Albufera, the last purchaser, bought the place for 271,000 fr. only two years ago. Her heirs have offered it to the market with the reserve price, for the chateau and estate, of 101,600 fr. The chateau is now in ruins.

THE Berlin correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs interesting experiments with X rays in Munich. A living human body was placed under the rays, and, with the aid of specially prepared tubes, observers were able to watch the action not only of the osseous parts of the body but also of the diaphragm, stomach and heart.

PRINCE Bismarck has justified his contemptuous remark about the Cretans that he took "less interest in Crete than in the smallest mound of earth in his garden," by quoting the Epistle of Titus, I. 12 and 13, in which St. Paul says:—

"One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, the Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true, wherefore rebuke them sharply that they be sound in the faith."

THE total length of electric tramways in operation in Europe at the beginning of the present year, was 902 kiloms or 560 miles, stocked with 1,747 cars, against 700 kiloms or 435 miles and 1,236 cars at the beginning of 1895. Of this length, Great Britain possesses 109 kiloms or 67 miles, Germany 406 kiloms or 252 miles, and France 132 kiloms or 82 miles.

MR Mirquardt, the sole surviving passenger of the *Drummond Castle*, has joined the Thirteen Club. He had occupied berth 13 in the ill-fated vessel.

ABYSSINIA, according to M. Marcel, a French traveller, has three climates, according to the altitude above the sea. In the low country or valley, bananas, dates, indigo, cotton, and other tropical plants flourish; elephants, lions, giraffes, zebras and gazelles abound. The intermediate zone recalls the climate of Sicily or of Andalusia, in Spain. There is good pasture for flocks and herds in the highest region.

THE "*Glasgow Herald*" writes:

"The wasp waist is to be no longer in vogue. The Paris fashion-maker, so it is said, recently decided that the Grecian waist, with its generous proportions, is to be the fashionable standard. Since the announcement it is astonishing to note the rapidity with which the waists of women have grown larger. According to a Parisian *couturière*, many fashionable women's waists have expanded from four to six inches during a single flogging! Such are the wonders which Dame Fashion can perform with womankind."

THE *Hindoo Patriot* gives an account of the birth and death of the Native Press Association of Bengal, of which the editor of that journal was the president and the editor of the *Bengalee* the secretary.

"It came into existence shortly after the State prosecution of the *Bangabasi* newspaper and the object of the Association, to quote the words of the Resolution under which it was formed, was 'to protect, maintain and further by all legitimate means the lawful interests of the Native Press and to improve its tone and status; and to preserve moderation in the discussion of all public questions and to take all such measures as might be necessary to enable the Native Press to fulfil the important functions which belong to it as the educator of the people, the exponent of public opinion and the faithful interpreter between the rulers and the ruled.' Twenty-two Native newspapers joined the Association and it began under excellent auspices with the promise of the great and glorious future. The Bengal Government furnished the Association with official papers dealing on questions of public interest with the object of disseminating correct information through the medium of the Press and it was further ordered by the Bengal Government that each newspaper represented by the Association should be supplied with a free copy of the *Calcutta Gazette*—a concession which is, we believe, continued to the present day. But what was the result of this sympathetic attitude of the Provincial Government, this single-minded zeal and devotion of almost all the leading members of the Native Press of this Province? The character of the information furnished by Government was found fault with. The old and objectionable methods of vituperation and abuse were revived and the wholesome control which the Association was intended to exercise grew thin by degrees and beautifully less, till at last it was openly treated with contempt. One of the Vernacular Newspapers, which had been among the principal supporters of the movement, gave the Association the *coup de grace* by publishing in its columns a letter inciting the assassination of Sir Charles Elliott, and the conductors of the paper, with more loyalty than tact or good sense, forwarded we believe the letter to Sir Charles Elliott. The members of the Press Association could not agree amongst themselves as to what notice, if any, should be taken of the conduct of the offending journal, and then it became abundantly apparent that the Association was doomed to share the fate of the house divided against itself. What was the good of keeping up the Association if it failed to serve the purpose for which it had been established? Thus the Native Press Association died after a very short career and the only vestige of its past existence is to be found in the concession regarding the supply of the *Calcutta Gazette*."

A full history of the Association would be more instructive. Another such Native Association of the editors or their representatives of all the Presidencies that met at Delhi, during the Imperial Assemblage, was formed. It died as soon as born. All that we heard of it was that the then Maharaja of Cashmere received the members at a Durbar and presented them with *khillats*. We should like to know more of that society.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,
OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Fenian Tynan, the notorious "Number One," has been arrested at Boulogne on warrant issued against him in 1882, as also Fenian Wallace at Rotterdam with a quantity of explosives, and Bell at Glasgow. A bomb laboratory has also been discovered at Antwerp. All these are supposed to be connected with the Fenian dynamite plot. It is rumoured that Nihilists had joined the Fenians, and that attempts on the life of the Tsar or Queen Victoria at Balmoral were meditated.

THE Armenian Revolutionary Committee has sent a circular to some of the embassies at Constantinople declaring that, unless all reforms are granted, a more serious demonstration than before will ensue. The cavalry patrols in the city have been increased. There was a false panic on the 15th. The streets were instantly cleared and all shops closed. An important discovery of explosives and documents has been made in the house of an Armenian at Scutari. Two of the leaders and several members of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee have been arrested and made confession, implicating others.

LORD Grey, Mr. Martin and Mr. Rhodes met the leading Chiefs in the Matopon Hills, on the 9th, and offered them peace if they would surrender their arms and the murderers of the white settlers. The Chiefs agreed, it is said, in admitting that they were beaten and weary of war, but needed time for a general surrender. Meanwhile, skirmishes continue in different parts. The Matabele prophet is desirous that the war against the British should be continued, and is preventing the Matabeles from retiring northward. The 4th Brigade of the Nile Expedition has arrived at Fereig, where the whole force has now assembled.

It is officially announced that eight of Dr. Jameson's officers discharged at Bow Street have been severely censured by the Adjutant-General.

THE balance of the last Chinese loan has been issued, and only half of it has been subscribed.

THE Armenian agitation against Turkey is assuming proportions which, if not early checked, will disturb the peace of Europe, and lead to dire consequences. The Sultan's rule may not be of the best. The Sublime Porte may not be always sublime, at times it may descend to be ridiculous, but it is not the scourge that it is painted. The Armenians are not the innocent lambs that they are made to appear. If the Turkish rule is hateful to them, it is of their own making. They invite chastisement. They must mend their ways before the Sultan can be called upon to be merciful. Taking advantage of the hour, Mr. Gladstone means to signalize himself once more by display of his hate for the Sick Man of Europe, whose presence in Christian Europe he cannot bear. He will make him die. If he could not make him dead while he himself had the upper hand in the United Kingdom, he is prepared to come out of his present retirement in old age and with recovered sight, but still blind with passion, to speak the Turk down and raise against him the bitter and hostile feelings of Christian nations, including his own. A letter from him has appeared in which he describes the Sultan as a great assassin, and says that all remonstrance with him is useless unless the Powers intended to use coercion in case of need. Taking up the cue, Lord Rosebery, also in a letter, declares that the Turkish massacres are not a party question, but one of common humanity, and that any responsibility in the matter lies less with the British Government than with the Powers of Europe, with whom the British Government does not appear to be very cordial at present. The subject has been taken up by the pulpit and the press of England, and meetings have been arranged in various parts of the country. Mr. Gladstone himself urged that a great meeting should be held at Liverpool, and offered to speak at that meeting. The Austrian papers

are alarmed at the agitation and bitterly accuse Great Britain of fomenting the present troubles. They further declare that any isolated action on the part of Great Britain in Turkey will be likely to end in her being expelled from Egypt. A letter has also appeared from Lord Hugh Cecil, who is staying with his father at Walmer, in which, while denouncing the government of the Sultan as infamous, he says it would mislead the Armenians if they were made to think that England alone was able to intervene on their behalf, and that there was no hope until the feeling abroad equals the excitement in England on the subject. The letter has been interpreted to be the sentiment of the father. We hope Lord Salisbury will be led by no factious outcry but will preserve his head, and maintain Great Britain's relations with Turkey, in the interests of both Great Britain and India. The death of the Sick Man will not be an ordinary end. The *Times*, we see, strongly deprecates the unchaining and passionate agitation, which, it says, will simply degenerate into a party warfare and armed intervention.

THE Bushire correspondent of the *Times of India* states that it is reported that the entire harem of the late Shah has been dismissed and the palaces are said to be almost empty of female occupants. The ladies have been enjoined to avoid contracting marriages with any civil or military officials, but they are free in their choice amongst the hordes of mullahs or priests and merchants.

IN his tour commencing on the 2nd November, when he leaves Simla at 10 A.M., and ending on the 10th December, when he arrives at Calcutta at 9.15 A.M., the Viceroy will be accompanied by the Countess of Elgin, Lady Elizabeth Bruce, Lord Bruce, the Hon'ble Robert Bruce, Mr. Cole, the Foreign Secretary, H. Bingham-Smith Esq., Private Secretary, Colonel A. Durand, C.B., Military Secretary, Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel B. Franklin, C.I.E., Surgeon to the Viceroy, Captain S. H. Pollen, A.D.-C., Captain F. L. Adam, A.D.-C., Captain R. W. Morley, A.D.-C., F. W. Latimer, Esq., Assistant Private Secretary.

LEPERS are to be found in almost all European cities. They are numerous in Crete where they number 500; Norway has 800; Sweden 462; British India 100,000. The disease infests Indo-China, Tonquin, China, and Japan, as well as Hayti, Trinidad, Guinea, Venezuela, Brazil and Paraguay. The Leprosy Commission was of opinion that the disease was not increasing. There are, however, men who hold a contrary opinion. The Commission also thought that leprosy was distinct from syphilis, in so much that syphilis could not produce leprosy. A doctor tells us, that he has seen and treated cases of leprosy originating in the other disease. The symptoms were the same, though according to the bacillary theory there might be some points of difference.

WE are much obliged to Miss Manning, Honorary Secretary, National Indian Association, for the following letter dated August 26 and its enclosure:

"In your issue of July 25, you give a list of some of the Indian ladies who have visited England. As you desire to be informed of further names, I send a few which you do not appear to have included:

Madras.

Mrs. N. Subrahmanyam.
Miss Susan Rajah Gopaul.
Miss Annie Shunmugan.
Miss—Jagannadhan.
Mrs.—Chetti.
Miss Rose Govindarajulu.
Miss Gurdial Singh.

Bombay.

Bai Rukhmabai, M.D.
Mrs. Abbas Tyabji.
Mrs. Ali Akbar.
Miss Mary Sorabji.
Mrs. Hurry Chaud Chintamon.
Miss Chintamon.
Mrs.—Colah.
Miss Colah.
Mrs. Kharegat.
Miss Kharegat.
Mrs.—Dorabji.

Calcutta,
 Mrs. Kadambini Ganguli.
 Lahore,
 Mrs. Seva Ram.
 Miss—Singh.
 Miss Mona Bose.
 Miss Khoro Bose.
 Miss Beno Bose. (Mrs. R. K. Mitter.)
 Srimati Hardevi. (Mrs. Roshan Lal.)"

THE Commander-in-Chief had a nasty accident. He received a wound from his own horse and is doing well.

THE current number (Part XV) of the Englished "Charaka-Samhita," treats of the destruction of cities and towns brought about by insaniary conditions. Charak's great work is more a comprehensive treatise on hygiene than on medicine. It is addressed as much to laymen as to physicians by profession. It has interest for every one who wants to know the laws of health.

THE instinct of animals is not always unerring. *Cosmos* writes :

"Many persons still believe that the instinct of animals preserves them from certain accidents, and they never eat anything that is injurious to them. Well instructed persons have long known that in this regard animals are no better off than men. A chicken does not hesitate to drink paint ; a cow partakes of water in which bags containing nitrates of soda have been washed ; ducks strangle and choke in swallowing nails. M. Giraud, a veterinary of Bernewitz, now notes a fact that merits the attention of poultry farmers. He has observed numerous cases of poisoning in ducks following their feeding on caterpillars, especially those of the cabbage moth ; these caterpillars have been given to the fowls in mass or are found on the cabbage leaves furnished them for food. After from six to twenty hours, according to the number of caterpillars eaten, poisoning manifests itself by loss of appetite, great weakness, tottering steps, accompanied sometimes by symptomatic movements, finally by difficulty of breathing and often death, after an agony of variable duration, during which the beak and claws grow pale. The lesions disclosed by an autopsy consist chiefly in an inflammation of the digestive passages. The disease is not always fatal."

THE preliminary enquiry into the *Hitabadi* defamation case has ended in the court of the Chief Magistrate. Kavyabisharad Kaliprasanna has been committed to the sessions. The counsel for the prosecution took several days to complete his case. Mr. Pearson was patient and Mr. Palit thorough-going so as to leave no loophole of escape for the defence. The defendant, without cross-examining any of the witnesses for the prosecution and without examining any on his own behalf, at the close of the enquiry, made a statement which we give in full and which explains the attitude of the defence.

"In the Court of the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta,
 The Queen-Empress (on the complaint of S. M. Kusum Kumari Maitra,
 vs.
 Kaliprasanna Kavyabisharad.
 The statement of the above-mentioned Kali Prasanna Kavyabisharad,

Respectfully sheweth :—

That the above-mentioned S. M. Kusum Kumari Maitra through her husband has complained in this Court that I have defamed her by publishing a poem in my paper called the '*Hitabadi*' entitled '*Ruchibikai*' which poem appeared in the columns of the said newspaper on the 24th day of June of the current year.

2. That the prosecution alleges that the poem aforesaid contains allusions damaging to the character of the said S. M. Kusum Kumari Maitra inasmuch as it attributes according to the said prosecutrix sexual immorality to the said S. M. Kusum Kumari Maitra.

3. That I submit that the said poem was received by me from a contributor to my journal aforesaid the '*Hitabadi*' and that although I am in possession of the name and address of the said contributor I cannot consistent with my honour as an editor disclose the same unless the

prosecutrix guarantees that she will not prosecute the said contributor in a criminal Court.

4. That I submit that when I received the said poem and published it I could not make out and did not understand that the said poem contained any personal allusion to any body much less to the said S. M. Kusum Kumari Maitra and I further submit that I am still under the belief that the said poem does not refer to any body in particular.

5. That when on the 28th day of July of the current year I was informed by the complainant's Attorney Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose that the said poem was construed by the said S. M. Kusum Kumari Maitra and her friends to contain the aforesaid allusion to the character as wife of the said S. M. Kusum Kumari Maitra I at once published in the columns of the aforesaid newspaper the '*Hitabadi*' a paragraph stating therein that I had no idea when I gave a place in my journal to the said poem that the said poem contained any personal allusion to any body.

6. That I repeat what I have stated in the last two foregoing paragraphs namely—that I did not know at the time of the publication of the said poem that it contained any personal allusion to the said S. M. Kusum Kumari Maitra or to any body ; that I am still of the same opinion and that further if any person or persons has or have construed the said poem as a covert attack on the character as wife of the said S. M. Kusum Kumari Maitra I express my sincere regret for the same and I further enter a most emphatic denial that the said poem could possibly bear such a construction or that I ever did or could have desired or intimated that such a construction should be put thereon."

The jury will now decide how far the statement is to be accepted. We are afraid the matter is too far advanced for any compromise.

THE *Dainik* has made a full and ample apology and explained the circumstances under which, unknown to the editor and without his acquiescence, the outrageous acrostic appeared in its columns. It is believed the prosecution will accept the expression of sincere regret and let the contrite *Dainik* go.

THE Hon'ble P. Ananda Charlu writes, under date Lakeside, Egmore, Madras, 14th September 1896 :—

"Dear Sir,—Amid all the exacting professional work which, by accumulation during my absence among you and by subsequent engagements, took up nearly all my time and all my energies since my return from Calcutta, I have been looking forward, with a keen sense of pleasure, to the months which I shall have to spend among my kind and numerous friends and acquaintances in your city. But, within the few days past, I was deeply grieved to note that a feeling of bitterness has arisen among some good men there and that it has had the effect of creating a split among those who should stand together as a solid phalanx. That there should be an occasion for such a split is most to be deplored. That it should have been allowed to have become so wide as it is and threaten to grow wider still, is to be deplored no less. The proximate cause of it, so far as I can gather from the newspapers, seems to be the publication of a poem, in which Herambo and Upendra figure as proper names and Kusum as a common name and in which the unacceptability of one and the same flower to more than one image of worship is emphasised. At best, it may have been an innocent, though a misguided, piece of satire. The adoption of the less ordinary names of Herambo and Upendra, in preference to the commonly known terms, might have been accidental or intentional. But when it is found that it has had the effect of giving pain, even the satirist must view his occupation gone and listen to offer the *amende honorable* ; and, if he does not spontaneously do so, it is the solemn and sacred duty of us all to get the poem withdrawn from the public and persuade or coerce its author to publicly apologise. This is putting the matter at the lowest point of wisdom. But when it is seriously taken to heart by respected men and when their grievance has enlisted the lively and active sympathies of such a noble and revered body as the Brahmins, it is criminal in us to allow one instant to pass, without putting a stop to the bitterness and closing the breach. Prudential considerations and regard for the vital and momentous interests of our country—if not simple common fairness between man and man—would seem to make this urgent.

I am sure that you are all keenly alive, as myself, to this urgency and that you are doing your level best to bring about an *entente cordiale*.

I share the opinion that the letter, published by Babu Dwarka Nath Gangooly, is far more an outburst of the deep sense of wrong, inflicted on the body worthy of deferential treatment, than the final manifesto of the Brahmins, as regards their attitude towards the coming Congress or its successors. I feel sure that when more than 95 per cent. of its adherents appeal through him to the body, of which he has come out as spokesman, that body is too just and too high-minded to hold its published word as irrevocable.

I shall sincerely rejoice to hear from you that the differences, under reference, have been composed and that the soreness, consequent thereon, is at an end."

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

THE Maharaja Holkar of Indore is out touring. After visiting the Punjab, he has strayed down to Calcutta. He arrived here on Thursday. There is no Governor to honour him, and he has been accommodated by the Maharaja of Durbhanga at his town residence in Middleton Street.

HERE are some extracts in translation from a letter, dated Audienne (Finistère), Brittany, of M. A. Barth, some of which cannot fail to be interesting and instructive. To begin with the *Journal des Savants*:

"There is no 'Editor,' or, as we say in French, 'Director' of the *Journal des Savants* (the 'Editor' with us means the 'publisher'). The *Journal des Savants*, which is published with the help of a special budget, is edited by a board of 16 members, recruited, as vacancies occur by death, from the members of the various academies composing the Institute. This board elects two of its members as President and Secretary, but neither the President nor the Secretary occupies the position of 'Editor.'"

We may mention that the distinguished writer of the letter belongs to the Academy of Inscriptions and *Belles Lettres*, and as a member of this Academy he is connected with the board of the *Journal des Savants*. He has succeeded M. Barthélemy Saint-Hilaire.

Regarding Dr. Jogender Nath Bhattacharya's recently published *Hindu Castes and Sects*, the great French *savant* writes:

"I have looked through the volume on Castes and Sects; it appears to me to be composed in a very judicious spirit, and to contain much useful information."

We are much flattered by M. Barth's opinion of the conduct of this journal. It is no small satisfaction to the disciples of the late Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee that they are able, against great odds, to preserve the reputation of the paper. The deceased had wished the paper to be continued after his death by those whom he had trained, and they regard it a sacred duty to carry out his injunctions.

"*Reis & Rayyet* reaches me very regularly. I see with pleasure that the paper keeps up to the level to which it was brought by the late Mr. Mookerjee, and I read it with exceeding interest."

The troubles of literary men are not nearly the same in France as in this country. Here, those of us who have the trick of the pen are always beseeched and besieged by a host of friends and acquaintances each having a literary task to be executed without any remuneration. Literary men are believed to have no wants. They may subsist on air. The state of things, in this respect, is slightly different in France.

"As regards the trouble and annoyance of incidental tasks from which we all suffer, and to which allusion has been made in our previous letters, I fear there may be a little misunderstanding between us. The question of money and remuneration does not enter into the matter. Orientalists—with us in France, at any rate—if they do not write for the general public, and if they have no official functions as professors, desire no pecuniary remuneration for their labours. If we had to live by our pens, and write on Hindu subjects, we should be restricted to a more severely abstemious diet than that of your own *Sanyasis*. What I complained of was the irksomeness of the interruptions, the impossibility of pursuing a work begun, without being constantly distracted by unforeseen tasks, little services to be rendered right and left."

As a Pandit, he is always for correcting mistakes. But how unlike the Pandits of this country! There is no trace of temper and how sweetly he establishes his point! This is true greatness and a great lesson. With strength of knowledge and humility of soul, he says:

"Another misunderstanding has occurred with reference to the expression 'matter of fact,' which has been rightly criticized (*R. & R.*, May 2, 1896) as incorrect in English. But it was in a French article that I employed it, and I could not foresee that you would translate the article into English. In French this English expression has been naturalized, and is used as I employed it. All languages borrow phrases of the sort in which the sense of the original is more or less maimed. In English, for instance, you have the French expression *nom de plume* for a literary pseudonym. Now, *nom de plume* does not exist in our language, which only recognizes *nom de guerre*. Still, an Englishman may quite properly make use of *nom de plume* in English, without being suspected, therefore, of not knowing French."

The concluding extract refers to his good self and his romantic residence on the sea shore.

"I have been here since the 11th of July and I think of remaining till the beginning of October, when I shall have to enter once more into the furnace of Paris life. Here I have perfect quiet. The sea breaks ten paces from my door and in rough weather the door has

to be shut if one wants to escape receiving a visit from the spray inside the house."

How we wish M. A. Barth may be long spared to France, to India and the world!

THE boy Maharaja of Burdwan, accompanied by his Raja father, makes a tour, in the Upper Provinces, in search of a wife.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 19, 1896.

THE METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE NUISANCE.

CALCUTTA is a city of ruts, sinks, pits, drains, and undrained places. Instead of open passages for exit of rain and waste water, we have covered conduits for carrying sewage, waste water and rain. Whatever the convenience of underground drains in temperate or cold climates, in countries within the tropics they have some special disadvantages. Intense heat causes putrefaction to set in soon enough in the contents of covered drains. The result of the decomposition is the gases deleterious to health. The mischief may be removed by additional works, but cost stands in the way. Scientific opinion is not quite against a river receiving the sewage of a city at a safe distance, if there be no other outlet. The swift flow of a river can carry away the sewage and storm water partially disinfected, while the germicidal power of the rays of the sun makes them harmless to places lower down its course. If any other more convenient method of draining a city cannot be found, the question of river pollution cannot arise. Mr. G. C. Frankland, a chemist of repute, thus wrote in *Nature* :—

The bactericidal action of light is perhaps of most general hygienic significance in connection with the fate of micro-organisms in water, and there is ample field open for investigation in this direction, which so far has been little explored. It is, therefore, with especial interest that we note Prof. Buchner's important contribution to this subject in the *Archiv für Hygiene*. The title of the paper ('Ueber den Einfluss des Lichtes auf Bacterien und über die Selbstreinigung der Flüsse') already indicates that the practical aspect of the question has been considered, and indeed several experiments have been planned and carried out with the object of ascertaining what is the part played by sunshine in the alleged bacterial purification which takes place in river water during its flow.

In the first series of experiments samples of boiled tap-water were inoculated with three drops of broth cultures of the typhoid bacillus, *B. coli communis*, and *B. pyocyaneus* respectively. The typhoid bacilli, even in diffused daylight, were reduced in numbers from 7,400 per c. c. to start with, to 5,000 at the end of one

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 23rd Inst., at 5-30 P.M. Subject: Pumps.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 24th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. Subjects: Echinodermata.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Friday, the 25th Inst., at 7 P.M. Subject: Change of State by Heat.

Lecture by Bihu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 26th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. Subject: Morphology—Flowers (continued).

Lecture by Dr. Nilratan Sarkar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 26th Inst., at 6-30 P.M. Subject: Histology—Bone, Muscle.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.A.,

Sept. 19, 1896.

Honorary Secretary.

day, whilst on the second day none whatever were found. The *B. coli communis* sample had only 220 left on the third day, out of 22,600 at the commencement of the experiment, and was sterile on the fourth day; the *B. pyocyaneus* was, however, hardly affected at all during four days' exposure to diffused light.

The direct rays of the sun, however, were far more destructive. Thus about 30 c. c. of a sample of typhoid-infected water, placed in glass dishes and exposed to sunshine, contained no typhoid organisms at the end of six hours, and similar results were obtained with the *B. pyocyaneus*.

In all these experiments the perfectly admissible objection could be urged that the diminution in the numbers present might, at any rate in part, be attributed to a process of starvation in consequence of the absence of food-material, inasmuch as a marked decrease was also observed in those samples kept in the dark. To meet this objection, in the next series unsterile water was used, and to a litre and a half as much as 1 c. c. of the broth-culture of the particular organism was added, thus affording ample provision, both in light and darkness, for the support of the bacteria under observation. Instead of a decrease taking place in the samples kept in the dark, the numbers rose; on the other hand, in the samples placed in the sunshine, three hours' exposure in the case of the typhoid, colon, and pyocyaneus bacilli brought about their entire destruction, thus placing beyond doubt the direct bactericidal action which had taken place during insolation."

The depth of water to which the sun can penetrate to exercise its germicidal action, has also been ascertained by Professor Buchner, in the Starnberger Lake, near Munich. It has been found that that action is equally effective down to a depth of 1·6 meter. At 2·6 in, the action may be much less apparent, and, in fact, is only just perceptible. The antiseptic potency of the sun's rays ceases long before the light becomes affected by the depth of water it has to traverse. This shows the difference of action of the heat and light rays. The heat rays only possess the bactericidal power. In Germany much stress has been laid on the self-purification of water on the basis of these and other experiments. The advisability of permitting the sewage of such a large city as Cologne to pass untreated into the Rhine, has been publicly discussed. The bactericidal power of solar heat may safely be taken to be more effectual in countries between the tropics and especially those near the equator, than in temperate climes. Calcutta had no need of discharging its sewage into the river Hooghly. Its level inclines to the opposite direction, that is, towards the Salt water Lake. For this reason, it was much safer to empty its liquid refuge into the Circular Canal or into the Salt water Lake. On account of representations from boat passengers in the canal, the local Government objected to its use by the Calcutta Municipality as the receptacle of sewage. In 1881, the Makalpota sluice had, therefore, to be cut as a sufficient outlet for all purposes. The creation of this despicable channel raised fresh plague lines on its two sides. In 1886, municipal Calcutta was enlarged for better sanitation of the added area. If segregation is to be accepted as one of the best laws in hygiene, this aggregation was no doubt a mischief. The principle of isolation could have been preserved by joining Tolly's Nulla with the Circular Canal at the nearest points around this city. Such an additional canal would have prevented the silting of the Circular canal to a great extent and been an answer to the complaint of the boat passengers. We do not think it is even now too late to cut this canal, if it is deemed advisable, which, we believe, will be less costly than the second channel proposed by Mr Hughes. The town having been, for sanitary purposes, extended on the north, east and south, may, whatever the Police Commissioner may say to the contrary, as enlarging the ways of escape of bad characters, be well extended to the other side of the Hooghly and further to the south of the canal. This, instead of affecting,

may tend to increase the salubrity of the city. For, having water courses on all sides, the flushing of drains would be easier.

We are disposed to think that the many conveniences of sewers have been more than neutralized by sewer gases more deleterious than smells from sinks and open drains. They contain sulphuretted and carburetted hydrogen, chlorine, ammonia, etc., and are highly noxious to health. They rise to the uppermost part of drainage pipes and, most of them being soluble, can be mixed with large quantities of water. If the running water be surcharged with these gases, their solution becomes impracticable. They remain confined without any way of escape. In drains of a foot or less in diameter, the sewer gases cannot remain in a free state without being dissolved by the running water. They are either dissolved or forced by the water current into the larger drains, the receivers of pipe sewage. The gully pits branching out from the main drains do not receive this kind of flushing. Occasionally they are cleared of their silt deposit, but never flushed. The road side pits, having sufficient outlets for receiving rain water, act injuriously by vomiting sewer gases.

The drains have the aid of running water to dissolve the gases, only during day time, that is, from six in the morning to six in the evening. At night, the whole aspect is changed. There is no water and no solution of gases. All the drains, large and small, are then full of pestilential vapours which try to make a way through any hole or crevice if there be any. Badly joined pipes produce the mischief day and night, from the escape of water or gas through the holes. For this reason earthenware glazed pipes are not considered sufficient protection, especially as they are joined by clay or Portland cement. Iron pipes with caulked joints are safer. But the cost is prohibitive.

The gases also find a way, for mischief, through the road side pits. Almost all night one can hear the bubbling of the gases, through a small quantity of water remaining in the pits. The water being surcharged with them makes room for their easy escape. They can be collected in glass jars and tested.

These noxious exhalations make the night terrible in Calcutta. Walking in the streets especially the narrow lanes after nine or ten o'clock, is injurious to health. The danger increases as the night advances. In the small hours, it is not at all advisable to go out of doors, supposing you can keep your house free from the gas by distant connection with the sewer. The morning walk brings no hue of health unless one can fly to the *maidan*, avoiding the streets leading to it. The squares are surely better than the streets, but being encircled on all sides by sewers they are not so desirable as they ought to be.

In winter the chance of contagion is greater than in summer. For the cold, the gases cannot rise high enough, to be diluted by circulation of wind. In a close atmosphere with clouded sky, they are equally bad. Downpour of rains in sufficient quantity diminishes the nocence of the gases, for then they are well dissolved. Their escape after a small or moderate shower is marked. By the inrush of a small quantity of water the gases are not dissolved but force their way through road pits on account of sudden compression. In wide streets, the gases dilute with large volumes of air passing through them. Lanes and alleys have not this advantage. The

middle of streets is better than the sides or foot-paths for morning walks.

One of the leading thoroughfares to the maidan, running south of Wellington Square, next to this office, and leading to Government House—the Dhurmtola Street is rendered unhealthier still by the stables abutting it. It would more appropriately be called the stable-street.

The three natural safeguards against the gases affecting the health of the citizens, are their solution by large quantities of water, dilution by large volumes of air, and decomposition by solar heat, in a measure to make them comparatively innocuous. Heat has another property. It assists ventilation by the process of convection. Other natural agents, such as thunder, cyclonic waves, tornado blasts, etc., also help that purification. But they are not unattended with danger of other kinds. These are our natural protections. But for these, it would have been death to live within sewered Calcutta. Typhoid fever has been attributed to sewer gas. This unhealthiness of the city might, in a great measure, be remedied by proper and constant flushing of the underground drains. But this seems to be no regular duty of the municipality, more from defective construction of the drains than neglect.

It is thought generally that underground drains are necessary for all countries. Some engineers go so far as to assert that they are indispensable. Hear what the just deceased Sir William Moore, an authority on Indian sanitation, says:

Drainage is not however the universal panacea which some consider it to be. Subsoil drainage is not applicable to those sandy countries where only a few inches of rain fall, for the sand immediately absorbs the rain like a sponge, and although it remains damp and cold a very short distance from the surface, this would not be much altered by drainage, the moisture not being sufficient to escape from the holding sand by oozing. Surgeon-General Cornish, C.I.E., has also pointed out that subsoil drainage is not applicable to certain districts in the Carnatic, where they do not suffer from too much moisture, but from excessive dryness of the soil. During the prolonged period of drought subsoil pipes become blocked by deposits of ants, lizards, rats, etc., so that when they are really required no water flows through them. This, it may be said, is a matter of supervision, and so it is to a considerable degree. But to ascertain the potency of any large extent of subsoil drainage is no easy matter, and deposits of the nature mentioned occur very suddenly. As a matter of fact, when the Indian monsoon bursts, and heavy rain falls, many subsoil drains overflow.

The drains can effect their purpose well when they are placed in a straight line without many circuitous bends. We will quote Dr. Simpson, the Health Officer of this city:

It seems to be the impression that drainage mainly consists in laying down a large number of pipes, irrespective of a consideration of the nature of the locality, which may be densely crowded with buildings constructed on most irregular lines, and by their irregularity rendering effective drainage almost an impossibility. The pushing on of underground drainage under these circumstances is a doubtful improvement. It may improve the appearance of the locality, but it is very questionable whether it improves the public health. The greater my experience of the effects of the network of underground drains in *bustees*, the greater is my distrust of their utility and freedom from danger. It would be safer and more conducive to the health of the *bustees* to restrict underground drains to the broad roads, which should intersect.

To this Sir W. Moore adds:

All tributary drains should be open, or should be covered with moveable open iron gratings, which would ensure the condition of the drain being readily seen, while the drain being exposed to the influence of the sun and air, injurious gases would not be elaborated.

The *busti* drains are worse. For want of water, they are not flushed, and for their tortuous course, they cannot be sufficiently cleansed. The present insalubrity of Calcutta may be attributed to bad and unhealthy drains, open and covered, and their negligent

cleansing. The deposit of silt with sewage in the streets after cleaning the pits or the man-holes, ought to be discontinued as soon as possible. Carts with tubs do not always accompany the cleaners. The leaky tubs in their onward course drop the liquid into the streets, spreading contagion. The drains in bye-lanes or narrow passages are cleaned at long intervals. It is unusual to see the silt taken out of them. Whenever man-holes are opened for cleaning, large volumes of sewer gas poison the neighbourhood. To prevent this nuisance it is advisable first to flush them with sufficient quantity of water.

Water is a chief pabulum of our blood, and consequently its purity is always a matter of great importance. Man can live without drainage but cannot subsist without water. With our food and especially our drinking water, we imbibe the sources of contagion or infection. If the germ theory of disease be accepted as the latest evolution in medicine, we must then guard our foods and drinking water against every kind of impurity. It is an established fact that we are liable to fall sick more from bad drinking water than from bad drainage. It has been ascertained by Dr. Simpson, that, during the decade 1880 and 1890, mortality in Calcutta was $27\frac{3}{4}$ per mille where there was water supply against 47 per mille where there was no such supply.

But it is ever our lot to see the opposite practice carried out. In Calcutta, before the water works, subsoil drainage channels were constructed. During the rule of Sir Alfred Elliott, the wrong principle was again adopted. The Sanitary Drainage Act was passed before any attempt was made for supply of sufficient potable water to the country. It seems that the authorities are not so much for supplying pure food or water as for carrying waste products. They do not uphold the constructive policy but go in for the destructive operation. A drainage system without a supply of water is unscientific and unpractical. Insufficient supply only lessens the danger. The sewer gases are dissolved by a sufficient supply of water during day time, but they cannot be so neutralized during the night. This is the chief reason of the escape of large volumes of sewer gas which enter our bed rooms and attack us when we are least prepared to receive them. The intermittent supply of water gives our enemy this advantage. On the other hand, continuous supply, both day and night, would be very costly. What is to be done?

Letter to the Editor.

THE BASAUT ALI KHAN ENDOWMENT AT MURSHIDABAD.

Murshidabad, September 14, 1896.

At a special meeting of the Committee of Management of the Basaut Ali Khan's Endowment, held on the 2nd instant, at the Qudam-Sharif building, Nawab Syed Mazaffer Ali Khan Sahib, a senior member, was elected President, to the satisfaction of the Mahomedan community of the district, for it is the belief here that the poor will now be much benefited under his administration of the sacred trust.

It will not, perhaps, be out of place here to give a short account of the donor, Basaut Ali Khan. He was, during the palmy days of the Nizamut, a chief eunuch in the service of one of the favourite Begums of the late Nawab Mir Mahomed Jaffer Khan, the founder of the Murshidabad Nizamut House, and, as such, made a fortune. In 1834, about two years before his death, he made this endowment for charitable and religious purposes for the peace of his mind in this, and the benefit of his soul in the next, world. He also distributed a portion of his wealth and chattels among 50 of his servants, that they might, after his death, live comfortably. The yearly net income of his estates, gardens and houses, was

then Rs. 15,000, out of which he made provisions for the maintenance of the Qudam Sharif Imambaras, the two mosques, &c. These institutions are well kept up, and over 100 poor persons daily fed.

The first Matwallis were Nawab Bahoo Begum Sahiba (a junior Gadinashin Begum of the Nizamit) and her chief eunuch Sidi Bahar Ali Khan. During their management, additions were made to the buildings and a couple of tanks excavated. The lady herself would occasionally live there to the special advantage of the poor, who in the cold weather would be presented with warm clothing at her own expense.

On the death of the Begum and her chief eunuch, the Board of Revenue, in 1849, appointed Sidi Darab Ali Khan Bahadur, chief eunuch of the Nizamut, trustee (amin) of the said estate. Unfortunately, under him, the endowment sustained a heavy loss by continued litigation and mismanagement of its funds by the *amla*. At the instance of the Agent to the Governor-General at Murshidabad, Raja Prosunno Narain Deb Bahadur, the then Dewan-i-Nizamut, intervened, and the endowment was, under the provisions of Act XX of 1863, made over to a committee, appointed by Government, consisting of 3 members, namely, Nawab Syed Azim Ali Khan Bahadur, Nawab Syed Ahmud Reza Khan of the Chitpore family, and Nawab Syed Amir Ali Khan Sahib of Rajah Bazar. In the beginning of 1867, when the estates passed from Darab Ali Khan to the committee, only a few annas represented the cash balance. For a few years, the usual routine business was done, while a healthy tone was infused into the internal administration. No proceedings, however, of the meetings were ever recorded. In 1870, Nawab Syed Ahmud Reza Khan died at Chitpore, Calcutta, of heart disease. He was succeeded in the committee by Syed Kazim Ali Khan, brother of the late President. The 3rd member, Nawab Syed Amir Ali Khan, a personal friend of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the then Naib Dewan of the Nizamut, in consultation with him, did not take any active part in the committee and left for Calcutta, probably in disgust, owing to the extraordinary proceedings of the President and his brother. He died there in March 1879. His place on the committee was allowed to remain vacant till the 14th February 1890, when his only son and heir, Nawab Syed Mazaffer Ali Khan, the present President, was appointed in his place.

The history of the endowment shows constant disagreement between the members. The management, too, which was practically the President and Syed Kazim Ali Khan's, had to answer several charges brought against it, but which, for want of funds, the complainants could not pursue to the end. In the meantime, the late President, Nawab Azim Ali Khan, in January 1895, left for Mecca, Medina and Karbala, leaving the management of the sacred trust in the hands of his son, Syed Faiyaz Ali, and Syed Kazim Ali Khan, the other member, Nawab Syed Mazaffer Ali Khan, having kept himself aloof. On the 21st February 1896, the late President died at Karbala, and on the 14th August last, Solaiman Qudr Syed Wahid Ali Mirza, a son of His Highness the late Nawab Nazim of Bengal, was appointed a member of the committee, by Mr. F. Taylor, District Judge of Murshidabad.

In spite of the difference of opinion among the several members, the late President, Nawab Azim Ali Khan, managed to effect a saving in the expenditure and deposited Rs. 40,000 at the Berhampore Treasury to the credit of the endowment, as a provision against future emergencies, though it was against the wishes of the donor, who meant that every pice of the proceeds of his endowed estates should be expended for the good of the poor. The present annual income of the *wakf* is Rs. 25,000.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

August 28.

Li Hung Chang A contributed article to the "Times," evidently written at the instigation of the Viceroy himself, throws a flood of light on what the main object of his visit to Great Britain was. It seems the urgent request he had to make to Lord Salisbury was to have the customs duties at the Treaty Ports of China doubled, so as to enable the Chinese Government not only to satisfy the war indemnity due to Japan and enable it to raise a loan of fifty millions sterling, wherewith to rehabilitate it after the crushing reverses of the late war, but also to enable it to make a commencement of the great work of opening up China to western civilization, by means of railways, telegraphs, &c. The Viceroy leaves a disappointed man so far as regards Lord Salisbury's attitude to his demand. There is much to be said in favour of *Li Hung Chang's* contention. It would appear we have already granted a similar concession to Japan, without exacting any "quid pro quo." Lord Salisbury says in effect: "I agree entirely with you as to principle but what will the Chambers of Commerce of Hong Kong, Shanghai and other treaty ports say? The concession to Japan was made not by my Government, but by that of Lord Rosebery, and the agreement has been signed by Lord Kimberley. Further, the Chambers of Commerce, whose interests have been affected,

have been complaining ever since." The Viceroy's answer to this is: "I have nothing to do with Chambers of Commerce. It is you the powerful minister that has to act. I show you the one only way by which my country can retrieve itself, and all I ask is that China be placed on the same favourable footing as Japan." Singularly enough the Chambers of Commerce of Hong Kong and Shanghai being cognizant of China's intention to ask sooner or later for an increase of the duties levied on foreign imports from 5 to 8 per cent. *ad valorem*, had put themselves in communication with the British Minister at Peking, and their views are published here simultaneously with the account of the Viceroy's interview with Lord Salisbury, referred to above. To a certain extent they agree with the views of the Viceroy. But what he asked for unconditionally, the Chambers would only grant on China being willing to abolish entirely what is known as the *likin* duty on foreign imports, that is, a sort of *octroi* duty imposed on all foreign goods that pass out of the treaty ports into the interior. The Chambers say: "Let China have an increase of duty on foreign imports from 5% to 8%, but insist on the abolition of the *likin* duty which at present is a source of gross illegalities, and the Chinese Government will recoup itself by the enhanced 3% on goods consumed at the treaty ports, which at present are not subject to the *likin* tax." It is just here the Viceroy's difficulties arise, for the question of *likin* brings him into collision with the provincial governors who at present make it an instrument for their own illegal aggrandisement, and so the question stands to-day. I cannot help thinking that, before very long, a *modus vivendi* between Great Britain and China will be arrived at. Both have much to gain by the opening up of the interior of China to the softening influences of commercial enterprise. Great Britain will have a struggle no doubt to maintain its own, particularly against our German friends. Germany leaves Great Britain to pour out her blood and treasure in India and China, and then steps in, trying to outlive the latter in the course of trade, that she may be the better able to maintain her bloated army, and her much belauded but insignificant navy. I annex the excellent farewell speech the Envoy delivered on board the "St Louis" on Saturday forenoon:

"At this stage the official interpreter, Lo Fen Luh, had arrived, and the Envoy gave him a few whispered directions in answer to the speech of Mr. Harper, which had been translated by Mr. Tseng.

Lo Fen Luh then gave the following as his Excellency's answer: Before the Viceroy takes his departure from British shores he finds it impossible to conceal his feelings and sentiments for the people who have given him such a hearty and cordial welcome, and such a reception during his brief visit to and sojourn in this country. Southampton is the first portion of Her Majesty's soil on which the Viceroy alighted from the ship which brought him here, and Southampton is the last of the territory from which now the Viceroy is going to take his departure. A deep impression has been made upon the Viceroy by the magnitude of the accumulated knowledge, the accumulated wealth, and the accumulated force of this nation. The Viceroy has also been very deeply impressed by the simplicity, by the solidity, and by the frankness of the character of this distinguished people (cheers). So the Viceroy humbly hopes that he also has made a certain impression---(cheers)---and this impression he hopes will not be soon forgotten, and he trusts that after his return to China he will come to power again, not on his own account, but in the interests of the destiny of the great empire which he now represents, and he sincerely hopes that he will be able to count upon the support of this great and distinguished people in the West. In his future administration of our empire he trusts likewise that the impressions which he has made here in Great Britain, and also of the impressions made by Great Britain on him will not only serve as a means of cementing the cordial relations between the two countries, but will also serve as a means of developing our unlimited natural resources for the benefit of the human race (cheers). Now the Viceroy has again to tender to you his best thanks for the hospitality, the welcome, the reception which he has received from the most frank and simple people of Great Britain, and he only regrets that he has to leave your shores so soon as twelve o'clock, but he goes away in order to visit a country which is cousin to you (cheers)."

A letter from Hankow gives a diverting account of another Viceroy, the notable Chang Chih-tung, and of the troubles that beset him in his character as a provincial governor.

In 1889, a decree was issued by the Emperor from Peking, authorizing Chang Chih-tung to construct a railway from Hankow to the capital, to be "built entirely with native money, native materials and by native workmen." After spending millions on this enterprise the large-minded Viceroy is unable, after seven years, to point to a "single mile of railway built, or even surveyed as yet."

Zanzibar. In addition to the troubles connected with the boundary settlement in Venezuela, and those of Crete, the state of things at Zanzibar has now to be added to Lord Salisbury's anxieties. On Tuesday, the 25th instant, the reigning Sultan, Hamid,

died unexpectedly. Strong doubts are entertained that he did not die a natural death, and the subsequent proceedings of his cousin Khalid tend to throw strong suspicion upon him. This last at once proclaimed himself successor to Hamid, shut himself up in the Palace, surrounded with from 1,500 to 2,000 native soldiers as a bodyguard, and bade defiance to the British Government. Our Foreign Office acted with the utmost promptitude. Four and twenty hours' notice was given to Khalid to haul down his flag, and tender his submission. The ultimatum expired at 9 o'clock yesterday morning, and the Pretender having taken no notice of our challenge, the palace was bombarded, and in less than an hour Khalid had hauled down his flag, and taken refuge personally at the German consulate.

The future of Zanzibar will be one of growing importance, and fortunately Lord Salisbury's arrangement with Germany in 1890 over Heligoland leaves Great Britain a free hand in dealing not only with the development of its commercial interests, but of far greater issues morally, in the stamping out of slavery. For the present, the Foreign Office is responsible for the government of the Island. But so soon as things quiet down and the new regime is thoroughly set on foot, the preponderance of the opinion of those interested in its trade development, seems to favour the Island being placed under the Colonial Office, and its government assimilated to that of a Crown colony.

The British Government has installed Hamoud as the new Sultan, and the only difficulty now will be as to the surrender of Khalid by the Germans. The fate of the late Sultan has to be enquired into, and should foul play be established and Khalid's guilt brought home to him, he will probably have to pay forfeit with his life. But, if he can prove his innocence of any murderous intent, his future residence will probably be as a state prisoner in some station of Western India.

Venezuela. Another volume of documents relating to the boundary question has just been issued by the Foreign Office. It deals principally with Sir Robert Schomburgk's reports on his travels in British Guiana. "The general impression received from a perusal of the reports is that Sir Robert was a very competent and conscientious explorer." In his time the general complaint of the natives was against the cruelty of Spanish rule, and they gladly welcomed, when they could, the substitution of British. But these matters do not throw much light on the present political situation, and as I have more than once said, if only those settlers who have domiciled themselves in what has hitherto been accepted as British territory, were allowed to remain under our protection other and more far reaching questions might well be submitted to arbitration.

Post Office and Progress. The annual report of the Post Master General has just been published, and is full of interesting matter. In 1895, the year under review, 3,000,000,000 letters, post cards and postal packets were delivered in the United Kingdom. Before the introduction of a uniform penny postage the number of letters carried in 1839, was 82,000,000. In 1840 the number went up with a bound to 169,000,000 and there has been a steady increase every year since. Turning to telegrams, last year the number delivered was 78,839,000, an increase of 7,000,000 on 1894. Another very interesting branch of Post Office work is the Savings Bank. The deposits increased by £8,000,000, and the number of accounts by nearly 350,000. These figures indicate a marvellous amount of prosperity among the wage earning class, and is a satisfactory proof of national prosperity.

Books of the Week. Macmillan have just published an English translation of Professor Ratzel's important work on the "History of Mankind." The work of translation has been accomplished by Mr. A. J. Butler, and those competent to form an opinion say he has done it well. "Alike by the high authority of its original author, by the interest and importance of its subject, and by the comprehensive manner in which it is treated, the 'History of Mankind' in its English form is admirably calculated to promote the intelligent study of anthropology in this country." And no doubt many of your friends will be glad to have such a work rendered accessible in its present form.

A work, with an attractive title for your educated countrymen, comes from America. "The Religions of India" must always have a special fascination for all thoughtful minds who take an interest in our great eastern dependency. Unfortunately, judging by the review in the "Times," Professor Jastrow of the University of Pennsylvania, the Editor, appears to have come very far short of what would have been expected from one who writes in a somewhat humorous style, and treats with something like contempt scholars like Dr. J. Muir, Max Müller and indeed apparently every one of our great names in Indian literature. I enclose the full notice, for which some day soon you may find space in your paper.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling's new story "William the Conqueror" should have a large sale in India, as the story is based on one of your periodical fables. It is very highly spoken of as a work of extraordinary power and pathos.

Vicissitudes of Indian Service. In the "Times" obituary of the

24th instant is the announcement of the death of two members of the Indian Civil Service, quite startling in their contrast. The one is that of Major Boland, aged 94, the other of Mr. Hugh Fox in his 24th year, before he had completed one year of service. The former is described as late E. J. C. S. and Indian Civil Service. He must have been born in 1802, and from the description had apparently entered the service of the Company as a cadet, and subsequently, by influence at Leadenhall Street, been transferred to the Civil Service.

The latter, Mr. Fox, was a personal friend of my own. I saw him off to Bombay at Liverpool Street only last November. He was attached to the North West and was doing duty at Lucknow, where he fell a victim to typhoid fever on the 20th instant. He was a young man in whose future career I took a more than ordinary interest. An Irishman by birth, he belonged hereditarily to the Roman faith. He was educated at the Oratory, Birmingham, then under the grand prestige of the late Cardinal Newman. The great prize of the school is called the "Norfolk" prize, after the present Duke of Norfolk, who founded it, and who was himself a pupil of the Cardinal. Fox carried off that prize, and so was head of the school. He had every quality to make him popular. Clever without arrogance, he had all the taking gifts of the best of his countrymen. Vivacious, full of talk, and eminently good humoured, he, had he been spared, might have done good work for the natives of India. But his too brief career has left him no opportunity of making his mark, and all that is left to his sorrowing parents is the memory of a singularly gifted son.

ONLY A LITTLE AT A TIME.

THERE are sound objections to one's knowing too much about his own body. I am going to tell you what they are; not to-day, but soon. To make sure of them you will have to watch these articles sharply in the newspapers. Yet we should know a little; and a fraction of that little I will serve up now. Please favour me with your attention.

Right across the middle of the body is a large, thin, flat muscle, stretched like a canvas awning—the diaphragm. By it you are divided into two large storeys or compartments. The upper one contains the heart and lungs, the lower one contains (chiefly) the stomach, the intestines, and the liver. The most painful (internal) diseases occur downstairs, the least painful upstairs.

The entire right side of the lower compartment, from the top down to the short ribs, is filled by the liver which is suspended to a mere point of the diaphragm and shakes about with every movement you make.

Now, from the location of the liver we have a word used for ages to express one of the most unhappy conditions a human being can fall into—the word *hypochondria* (often abbreviated to "*hypo*"), the word meaning *under the cartilages*.

"For seven years," writes a correspondent, "I suffered from complaint of the liver. I was very bilious, my skin was sallow and dry, and the whites of my eyes yellow. I had much pain and weight at my right side, and was constantly depressed and melancholy. It seemed to be out of my power to take a hopeful or cheerful view of anything. The effect of this complaint on the mind was one of the aspects of it hardest to bear."

"I had lost my natural appetite, and ate to support life; but there was no more any genuine relish for food or drink. The bad taste in my mouth made all that I took taste bad. Sometimes I would be taken sick and throw up all I had eaten; and after a meal, no matter how slender and simple, I was troubled with fulness and pain at the chest. I used many kinds of medicines and while some of them may have relieved me for the moment, none conferred any lasting benefit, and I was soon at bad as ever."

"In March, 1892, I read in a small book of what Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup had done in cases similar to mine, and was especially interested in the account given in the book of the nature and duties of the liver, and its disorders. I got a bottle of the Syrup from Boots' Drug Stores, and after taking it a few days felt quite like a new man. It seemed to correct my stomach and liver and clear my system of all bile; and it left me in capital health. Since that time I have kept Mother Seigel's Syrup in the house as a family medicine and have commended it to all my friends as the best known cure for ailments like the one from which I suffered so miserably and so long. You can use this statement as you like. (Signed) John Gent, 59, Coventry Road, Bulwell, Nottingham, March 21st, 1895."

"In the spring of 1891," writes another, "I found myself in bad health. I had no appetite, and the little I did eat did me no good, gave me no strength. I had great pain and weight at the chest and right side, and my skin turned sallow and dry. My kidneys also acted badly, and from time to time I had attacks of gravel; and cold, clammy, weakening sweats broke out all over me. Being only seventeen years old when the trouble began I was greatly alarmed and anxious. No doctor was able to help me, and I continued thus for over three years. In June, 1894, I began to use Mother Seigel's Syrup and soon felt better, lighter, and more cheerful. And by taking it a few weeks longer I recovered my health and strength. Since then, when I have any stomach, liver, or kidney symptoms I resort to Mother Seigel's Syrup and it never fails to set me right. You can publish this letter. (Signed) C. Hanson, 6, New Inn Lane, Gloucester, May 31st, 1895."

The stomach, the liver, and the kidneys are all connected parts of the food and digestive system. When disordered (usually through torpidity of the stomach) they cripple the body and throw a gloom as of night over the mind. On the earliest signs of anything wrong with them use Mother Seigel's Syrup at once.

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Memorial

TO THE LATE

SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

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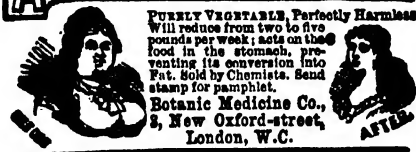
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It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

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VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 744.

THE MAHAPRASTHANIKA PARVA OF THE MAHABHARATA.

"THE GREAT JOURNEY."

[Concluded from page 446.]

"And Arjuna heard,

Weeping to see them fall ; and that stout son

Of Pandu, that destroyer of his foes,
That Prince, who drove through crimson waves of war,
In old days, with his chariot-steeds of milk,
He, the arch-hero, sank ! Beholding this,—
The yielding of that soul unconquerable,
Fearless, divine, from Sakra's self derived,
Arjuna's,—Bhima cried aloud : 'O king !
This man was surely perfect. Never once,
Not even in slumber when the lips are loosed,
Spake he one word that was not true as truth.
Ah, heart of gold, why art thou broke ? O King !
Whence falleth he ?'

"And Yudhisthira said,

Not pausing : 'Once he lied, a lordly lie !
He bragged—our brother—that a single day
Should see him utterly consume, alone,
All those his enemies,—which could not be.
Yet from a great heart sprang the unmeasured speech.
Howbeit a finished hero should not shame
Himself in such wise, nor his enemy,
If he will faultless fight and blameless die :
This was Arjuna's sin. Follow thou me !'

"So the king still went on. But Bhima next
Fainted, and stayed upon the way, and sank ;
But, sinking, cried behind the steadfast prince :
'Ah, brother, see ! I die ! Look upon me,
Thy well-belovéd ! Wherefore falter I,
Who strove to stand ?'

"And Yudhisthira said :

'More than was well the goodly things of earth
Pleased thee, my pleasant brother ! Light the offence,
And large thy spirit ; but the o'er-fed soul
Planned itself over others. Pritha's son,
For this thou failest, who so near didst gain.'

"Thenceforth alone the long-armed monarch strode,
Not looking back,—nay ! not for Bhima's sake —
But walking with his face set for the Mount
And the hound followed him,—only the hound.

"After the deathly sands, the Mount ! and, lo !
Sakra shone forth,—the God,—filling the earth
And heavens with thunder of his chariot-wheels.
'Ascend,' he said, 'with me, Pritha's great son !'
But Yudhisthira answered, sore at heart
For those his kinsfolk, fallen on the way :

'O Thousand eyed, O Lord of all the gods,
Give that my brothers come with me, who fell !
Not without them is Swarga sweet to me.
She too, the dear and kind and queenly,—she
Whose perfect virtue Paradise must crown,—
Grant her to come with us ! Dost thou grant this ?'

"The God replied : 'In heaven thou shalt see
Thy kinsmen and the queen—these will attain—
And Krishna. Grieve no longer for thy dead,
Thou chief of men ! their mortal covering stripped,
They have their places ; but to thee the gods
Allot an unknown grace : thou shalt go up
Living and in thy form to the immortal homes.'

"But the king answered : 'O thou Wisest One,
Who know'st what was, and is, and is to be,
Still one more grace ! This hound hath ate with me,
Followed me, loved me : must I leave him now ?'

"'Monarch,' spake Indra, 'thou art now as we,—
Deathless, divine ; thou art become a god ;
Glory and power and gifts celestial,
And all the joys of heaven are thine for aye :
What hath a beast with these ? Leave here thy hound.'

"Yet Yudhisthira answered : 'O Most High,
O Thousand-eyed and Wisest ! can it be
That one exalted should seem pitiless ?
Nay, let me lose such glory : for its sake
I cannot leave one living thing I loved.'

"Then sternly Indra spake : 'He is unclean,
And into Swarga such shall enter not.
The Krodhavasha gods destroy the fruits
Of sacrifice, if dogs defile the fire.
Bethink thee, Dharmaraj, quit now this beast !
That which is seemly is not hard of heart.'

"Still he replied : 'T is written that to spurn
A suppliant equals in offence to slay
A twice-born ; wherefore, not for Swarga's bliss
Quit I, Mahendra, this poor clinging dog,—
So without any hope or friend save me,
So wistful, fawning for my faithfulness,
So agonized to die, unless I help
Who among men was called steadfast and just.'

"Quoth Indra : 'Nay ! the altar-flame is foul
Where a dog passeth ; angry angels sweep
The ascending smoke aside, and all the fruits
Of offering, and the merit of the prayer
Of him whom a hound toucheth. Leave it here !
He that will enter heaven must enter pure.
Why did'st thou quit thy brethren on the way,
And Krishna, and the dear-loved Draupadi,

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Attaining, firm and glorious, to this Mount
Through perfect deeds, to linger for a brute?
Hath Yudhishtira vanquished self, to melt
With one poor passion at the Door of bliss?
Stay'st thou for this, who did'st not stay for them,—
Draupadi, Bhima?

"But the king yet spake:

'Tis known that none can hurt or help the dead.
They, the delightful ones, who sank and died,
Following my footsteps, could not live again
Though I had turned,—therefore I did not turn;
But could help profit, I had turned to help.
There be four sins, O Sakra, grievous sins:
The first is making suppliants despair,
The second is to slay a nursing wife,
The third is spoiling Brahmans' goods by force,
The fourth is injuring an ancient friend.
These four I deem but equal to one sin,
If one, in coming forth from woe to weal,
Abandon any meanest comrade then.'

"Straight as he spake, brightly great Indra smiled;
Vanished the hound, and in its stead stood there
The Lord of Death and Justice, Dharma's self!
Sweet were the words which fell from those dread lips,
Precious the lovely praise: 'O thou true king,
Thou that dost bring to harvest the good seed
Of Pandu's righteousness; thou that hast ruth
As he before, on all which lives!—O Son,
I tried thee in the Dwita wood, what time
They smote thy brothers, bringing water; then
Thou prayed'st for Nakula's life—tender and just—
Not Bhima's nor Arjuna's, true to both,
To Madri as to Kunti, to both queens.
Hear thou my word! Because thou didst not mount
This car divine, lest the poor hound he shent
Who looked to thee, lo! there is none in heaven
Shall sit above thee, King!—Bharata's son,
Enter thou now to the eternal joys,
Living and in thy form. Justice and Love
Welcome thee, Monarch! thou shalt throne with them!'

"Thereat those mightiest gods, in glorious train,
Mahendra, Dharma,—with bright retinue
Of Maruts, Saints, Aswin-Kumaras, Nats,
Spirits and angels,—bore the king aloft,
The thundering chariot first, and after it
Those airy-moving Presences. Serene,
Clad in great glory, potent wonderful,
They glide at will,—at will they know and see,
At wish their wills are wrought; for these are pure,
Passionless, hallowed, perfect, free of earth.
In such celestial midst the Kuru king
Soared upward, and a sweet light filled the sky
And fell on earth, cast by his face and form,
Transfigured as he rose; and there was heard
The voice of Narad,—it is he who sings,
Sitting in heaven, the deities that good men do
In all the quarters,—Narad, chief of bards,
Narad the wise, who laudeth purity,—
So cried he: 'Thou art risen, Kuru king,
Whose greatness is above all royal saints.
Hail, son of Pandu! like to thee is none
Now or before among the sons of men,
Whose fame hath filled the three wide worlds, who com'st
Bearing thy mortal body, which doth shine
With radiance as a god's.'

"The glad king heard
Narad's loud praise; he saw the immortal gods,—
Dharma, Mahendra; and dead chiefs and saints,
Known upon earth, in blessed heaven he saw,
But only those. 'I do desire,' he said,
'That region, be it of the Blest as this,

Or of the Sorrowful some elsewhere,
Where my dear brothers are, and Draupadi.
I cannot stay elsewhere! I see them not!'

"Then answer made Purandara, the God:
'O thou compassionate and noblest one,
Rest in the pleasures which thy deeds have gained.
How, being as are the gods, canst thou live bound
By mortal chains? Thou art become of us,
Who live above hatred and love, in bliss
Pinnacled, safe, supreme. Sun of thy race,
Thy brothers cannot reach where thou hast climbed!
Most glorious lord of men, let not thy peace
Be touched by stir of earth! Look! this is heaven.
See where the saints sit, and the happy souls,
Siddhas and angels, and the gods who live
Forever and forever.'

"'King of gods,'

Spake Yudhishtira, 'but I will not live
A little space without those souls I loved.
O Slayer of the demons! let me go
Where Bhima and my brothers are, and sh—
My Draupadi, the princess with the face
Softer and darker than the Khat-bud,
And soul as sweet as are its odours. Lo!
Where they have gone, there will I surely go.'

EDWIN ARNOLD.

—The International Review.

WEEKLYANA.

MISS Barbara Reid, of Barra, Aberdeenshire, the youngest daughter of Sir John Reid, fifth baronet, of Barra (whose title became extinct about ten years ago), by his wife Barbara, daughter of Thomas Livingstone, M.D., of Dawny Hill, Aberdeenshire, a member of the same family with Dr. David Livingstone, the African explorer and missionary, has just died at her residence in Eardley Crescent, Kensington, within a few weeks of attaining her 100th year.

THE American papers report the death, in the Connecticut valley, of a woman who had lived to the age of 105 years and four months, having retained her mental and physical activity to the time of her death. She remembered the funeral of Washington.

THE following epitaph is from a tomb in Exeter Cathedral:—

"Here lies the body of Captain Tully,
Aged one hundred and nine years fully;
And three score years before as Mayor,
The sword of this city he did bear.
Nine of his wives do with him lie,
So shall the tenth when she doth die."

IT is proposed to establish a number of stations for seismological observations throughout the world. Starting from Japan, where there is a complete system for studying earthquakes, the stations will be at Shanghai, Hong-Kong, Calcutta, Sydney, Rome; Tacubaya (Mexico), Port Natal, Cape of Good Hope, Santiago (Chili), and Rio Janeiro, with a central station at Strassburg.

SPITZBERGEN will be visited by many explorers this year. The Andree expedition will be followed by a German steamer from Hamburg which will reach in time to see the balloon start. A Norwegian steamship company will run steamers regularly to Eis Fiord. Mr. J. Russel Jeaffreson, of the Geographical Society, will explore the interior of the Western Island, and, if the ice will permit, try to visit the islands between Spitzbergen and Franz Josef Land. Another English expedition, with Mr. Trevor Battye, who explored Colgar, has started for Spitzbergen. The relieving vessel for the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition, the steam yacht Windward, has just started for Franz Josef Land, with provisions and sledges.

A SLICE of common onion rubbed, it is said, on the spot is a certain cure for a wasp sting. If the sting be in the throat or mouth, an onion is to be slowly chewed and swallowed.

WE read in an American paper :

"The foulest blot on the history of Japan in modern times is the murder of the Korean queen. If the plot had been concocted by Turks or Chinese, the horror of the civilized world would not have been so great, for of these degenerate and cruel oriental races humane sentiments and honorable practices are not expected. But Japan seeks to be regarded as civilized. She claims and in some cases has won the right to try foreigners accused of crime by her own courts, instead of turning them over to the consular courts of their own nation, as semi-civilized peoples are obliged to do. But Japanese officers caused the queen of Korea to be hacked to death with swords, after which her dead body was carried into the garden, covered with kerosene and burned. If the Japanese government glosses over this inhuman outrage, if it does not punish to the utmost those who perpetrated it, then no foreigners can feel secure in Japan. The sympathies of the nations will be withdrawn from Japan and will be with Russia, even should she endeavor to gain a protectorate over Korea. Japan's future is involved in the swift, complete punishment of the wretches who murdered the queen of Korea."

With this paper, every Oriental Prince is a despot and does not deserve to reign long. It remarks : "The late shah of Persia reigned 48 years, which is a long time for an oriental despot to hold office before being assassinated." Republican government is no protection against assassination of its heads. This crime is now more common in civilized Europe and America than in barbarous Asia.

..

IN the same number of the same paper we also read : "Weyler's plan of ending the rebellion is not complicated. It is to kill all the Cubans he can get his hands on, combatants or non-combatants, and keep at it till they are exterminated." Such is the refined system of warfare of the West—to kill the natives and rid the country of its barbarism, to improve an unrefined people out of their home and country.

..

THE 'Philadelphia Press' remarks—

"Great Britain's Venezuelan 'Blue Book' is rightly named. The most recent exposures of its inaccuracies and studied falsifications are enough to make any self respecting Englishman feel blue over prospects of his country's success based on its misshapen contents."

..

THE *Mercantile and Financial Times* of New York and Chicago calculates that if Colonel North, the nitrate king, had lived 80 years instead of only 54, and his phenomenal financial success had continued up to that time, he would have been worth no less than \$1,000,000,000. America is already rich in billionaires without the supposititious one. That paper also remarks that fifty millionaires like the late Baron de Hirsch would solve the problem of abolishing poverty.

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THE Rothschilds recently bought a quarter interest in the Anaconda Copper Company for \$7,500,000. They have taken another quarter for \$10,000,000.

..

IT is reported that a cousin of the Duke of Montrose, a nobleman in his own right and a lineal descendant of Robert Bruce, Sir Robert James Stuart Graham, is a humble clerk in Brooklyn. His is the dignity of labour.

..

IT has now become possible to obtain complete pictures of the internal organs, as regards their situation, size and mechanism, by means of fluorescent screens of X rays. Such is the hope of Dr. Lewy expressed to the Berlin Physiological Society. Professor Grummach observed opaque spots in the lungs of a man who suffered from consumption and hæmorrhage. The lungs being transparent to the X rays, the ossified tuberculous parts were visible. In another patient, the black lines in the arteries showed the points of ossification.

..

FROM the British Board of Trade's report on coal, it appears that, in 1894, the United Kingdom produced 188,277,000 tons, Germany 76,741,000, France 26,964,000, Belgium 20,534,000, Austria 9,573,000, Japan (1893) 3,371,000, and the United States 152,448,000 tons. Of the British possessions, Canada produced between 3 and 4 million tons and in addition imported about half her total consumption, principally from the United States. New South Wales yielded about 3½ million tons, New Zealand 500,000 tons, British India

2,821,000 tons and Natal 141,000 tons. The countries which import more than export coal were Russia, Sweden, France, Spain, Italy and Austria-Hungary. Canada, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, the Cape, India and all the minor British colonies, excepting Libnan-Borneo, come under the same category.

..

SLEEPING ascetics are being exhibited at Buda Peth. The three performing men are from twenty-three to twenty-eight years of age and are well developed. They had shewn their feats at London, in the Royal Aquarium. They can sleep from eight to thirty days continuously, without any food or drink. While sleeping, their pulse fell from 70 to 60 beats, and the respiration from 18 to 3 per minute. The temperature of the body also came down from 99.5° to 96.6°.

..

MR. T. RUDDIMAN JOHNSTON, of London, has prepared plans for a globe of double the size of that exhibited at the Paris Exposition of 1889. It will have a diameter of 84 feet, with scale of 8 miles to the inch. In it a city having 5,000 inhabitants or less will be shown. There will be a spiral gallery running round the globe for easy observation.

..

MRS. Janet Hamilton, alighting from a bus at Showland's Cross, and going along the road, was knocked down by a bicycle ridden by Bernard Clark, an excise man, sustaining injuries, both external and internal. She then sued him for £200 damages, and got a decree for £80 and costs. In making his order, Sheriff Spens said :

"This is the first action of the kind in the court, though he feared it would not be the last. A bicycle must be treated *in pari passu* with a horse vehicle. The ringing of a bell by a cyclist gave no right to run down any person who might be on the way. When a bicyclist was in such a busy thoroughfare he should have had his bicycle under such control as to be able to stop it at a moment's notice. In crowded thoroughfares, when, moreover, trams and buses are added to the complication, bicyclists would do well to dismount, but, if they did not, they were bound to have their bicycles under such control as to be able to draw them up at a moment's notice. They must be held accountable for running down members of the public unless there were exceptional pointing to the responsibility of the persons injured."

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

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IN view of the gravity of the situation, three additional Italian warships started on the 18th for Turkish waters. The *Times* states that the Russian fleet at Sebastopol has been placed on a war footing and has embarked three battalions of infantry, who will go to the Bosphorus if a telegram from the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople orders such a step.

—

CONFESSIONS made by the conspirators arrested at Scutari, led to the discovery of a formidable depot of bombs at Pera.

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A SECOND letter on the Armenian question from Lord Rosebery says that he is unable to agree that Great Britain might depose the Sultan in view of Russia's resolve to oppose the separate action of any Power. The Government, he adds, is doubtless doing everything not involving European war to put an end to the present detestable régime in Turkey. The series of meetings to be held in all the great towns of Great Britain on the Armenian question, opened on the 18th at Birmingham and Nottingham, where strong speeches were made demanding the intervention of the British Government in Turkey. Lord George Hamilton, replying to the resolution urging British initiative in Armenia, strongly deprecated isolated action. The tone of the majority of the papers is more moderate in discussing the Armenian question, and the journals deprecate undue pressure being brought to bear on the Government. The *Figaro* publishes a stirring appeal from Mr. Gladstone to the French people on behalf of the Armenians and denouncing the infamy of the Sultan. Mr. Gladstone received an immense ovation at the Liverpool meeting on the 24th, and spoke for one hour and twenty minutes in a ringing, clear voice. He pointed out that the movement was not a crusade against Mohamedanism nor universal condemnation of the Moslems of the Turkish Empire, and

that if the Armenians were Moslems or Hindus they would have the same claim to British sympathies, as the movement was a purely humanitarian one. He urged that the first step of the Government should be to break off relations with Turkey. The Liberal papers approve of Mr. Gladstone's remarks. The Conservative papers deprecate isolated action. The *Times* says that at least two Powers would not tolerate the coercion of Turkey.

BARON BANFFY, speaking in the Hungarian Diet, said that Austria and Russia had agreed to a pacific policy, and would maintain the *status quo* in Eastern Europe.

THE Sirdar, Sir Herbert Kitchener, occupied Kerma at daybreak on September 18, without opposition. The enemy retired to the west bank of the river at Hafir, and were shelled by the Egyptians from the east bank, enabling three gunboats to proceed to Dongola. The Dervishes lost heavily, and their steamer was sunk. Bishara, the Commander of Mahdists, was seriously wounded. The Dervishes abandoned the bulk of their munitions and a great store of grain at Hafir. A letter from Sirdar Sir H. Kitchener offered pardon to Wad Bishara and his followers if they surrendered. The whole expedition advanced on Dongola on the 21st. The Dervishes fled on the approach of the Egyptians. Many of the Emirs surrendered. The Egyptian flag has been hoisted over the city. Nine hundred prisoners were captured at Dongola, besides six guns and large quantities of dates. The gun boats and Cavalry are pursuing the Dervishes, who fled in a southerly direction, immediately the Egyptian Army came in sight.

The French and Russian press disparage the success of the Nile Expedition while reminding Great Britain that the Egyptian question remains to be settled. The *Times* says that the refusal of France to permit the use of the Egyptian funds in the Nile expedition has resulted in economies involving such hardships on the officers and troops that it is Britain's duty to assist monetarily.

ANOTHER conference has been held at the Motoppo Hills between the leading Chiefs and Messrs. Carrington and Rhodes. The Chiefs have submitted and agreed to settle in the open.

THE rebellion in Mashonaland is collapsing, similarly to that in Matabeleland.

RUSSIA and Japan have agreed to a joint protectorate over Corea, which the Japanese will now evacuate.

A QUANTITY of arms, bombs and Japanese flags have been discovered at Taal, in the Philippines.

THE leading members of the new Japanese Ministry are: Count Matsukata, Premier and Finance Minister, Viscount Takashima, Minister of War, and Count Okuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

THE Tsar and Tsarina arrived at Balmoral on September 23 in company with the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught. The railway all along the route was strictly guarded by police.

ON September 23, Victoria, the Queen of England, exceeded the longest reign of any former British Sovereign, and received congratulations from all parts of the world.

At supper, at the Fancy Dress Ball, at Viceregal Lodge, Simla, given by their Excellencies the same night, the Viceroy proposed the health of Her Majesty the Queen in the following terms:—

"The presence of this distinguished company must make this day a memorable one, but I hope I shall be pardoned if I remind you that it is also a day that cannot fail to be memorable in the history of the British Crown whose subjects we are, and in the life of our beloved Sovereign. The fact that her reign is now the longest in British history offers enticing opportunities for eloquence, but do not be alarmed, I shall not risk the just resentment of the young ladies by interfering for more than a moment with the proper business of the evening, but the Queen belongs to us all, and though Her Majesty has ordered all official ceremonies to be postponed, I cannot think that a word on an event that must be so overwhelmingly interesting to herself, will be deemed inappropriate.

It is as useless for me to attempt to indicate, as it is impossible for you to realise all that this event must mean to the Queen, and I confess that the feeling that is uppermost in my mind is, how unapproachable, how isolated, if I may say so, how lonely her position is. Few of us can look back over sixty years. Sixty years ago, Miss Eden was writing her most interesting diaries, and the whole society of Simla, I believe, consisted of not more than 150 persons. Few, if any, can look back to 60 years of public duty, none to 60 years in a station on which the eyes of the whole world are fixed. To take but one of the incidental consequences of this long period, what must it mean to one so placed, and that one a woman, to feel, as she looks back on the past, that of the counsellors in whom she learned in her youth to trust, not one remains to her, nay more; that successive generations of her servants have passed away, until, if I may be permitted an illustration that brings the fact home to me, she entrusts the high office of her representative in her Indian Empire to one on whom in his cradle she bestowed her name when already she had been seated twelve years upon her throne? I cannot but think that, if not to-day, there must have been moments in the past, when this feeling of loneliness must have been present with terrible force, but I also venture to hope that it has always been accompanied by the best antidote in the consciousness of the love and devotion of every one of her subjects.

It is a devotion for which we can claim no credit. It has been fairly and honestly earned. It may be that in the line of her progenitors there have been Sovereigns as renowned as Queen Victoria, though I hesitate to affirm it. It may be that there have been those who added as largely to the power and influence of the nation, though it is hard to believe it of the Sovereign who is the first of her race to wear the Imperial Crown of India as well as the Royal Crown of Britain, but I assert absolutely and unaffectedly and without fear of challenge that none will live longer in the affectionate remembrance of her people. Every inch a Queen, and bearing the burden of Royalty, as few have ever borne it, it is known to all that her dignity has never checked the ready flow of that womanly sympathy which has so constantly ministered to the afflictions of her subjects of every degree in every part of her wide dominions. That alone, even if it stood alone, would, I think, justify my intervention this evening, and our claim to a loving interest in all that concerns Her Majesty. That alone, taken with all it embraces and implies, justifies me on this occasion when I give you the old familiar toast in the old familiar formula, to ask you to allow the chord in your hearts, which I believe this toast always touches, to vibrate yet more strongly, and your lips to murmur with a fuller, wider and deeper significance than usual the well-known prayer 'God Save the Queen.'

Yesterday, after consultation with the heads of representative Associations, the Sheriff of Calcutta despatched the following telegram to the Private Secretary to Her Majesty: "The citizens of Calcutta loyally offer to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress their respectful and affectionate congratulations upon her glorious reign having exceeded in duration that of any British Sovereign." The reply received runs: "Queen-Empress thanks the citizens of Calcutta for their kind and loyal congratulations."

THE office of Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India is located at Simla. Mr. Eliot is the present Reporter. The most important meteorological stations are the Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, for observation of cyclonic storms formed more in sea than on land. The Reporter receives telegrams from the several stations and publishes the digest of reports from the three presidencies. The local Reporters of the three chief cities have publications of their own. They are of immediate value to vessels, among others, apprising them of the approach of any storm. Mr. Eliot's late deliverance is in keeping with the royal style of the Government he represents. He has chosen his head-quarters on the heights of Simla, occasionally coming down to the seas for inspection of the minor stations in the islands. But he has experience. He is the author of a hand-book of Indian cyclones compiled from official records.

A hill station is good for astronomical observations, but Mr. Eliot has no pretensions to that branch of knowledge. The connection of the maximum number of solar spots with drought and vibrations of the magnetic needle is wellknown, though the theory has not passed the stage of speculation. Continued observations are wanted to establish or demolish it. The relation of snowfall on the hills with the low temperature in the plains and the rainfall, requires special observation. Little or nothing seems to have been done towards that end. Mr. Eliot's love of astronomy is testified to by the observatory in Bombay, the only one of its kind in India. The brothers C. and F. Chambers have been obliged to withdraw from their useful work by the interference of Mr. Eliot and his predecessor, Mr. Blandford. The Imperial centralizing power of the present Reporter is proof of his capacity for organization though at the sacrifice of usefulness. The Bengal office of meteorology has no independent existence, having been incorporated with that at Simla, and, to provide a favourite, allowed to remain at Cal-

cutta, as a second Simla office. An attempt is now being made to make the two offices distinct.

THE Indian Post-Office Act has been amended to enable the Post Office to recover the customs duty paid by it, in any foreign port, on any letter, parcel or other article, as postage under the Act. That means delay in the delivery of the articles. With all its advancement, the Indian Post Office presents the spectacle of the greater the income on a letter, the greater the delay in its delivery. Last week, our London letter was forwarded to this office at the third delivery instead of the first, because there was postage due on it. For the same omission, or insufficient postage, this week's letter was not received till full one day later. It is sufficiently bad that an unpaid or insufficiently paid letter is charged double the postage payable. It is intolerable that for that enhanced value there should be extraordinary delay in delivery, or double penalty for one omission. English law delights in double remedies. Offences against person are generally punishable criminally and civilly. To an aggrieved person, both criminal and civil courts are open. Sometimes people post their letters bearing in the belief that the letters will not be misdelivered. They little know that such letters reach their destination much beyond the usual time. The more you secure your letter, by registration and insurance, the greater the certainty of late delivery.

THE High Court has set aside the conviction of Bahon Gopal Chunder Bose, Subordinate Judge of Comilla, and ordered refund of the fine of Rs. 20 inflicted for assault on a peon, named Paranda Paray. It appears that Paray, a dismissed servant, obstructed the Bahon in his morning walk and tried to recover from him then and there the wages due. The man's whole attitude was threatening. The Bahon, to put a stop to the threats and to teach better manners, gave him a blow with the stick he had in hand, which silenced the overbearing Paray. He bore the assault without any return, but made his way to the Magistrate's Court which punished the assaulter. Servants as a class have grown less respectful, as they have grown more idle and conscious of the rights of free men. Unmindful of duty and living an easy life, they are clamorous for full pay for the days they think they have served to the satisfaction of their own easy conscience and prove impertinent when they are taken to task for idleness or negligence. They are unwilling to leave service which brings them pay without sufficient work and grow turbulent when told to go their way. They try all their machinations to inconvenience the master and bring him to trouble and disgrace. The High Court's order recognizes the present state of things. There are, however, magistrates who think that, when a servant or a creditor grows unruly for his dues, he deserves consideration for any rash act committed. He, it is argued, acts not without provocation. With such magistrates, the argument that a servant or a creditor should go to a civil court for his dues has not the full force of reason. They believe that the man has a right to dun a master or a debtor for payment. True, there are courts to enforce it. But then that fact does not take away the other right. Besides, courts are costly and dilatory.

BABU Ananda Krishna Mullick, of Shampooker, has done another public service to the Hindus of this city. On his advice, Babu Grish Chunder Bose, a timber merchant of Nuntala, once a partner of the late Babu Tanuk Chunder Pramanik, and now doing business on his own account, has deposited with the Port Commissioners Rs. 7,000 for a *Gimabashi* or moribund house to be built close to the Nuntala Burning Ghat. This is not his first good act for which he will be blessed. Two years back, he erected a chandny or shed for the female bathing ghat next to Radhu Madhub Banerjee's at Nuntala. A widower and without any children, we hope Babu Grish will leave behind him a truly honoured name, like that of his partner in trade, for unostentatious charity.

THE General Committee of the Calcutta Corporation has sanctioned Rs. 3,000 to be placed at the absolute disposal of the Health Officer, for better cleansing of the city, in view of the outbreak of plague—suspected to be bubonic—at Bombay. Dr. Simpson has deputed one of his assistants to Bombay to study the disease there.

Plagues are usually malignant fevers of the continued and contagious type. It is said that they are produced by the absorption of poisons, generated by decaying animal matter combined with heat, moisture and bad ventilation. Various kinds of plagues are mentioned in old books, such as malarial, carbuncular, bubonic, &c. In the bubonic there is enlargement of glands, chiefly of the inguinal. There is great

restlessness, pain and heat, followed by death in three or four days. In the Chinese plague, Kitasato of Japan discovered a bacillus as the cause. The bacilli may, therefore, be supposed to work the havoc through drinking water. Bad ventilation and sewer gas aggravate the disease. Land quarantine to check its spread is impossible.

POOR Snochait Singh is dead, and none so poor to do him reverence. The *Tribune* of Lahore says that "except a few venerable ladies in the *Rani mahal* and some old servants and companions, there are few to weep for him even in his native place." The Calcutta Babu as represented by the *Indian Messenger* knows him not. That paper asks who was he? Perhaps, with abundance of knowledge it objects to the honorific prefix "His Highness." His was a miserable end:

"An inquest was held by Dr. H. R. Oswald on Friday, Aug. 21 at Hammersmith, with reference to the death of Snochait Singh, Prince of Chumha, Punjab, aged about fifty-five, who was found dead at 14 Wubeck Road, Shepherd's Bush, on Monday night. Mlle. Marie Valvir Couronne, a young French woman, said that for four years she had lived with the deceased as his wife. His health was not very good, and he drank to excess, principally rum. On Monday he went out at midday without having had any food, and was brought home later by two men. He was either drunk or dying. Witness tried to get a woman to help her, but she did not come. All the evening he lay on the floor in the passage with a pillow under his head. Later she was sure he was dying, and called to a neighbour, who sent for the police and a doctor. By the Coroner:—He came to England to ask the Government to reinstate him in his dominions, he having been dethroned. He received, however, a small pension from the Indian Government. The Coroner said that, from documents found in possession of the deceased, it appeared that he was claiming from the Indian Government for losses and damages sustained by refusal of his birthright, the loss of the Raj of Chumha, and over 200,000, irrespective of the loss of his personal property in the Palace of Chumha and loss of rank, dignity, and social position. He had also addressed members of Parliament, explaining that on the death of his brother Sri Singh he became Raja but that his illegitimate half brother was unlawfully made Raja, and that he (deceased) had come to try and regain his position, and could get no recompense. He appeared to be in possession of a pension of 22½ a month, whereas he had asked for 100 a month. Other evidence showed that the deceased was seen staggering about the pavement in Wubeck Road with a large bunch of keys and several parcels. He was seen to fall, and was picked up unconscious and carried home. Dr. David Arthur of 276, Uxbridge Road, said he was called after death. A *post mortem* examination revealed a blood clot on the brain. This was caused by the rupture of an artery. Death was due to coma from the hæmorrhage caused by chronic alcoholism. The jury returned a verdict of natural death."

Last year (*R. & R.*, June 8, 1895), we wrote of Chamba and Snochait Sing. We reproduce a portion of that account:

"The State of Chamba is an ancient one, having been founded, at some remote period of antiquity, by a scion of the House of Udaipore. At the time of the conquest of the Punjab when it first came under the ægis of the British Government, it was ruled by a Prince whose name was Maharaja Siraj Sing. He died within a few years, leaving two sons, the elder of whom Sri Sing succeeded the father. The two brothers dearly loved each other at first. Subsequently there arose a cause for jealousy, for which the younger, Suchet Sing, was debarred access to the palace. An annuity of Rs. 24,000 was settled upon him. The strained feeling between him and his brother led him to leave his native country and to seek for a sphere of activity in the service of Maharaja Ranbir Sing of Kashmir, who was the husband of his sister. With the keen eye for measuring the capacity of men which Maharaja Ranbir possessed, he saw the merit in his brother-in-law, appointed him Commander-in-Chief, and placed him at the head of the army which he was then about to send towards the north-eastern frontier of his dominion. The expedition proved highly successful; Suchet Sing conquered Ladak, and a large slice of territory was permanently annexed to Kashmir. As a reward for the service, Maharaja Ranbir granted a valuable Jaagu to his brother-in-law together with the title of Raja. While Suchet was in Kashmir, Sri Sing placed the management of his State in the hands of the military officer whose name was Colonel Reid. This was a very injudicious step on the part of Sri Sing and he suffered grievously for it. He was soon made quite a nonentity, and the Colonel usurped all the functions of the Raja, public as well as private. In the year 1870, Raja Sri Sing died, and Colonel Reid, knowing that Suchet was the next heir and in the belief that he would prove a master of the same nature as his deceased brother, at once wrote to him to come back to his native land, and to take charge of the Raj. Suchet Sing arrived at Chamba and in due time performed the funeral obsequies of his brother. If he had then quietly taken possession of the Raj, and overlooked the peccadilloes of Colonel Reid, there would probably not have been any dispute as to his title to it. But even before assuming the reins of power he gave serious cause of offence to the great Colonel by issuing a proclamation direct-

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

Lectures by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 30th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. *Subject*: Pumps (concluded). Instruments depending upon the properties of Air.

Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, the 1st Oct., at 5-30 P.M. *Subjects*: Vermes, Dr. M. L. Sircar, the 2nd Oct., at 7 P.M. Change of State by Heat. G. C. Bose, the 3rd Oct., at 5-30 P.M. Morphology—Flowers. Dr. Nilratan Sarkar, the 3rd Oct., at 6-30 P.M. *Subject*: Histology—Bone, Muscle.

ing the chief officials of the State to obey him alone, and not the manager. This step may to an outsider seem very foolish, and so it was no doubt from the point of view of cool and calculating men of the world. However, the motive which led Suchet to act in the way that he did, was not on the surface of things, and could not be revealed, while the proclamation, on the face of it, was an act of rashness and disloyalty to the ruling caste for which there could not apparently be any excuse. So Colonel Reid reported to Government that the rightful heir to the Raj was one Gopal Sing, an illegitimate son of the deceased Raja Sarat Sing. With such resources as Colonel Reid commanded, he found no difficulty in prevailing upon the Government of the Punjab to adopt his views. The Government was then led to place Gopal Sing on the *gadi* of Chamba, and obtained the sanction of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State to the arrangement, with such despatch as to render the subsequent appeals of Suchet quite futile.

When it became known in Chamba that Gopal Sing was about to be made its Raja, Suchet repaired to Lahore to establish his claims to the Raj. The appointment of a bastard as Raja was extremely unpopular among the people of Chamba, and as Suchet was their idol, he was followed by several thousands of them to Lahore. When Suchet interviewed the authorities there, he was told that they were not prepared to give him any redress so long as his followers remained with him, and that if he wanted his case to be properly heard, he must first of all send them back to their native country. The Chambites were very loth to part with their lawful Raja, and by the time they were prevailed over to go back to their homes, Sir Lepel Griffin and Colonel Reid had completed all their arrangements for excluding Suchet from the *gadi* of Chamba for ever.

When the Government of the Punjab ultimately refused to recognise the just and obviously superior claims of Suchet, he appealed to the Viceroy. Lord Northbrook was personally convinced that Suchet had justice on his side; but as the Secretary of State had given his sanction to the elevation of Gopal Sing, he, in accordance with the advice of some of his Councillors, felt himself bound to treat that order as final. By this time the position of Gopal Sing had, in spite of the support of the authorities, become very uncomfortable. The taint of illegitimacy was so well known that he could not possibly command the respect of his subjects, and he became quite tired of the burthen of an honour to which he was not born, and which he never asked or expected, but which was forced upon him to serve other persons' purposes. So when, in the year 1873, Suchet's Minister asked him to abdicate the Raj in favour of the rightful heir, he readily consented and executed a formal deed to that effect. This step on the part of Gopal Sing threatened to upset the plans of Politicians. But they were quite equal to the occasion. They discovered immediately that Gopal Sing was a lunatic and, after subjecting him to a most humiliating medical examination, obtained a certificate to that effect from an official *Æsculapius*. Gopal Sing was then dethroned and his minor son Sham Sing, a boy of seven years, put in his place.

With the deed of abdication executed in his favour by Gopal Sing, Suchet appealed to the Secretary of State. His case was now so strong, that there was not the shadow of an excuse for rejecting it summarily; yet, strange to say, the Secretary of State felt himself bound by the order of his predecessor, and refused to grant Suchet any redress.

Disappointed in India, Suchet proceeded to England for prosecution of his rightful claim. There were not wanting Englishmen who wanted to see justice done him. For one, Lord Stanley of Alderley had pointed out in the House of Lords that the Duke of Argyll, the then Secretary of State for India, was deceived by a false statement that Gopal Singh was the whole brother of Sri Singh and Suchet Singh the half brother. The misstatement was corrected three months later as a clerical error, after the mischief was done. An attempt was recently made to make him bankrupt in order to bring his affairs before the public, when he was in extreme poverty. Wrong-headed and too simple, playing into the hands of the subordinates of the India Office, who would not like to see old matters raked up, he resisted. He now dies worse than a dog in the streets of London—a victim to wilful misrepresentation and the doctrine of *dictum valet*.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 26, 1896.

THE INDIGENOUS DRUGS OF INDIA.

THE multifarious varieties of plants, distributed according to temperature and altitude, make India in this respect, as it is in many others, an epitome of the world. Commencing from sea-level and rising to a height of twenty thousand feet and over, it has almost all the characteristics of the various climes and climates of the earth. The peninsular and the non-peninsular areas are stocked with genera of plants peculiarly their own, though a few common species can be found among them. From the Nilgiris to the Vindhya chains, bounded by the two Ghats, watered by the monsoon clouds of the two seas, and intersected by many noble rivers, the peninsular area has a marked

peculiarity. The non-peninsular portion, extending from the borders of the Chin Hills on the east to the scientific frontier on the west, covers various tracts of land quite unlike the peninsular area. The high Himalayas continuous with the Chinese mountains and running to the north of Persia, up to Arabia, divide Asia into two vast regions, the northern and the southern. The superb grandeur of its vales and dales, a rich storehouse of medicinal plants, has been the talk of ages, and the admiration of travellers, ancient and modern. The mountains of eternal snow have been traversed for geographical, geological, and other purposes. General Waugh and his associates, Pandit Nayan Sing and his comrades, Babu Sarat Chandra Das and Lama Uggyan Gyatcho have been the modern explorers. The Pandit and those who come after him penetrated as far as Lhasa. Sir Joseph Hooker, in his "Himalayan Travels," describes the distribution of vegetation. The geological survey was made under the directorship of Drs. Medlicott and King. Little has, however, been done in the botanical line. The eastern and western Himalayas, at the same altitude and temperature, differ in the distribution of plants. The Khasia and Manipur hills make a separate group. The Gangetic delta and the Sunderbuns, with south, north, east and west Bengal, form a different series of areas. Behar is an analogous complement of Bengal in its essential features. As we proceed to the North-West Provinces, the vegetation changes gradually till we reach the frontiers of Rajputana and the Punjab where it assumes a wholly new character. From the Punjab to Afghanistan and Persia, there is, again, a fresh variety.

The term "indigenous" is derived from the Latin *indigena*, born in a country. Indigenous drugs properly mean medicinal substances which are the native growth of a country. But this original signification has been much widened in the practical acceptance of the term. Thus indigenous drugs are variously divided. In the first category are included plants which have become wild in one country, though imported from other countries. The second is reserved for transplanted cultivated plants. The third is made to include importations from other countries and sold in the market. To distinguish the aboriginal and the wild plants supposed to be imported into this country, is a very difficult task. To trace their origin is by no means easy, for no cultivation is required for their growth. Attempts have been made by botanists of repute, but their inferences are not always correct. For instance, it is supposed that *Carica Papaya* (Pempe) comes from South America. *Ananassa Sativa*, (Anaras) pineapple, is said to have been transplanted from Brazil to Europe in 1513 by Goncalo Hernandez, and subsequently brought to Bengal in 1594. *Argemone Mexicana* (Sialkanta) runs wild from Bengal to the Punjab. It has been mistakenly identified with *Bramhadandi* (*Lamprachœnum Microcephalum*). *Eupatorium Ayapana* is wrongly said to be *Bisalyakarani*. It is a native of Brazil, South America. *Anona Squamosa* (Ata) custard apple has been introduced from the West Indies. Doubts are entertained of *Nicotiana Tabacum* (Tamak) having been brought to this country from Mexico. *Tagetes erecta* (Gandha) may be a possible importation from that country. It is used as a substitute for calendula by homœopathic practitioners and others. *Calendula officinalis* of Europe is cultivated here but to a little extent. *Jatropha curcas* (Bagbharanda) is American. *Capsicum annum*

and *Frutescens* (Lanka) have been ascribed to the same source. So also *Anacardium Occidentale* (Hijli Badam), the cashew nut, *Aleurites Molluccana* (Akhrot), Indian walnut, came from the Malay Archipelago. *Arum Triphyllum* (Bhetkole) is a native of America, though now common in Bengal. Roses are from Persia and Turkey in Asia. The habitat of *Viola odorata* and *Tricolor* (Banafsha) cultivated in the gardens of Bengal, is Persia. *Pimpinella Anisum* (Mauri), plentiful in northern India, is said to have also come from Persia.

The cultivated plants are also many in number. *Cinchona*, from South America, has been transplanted in the Nilgiri and Himalaya mountains. *Ipecacuanha* can be seen near Ootacamund. *Alpinia Galanga* (Kulinjan) comes from Sumatra and Java and is cultivated in East Bengal and South India. *Balsamodendron Myrrh* (Persian Mur, Hindi Hirabol) is Arabian and found in Western India. *Benincasa Cerifera* (Sada Kumrha, Chal Kumrha) is supposed to be a native of Japan and Java. In Bengal it flourishes on the tops of thatched huts. The European *Exogonium Purga* (Jalap) is grown in the Nilgiri and Himalaya mountains. *Eucalyptus Globulus*, a native of Australia and Tasmania, is cultivated on the mountains. Specimens can also be found in Messrs. S. P. Chatterjee's Nursery, at Narkaldanga, Calcutta. *Glycyrrhiza Glabra* (Jasthimadhu, Hindi Mulhati) Liquorice of South Europe, Asia Minor, Persia, and Afghanistan, is grown near Peshwar. *Jateorhiza Palmata* (Calumba) is found in the Bombay Presidency. *Melia Azedarach*, (Mahanimba, Ghorha-nim), Persian Lilac, is no stranger to Bengal. *Mallotus Philippensis* (Sans. Kampillaka, Beng. Kamalaguri) came from the Philippine Islands. *Mimosa Pudica* (Lajjabati) has its home in Brazil, South America. *Drosera Rotundifolia* of Europe is cultivated in the Nilgiris. Plants which are delicate in their nature can also be grown in India. Almost every year the number of exotics is increasing. Drugs, which are not produced in India but sold in the Indian market, have been improperly included among the indigenous products. They consist of almost all kinds of medicinal plants used by the practitioners of the Kaviraji, Yunani, allopathic, and homœopathic systems. The Mahomedan school gets its supply from Persia, Afghanistan and Arabia; the European schools, mostly from Europe and the Hindu from India chiefly.

An important consideration is the variation of plants distinct from transplantation. It is an admitted fact that there is difference in the same species in different parts of the same country. The difference is greater in transplantation. Charles Darwin writes:

"Changes in conditions of life are of the highest importance in causing variability, both directly by acting on the organisation and indirectly by affecting the reproductive system. It is not probable that variability is an inherent and necessary contingent, under all circumstances. The greater or less force of inheritance and reversion determine whether variations shall endure. Variability is governed by many unknown laws, more especially by that of correlation. Something may be attributed to the definite action of the conditions of life, but how much we do not know. Something must be attributed to use and disuse. The final result is thus rendered infinitely complex. In some cases the intercrossing of aboriginally distinct species, has probably played an important part in the origin of our domestic breeds. When several breeds have once been formed in any country, their occasional intercrossing, with the aid of selection, has, no doubt, largely aided in forming new sub-breeds; but the importance of crossing has been much exaggerated, both in regard to animals and to those plants which are propagated by seed. With plants which are temporarily propagated by cuttings,

buds, &c., the importance of crossing is immense; for the cultivator may here disregard the extreme variability both of hybrids and of mongrels, and the frequent sterility of hybrids; but plants not propagated by seed are of little importance to us for their endurance is only temporary. Over all these causes of Change the accumulative action of Selection, whether applied methodically and quickly, or unconsciously and slowly but more efficiently, is by far the predominant Power."

Alfred Russel Wallace, a colleague of Darwin, says:—

"The variability of plants is notorious, being proved not only by the endless variations which occur whenever a species is largely grown by horticulturists, but also by the great difficulty that is felt by the botanists in determining the limits of species in many large genera."

There are three kinds of variations generally found: 1. Individual variation, 2. Variation of species, 3. Constitutional variation or acclimatisation. Individual variation is the difference between members of the same family.

"Every one knows that in each litter of kittens or of puppies no two are alike. Even in the case in which several are exactly alike in colours, other differences are always perceptible to those who observe them closely. They will differ in size, in the proportions of their bodies and limbs, in the length or texture of their hairy covering, and notably in their disposition. They each possess, too, an individual countenance, almost as varied when closely studied as that of a human being; not only can a shepherd distinguish every sheep in his flock, but we all know that each kitten in the successive families of our old favourite cat has a face of its own, with an expression and individuality distinct from all its brothers and sisters. Now this individual variability exists among all creatures whatever, which we can closely observe, even when the two parents are very much alike and have been matched in order to preserve some special breed. The same thing occurs in the vegetable kingdom. All plants raised from seed differ more or less from each other. In every bed of flowers or of vegetables we shall find, if we look closely, that there are countless small differences in the size, in the mode of growth, in the shape or colour of the leaves, in the form, colour, or markings of the flowers, or in the size, form, colour, or flavour of the fruit. These differences are usually small, but are yet easily seen, and in their extremes are very considerable; and they have this important quality, that they have a tendency to be reproduced, and thus by careful breeding any particular variation or group of variations can be increased to an enormous extent apparently to any extent not incompatible with the life, growth and reproduction of the plant or animal."

Variation of species means the change which takes place in the growth of the plant or the animal from the original or the parent stock, in a way to make it quite different in appearance.

"The experience of breeders and cultivators, however, proves that variation is the rule instead of the exception, and that it occurs, more or less, in almost every direction. This is shown by the fact that different species of plants and animals have required different kinds of modification to adapt them to our use, and we have never failed to meet the variation in that particular direction, so as to enable us to accumulate it and so produce ultimately a large amount of change in the required direction. Our gardens furnish us with numberless examples of this variety of plants. In the cabbage and lettuce we have found variation in the size and mode of growth of the leaf, enabling us to produce by selection the almost innumerable varieties, some with solid heads of foliage quite unlike any plant in a state of nature, others with curiously wrinkled leaves like the savoy, others of a deep purple colour used for picking. From the very same species as the cabbage (*Brassica Oleracea*) have arisen the broccoli and cauliflower, in which the leaves have undergone little alteration, while the branching heads of flowers grow into a compact mass forming one of our most delicate vegetables. The brussels sprouts are another form of the same plant, in which the whole mode of growth has been altered, numerous heads of leaves being produced on the stem. In other varieties the ribs of the leaves are thickened so as to become themselves a culinary vegetable; while in the Kohlrabi, the stem grows into a turn-pike mass just above ground. Now all these extraordinarily distinct plants come from one original species which still grows wild on our coasts; and it must have varied in all these directions, otherwise variations could not have been accumulated to the extent we now see them. The flowers and seeds of all these plants have remained nearly stationary, because no attempt has been made to accumulate the slight variations that no doubt occur in them."

Though the variations are great and extensive, yet a strict examination shows them to be links of the same chain. A. de Candolle, a celebrated botanist, in his

memoir on the variety of the oaks of the whole world, emphatically remarks :

"They are mistaken, who repeat that greater part of our species are clearly limited, and that the doubtful species are in a feeble minority. This seemed to be true, so long as a genus was imperfectly known, and its species were founded upon a few specimens, that is to say, were provisional. Just as we come to know them better, intermediate forms flow in, and doubts as to specific limits augment."

The same author in his "Origin of Cultivated Plants" has tried to find out the habitat of some of the plants by the help of this intermediate connecting link and ancient literature. It is a very difficult task, no doubt, but an extensive study as well as knowledge of botany can remove most of the difficulties. A French botanist, M. Naudin, after a study of years of melon (*Cucumis Melo*) has come to some conclusions. He found that previous botanists had described thirty distinct species while there was only one. The varieties, indeed, differ in fruits, foliage and mode of growth. Some are large, while others are small as plums. One has a scarlet fruit. Another is not more than an inch in diameter but more than a yard in length, twisting about in all directions like a serpent (*chichenda*). Some are like cucumbers; an Algerian variety, when ripe, cracks and falls to pieces like the wild gourd (*C. Momordica*). Such variations have been pointed out by Darwin in his "Domesticated Animals and Cultivated Plants."

Regarding constitutional variation or acclimatisation, we find :

"A very important kind of variation is that constitutional change, termed acclimatisation, which enables any organism to become gradually adapted to a different climate from the parent stock. As closely allied species often inhabit different countries possessing very different climates, we should expect to find cases illustrating this change among our domesticated animals and cultivated plants..... Among animals the cases are not numerous, because no systematic attempt has been made to select varieties for this special quality. It has, however, been observed that, though no European dogs thrive well in India, the Newfoundland dog, originating from a severe climate, can hardly be kept alive. A better case, perhaps, is furnished by merino sheep, which, when imported directly from England, do not thrive, while those which have been bred in the intermediate climate of the Cape of Good Hope do much better. When geese were first introduced into Bogota, they laid few eggs at long intervals, and few of the young survived. By degrees, however, the fecundity improved, and in about twenty years became equal to what it is in Europe.....Plants furnish much more important evidence. Our nurserymen distinguish in their catalogues varieties of fruit trees which are more or less hardy, and this is especially the case in America, where certain varieties only will stand the severe climate of Canada. There is one variety of pear, the Forelle, which both in England and France withstood frosts that killed the flowers and buds of all other kinds of pears. Wheat, which is grown over so large a portion of the world, has become adapted to special climates. Wheat imported from India and sown in good wheat soil in England produced the most meagre ears; while wheat taken from France to the West Indian Islands produced either wholly barren spikes or spikes furnished with two or three miserable seeds, while West Indian seed by its side yielded an enormous harvest. The orange was very tender when first introduced into Italy, and continued so long as it was propagated by grafts, but when trees were raised from seed many of these were found to be hardier, and the orange is now perfectly acclimatised in Italy. Sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*) imported from England to the Calcutta Botanic Gardens produced few blossoms and no seed; those from France flowered a little better, but still produced no seed, but plants raised from seed brought from Darjeeling in the Himalayas, but originally derived from England, flower and seed profusely in Calcutta."

The same may be said of tea in India. Chinese tea would not thrive and Assam leaf only is grown. These facts clearly show the difficulty of sudden adaptation. It, however, becomes possible after an intermediate change. The transplantation is difficult from a cold to a hot climate, and *vice versa*. That from America to India was more encouraging, for equality of climate.

There are other peculiarities. Most closely allied species are found in distinct areas. *Aconitum Ferox* is generally found in the temperate Sub-Himalayan regions, from Sikkim to Gharwal, at an altitude of ten to fourteen thousand feet. *Aconitum Napellus* is also found in the Western Himalayas almost at the same height. *Ferox* can be had at Darjeeling and *Napellus* at Simla. Both varieties are almost similar. *Napellus* contains a large quantity of aconitine, while *Ferox* has pseudo aconitine. The first difference is in appearance. *Napellus* produces a great tingling sensation, and the tongue after a few minutes appears benumbed and there is difficulty in swallowing. *Ferox* does not produce these symptoms. In fever and cholera both are efficacious. The best *Citrus Aurantium* (*Kamla nebu*) are from Sylhet. The Nagpur and Darjeeling ones are not so good. There is an essential difference between the two kinds. The Sylhet oranges are both acid and sweet and, therefore, preferred to the Nagpur and Darjeeling varieties which differ in taste and appearance. *Ficus Elastica*, or the Indian rubber tree, is abundant in Assam, up to the Sikkim hills. *Strychnos Potatorum* (*Nirmali*) abounds in the peninsular area, extending to the Kymore range. The indigo of Bengal and the N.-W. Provinces differs from that of the Bombay Presidency.

The consideration of variation of plants leads to an examination of the change effected in the quality of drugs. Are cinchona trees planted in the Himalayas and the Nilgiris the same in their chemical constituents with the original Peruvian bark? The Government Quinologist, Mr. David Hooper, has found after experiment that the alkaloids of the Indian species are richer. But it is not always that the alkaloids are the same or better in quality in the transplanted plants. *Artemisia* or *santonine* (*Brinjasaf*, wrongly called *sheeh* or *sarifoona*) has different varieties according to their habitation, though many of them are of one kind. *Maritima* and *Persica* are the same as regards their flowers, which are the parts used generally. *Gelsemium Nitidum* (*Jarad Chameli*) shows deterioration with change of place from America to India. It is the case also with *Viola Odorata* and *Tricolor* (*Banafsha*). European *Calendula* yields a better tincture than the plant grown in Bengal. *Tagetes Erecta* is preferred to *Calendula* (*Gandha*) for quicker healing of sores. It is one of the best antiseptics.

By cultivation, again, the qualities of plants are changed. *Ananassa Sativa* (*Anaras*) is evidently a well cultivated species of *Agave Americana*. But there is great deficiency of medicinal properties in pine apple. The wild *Carica Papaya* is dreaded as a cause of rheumatism, while the cultivated has not that deleterious property.

The proper study of drugs should be to ascertain their effects when administered singly, that is, not compounded with any another. In *Makhzan-ul-Adwiya*, the words *mafrad* (single) and *marakkab* (compound) have purposely been mentioned. All the old systems of medicine are very defective in this respect. Homœopathy only can boast of progress not only in this but in all other directions.

We close our remarks with a suggestion. It is time, we should think, for a State organisation to enquire into the properties of indigenous drugs used in the various systems of treatment in vogue in India, namely, quack, Kaviraji, Yunani, Allopathic, and Homœopathic.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

August 31.

Constantinople. Particulars are coming in slowly of the frightful slaughter that has been perpetrated in the streets of Constantinople on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. The Armenians driven to desperation by the lukewarmness of the Great Powers determined to take the matter into their own hands. Hence the attack on the Ottoman Bank. If they had had a great revolutionary leader to guide them, this step might have led to serious consequences. But yielding to the persuasions of Sir Edgar Vincent, they surrendered, and were quietly shipped off to Marseilles.

But is this the beginning of the end? It would seem we are at the threshold of great events. Our ambassador, Sir Phillip Currie, appears to spend more time in England than at his post. It is said he will return to-day. What Great Britain requires to have as its representative at Constantinople, is an ambassador of the type of the great Elchi—the late Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. The Foreign Office diplomatic service is an enigma. It is a singular coincidence—there may be nothing in it—that both our Constantinople and our Zanzibar representatives are “on leave” when these tragedies happen to come off. Again, after long, long waiting, a distinguished member of the diplomatic service, Mr. Greene, is nominated to succeed Sir Jacobus de Wet at Pretoria. Does he leave in a week or ten days? Oh no? Not till the middle of October. How different all this from the heroic spirit of the late Lord Clyde! When, as Sir Colin Campbell, he was named Commander-in-Chief in India in 1857 by Lord Palmerston, the latter sent for him, and asked him when he could start? “To-morrow,” was the reply of the grand old soldier! He was nominated on the 11th July, started on the 12th, and arrived at Calcutta on the 14th August. No coddling and nursing required for him. Duty calls him to Bengal at the worst season of the year and, without a moment's hesitation, the veteran obeys. Would to god the spirit of the fine old soldier could penetrate the diplomatic service!

Crete. A settlement is being arrived at by the Powers, if only the Christian population will accept the terms that have been wrested from the Porte. These are in brief.

1. The sovereignty of the Sultan to be scrupulously respected.
2. The Vali or Governor must be a Christian.
3. The Vali in future will have a right to direct the movements of the Imperial troops during disturbances.
4. He is to have the patronage to all subordinate offices, and he is to nominate Christians to two-thirds of them.

These are the main points. “The reorganization of the judiciary and the gendarmerie is to be undertaken by special commissions on which European juriconsults and military officers will respectively serve.”

The whole new organisation will be guaranteed by the Powers. The Christians have three days in which to express approval or otherwise of these reforms, and strong appeals are being made from all quarters that these terms should be accepted, and so peace be restored to the Island. The “Times” writes: “a prompt and loyal acceptance of the concessions procured for them by the ambassadors can alone secure the continued good will of Europe to their cause, and without that good will their cause is hopeless. Nothing could excuse or palliate the criminal folly of refusal or delay.”

Zanzibar appears to be settling down under the new Sultan. There is apparently no desire on the part of our Government to interfere with the usurper Khalid so long as the Germans hold him in safe custody.

France. A curious state of things has arisen at Bordeaux, in connection with the subsidiary copper coin. It would appear that for some time past ingenious speculators have been importing vast quantities of South American copper pennies, for which they pay the mere value of the metal. When brought into France they have been enabled to put them into circulation at their nominal value, thereby securing a profit of from 60 to 70 per cent. on the transaction. This traffic has been going on for long and as a consequence the South and South West of France are inundated with these South American copper, that are practically without any value in France. But, passing as mere “tokens” they have entered largely into the transactions, of “working men, employés, and small shopkeepers.” Suddenly the railways and tramcars, with the tobacco shops, have refused to accept these coins, and the consequence is that the labouring classes find a portion of their wages or humble savings so much useless metal. Serious rioting has been the result, and the Government will no doubt have to interfere. At one time, the ten centimes piece passed current here in London, as equal to our penny, and was freely taken by the trams and “buses.” But a stop was put to this, and now paterfamilias returning from Paris gives his odd French coppers to his children who get rid of them in the automatic sweet boxes at the railway stations.

Spain is in trouble with her Manilla possessions. Apparently, the rebel party in Cuba has active auxiliaries in many important

centres in Spain itself, and the current opinion is that the outbreak at Manilla is part of a well contrived plot to draw the attention of loyal Spaniards away from Cuba. A few weeks now will serve to let the world see whether Spain is able to grapple successfully with her bitter enemies in Cuba, as well as in Manilla. Turning to *India*, the public here has been alarmed by the reported breach of the Durand Treaty on the part of the Ameer, and fuller details are anxiously awaited. Then, on Wednesday, we heard of a “murderous attack” by some Hindus, at Bombay, on a Professor of the “Wilson” College, but as there were no further tidings yesterday, I am hopeful the first report was exaggerated.

Prince Ranjitsingji has covered himself with glory in the cricket field, and holds the proud position of being at the head of the “batting averages.” The “Times,” in a leader on the season just closed, writes: “We find that the year has been distinguished by the rise of a new star, nay, of a new sun, in the person of the Indian Prince, who in England has identified himself with Cambridge and with Sussex. His beautiful batting as perfect in style as it has been wonderful in its success, recalls the feats of Dr. Grace at the most glorious period of his career. Up to the end of August, he had scored no fewer than 2,732 runs, with the splendid average of 59 per innings.”

Aberdeen University. An amusing comedy to all but poor Professor Johnston has just closed its first stage at this ancient seat of Scottish learning. The Professor, it would appear, belongs to the fast receding school termed “orthodox.” He challenges what is called, somewhat pompously, the “higher criticism” and adheres faithfully to the ordination vows to which he pledged himself when he signed the “confession of faith.” The Divinity students of the University of Aberdeen think it the correct thing to follow the teaching of the advanced schools in the Established and Free Churches. In Scottish Divinity Halls—I hope no where else—the students are allowed to sit in judgment on their Professors. As a rule, they, the students, are a rough and ready set of youngsters who require to be kept in order with a firm hand. Professor Johnston, unfortunately for him, had to deal with a singularly rough lot, specially noteworthy for their unruly behaviour and their insolent treatment of the Professor. They petitioned the last General Assembly to sit in judgment on the Professor. The Assembly relegated the duty to the University Court, which, after hearing evidence, has found against the Professor, and recommended his being retired on a suitable pension. But Professor Johnston holds his appointment from the Crown and so he is going to appeal to the Privy Council. The church papers dislike exceedingly the idea of this appeal. To have all the miserable story repeated before a body of impartial judges such as those gifted lawyers who compose the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, is thoroughly distasteful to the clerics.

Personally, I shall be glad if the Professor does appeal, so that he may have justice done to him. It is possible, he is not an effective teacher. But what I complain of is the submitting the teaching of any Professor to the arbitrament of the ill-informed judgment of a few immature and uncouth rustics who, as a rule, form the Divinity class of a Scotch University.

The Free Church of Scotland is in no way better than the Established Church, only its leaders go about the wretched business in a way to disarm popular indignation. It is not so very long ago the venerable Principal of the Glasgow Free Church College was treated by his students, just as Professor Johnston has been at Aberdeen. The Principal adhered to the old faiths. He is surrounded by a staff of Professors, who arrogate to themselves the “higher criticism,” and so the Principal was deprived of his Professorship, though for reasons of ecclesiastical jealousies he was retained as Principal. Again, in Edinburgh, Professor Thomas Smith, formerly of the General Assembly's and Free Church Institutions in Calcutta, was shelved, because of his adherence to the old theology. But the whole thing was done so quietly that few were aware of how the College Committee, at the rude dictation of their students, had treated these two clergymen, themselves so entitled to all honour and respect. Professor Johnston however can appeal to the Crown, and to the Crown I hope he will go. As I have said, whatever be the issue, one will be certain that justice has been meted out, and commend me to the fairplay and impartiality of skilled lawyers rather than to the judgment of rancorous, persecuting ecclesiastical judges.

BOOKS.

Memorials of Lord Selborne. So far as the general reader is concerned, this is in some respects a disappointing book. There is so much matter of a purely personal and family character, that it can only be of interest to the immediate circle of his blood relatives. When he comes to describe his school life at Winchester, his years as an undergraduate and graduate of Oxford, his residence as a

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law student at Lincoln's Inn, his call to the Bar, his first briefs, and his election to Parliament as member for Plymouth, the interest rises. The general reader can only wish there had been more of these pages, and less space devoted to his ancestors, his father, his brother William, his uncles, aunts and so on. The father was in no way remarkable save as an exemplary clergyman of the Church of England, well calculated to gain the warmest affections of his family. The space devoted to his brother William is out of all proportion to any interest the present generation can take in the story of this somewhat cranky don of the Church of England, who finally found rest for his weary soul in the bosom of the Church of Rome.

The passing of the work through the press has been a labour of love to his devoted daughter, Lady Sophia Palmer, and she promises us a second volume which should be of consummate interest if her father was able to fulfil his wish. In October 1888, he expressed his intention of preparing a second volume of memorials "which may bring down my personal narrative, and my recollection of the persons with whom, and the events with which I have been associated, to the time, at which my public life must close."

Roundell Palmer, first Earl of Selborne, was born on the 27th November, 1812, at his father's Rectory, Mixbury. He passed through Rugby and Winchester, before proceeding to Oxford. His principal chums at Winchester were William George Ward (who afterwards took a prominent part with Cardinal Newman in the Tractarian controversy), Robert Lowe (afterwards Lord Sherbrooke) and Edward Cardwell (afterwards Lord Cardwell). With these three he commenced his career at Oxford, where he became acquainted with two very distinguished men, intimate friends of his elder brother William, Charles Wordsworth and T. L. Clough-ton. The latter became Bishop of St. Albans. The former had the distinction of preparing William Ewart Gladstone for his "double first," and in after years became Headmaster of Glenalmond College, Perthshire, and eventually Bishop of St. Andrews. He was very proud of a letter he was fond of showing, written by Mr. Gladstone just after he had passed his examination with so much brilliancy, in which he acknowledged fully that his success was entirely due to Wordsworth. It was at Gladstone's instigation he left England to preside over Glenalmond, but he felt sorely the neglect with which his illustrious pupil treated him because of conscientious differences on the question of the Irish Church.

Passing from these more intimate friends, we get a few interesting glimpses of Mr. Gladstone, who was apparently Palmer's senior at the University by two or three years. When Palmer joined the "Union Debating Society," Gladstone was President. "He was a student of Christ Church, prince of the Etonians of his time, and at the head of the literary society of his house." Other speakers who met at the "Union," were Sidney Herbert (Lord Herbert of Lea), Lord Lincoln (Duke of Newcastle), James Bruce (Earl of Elgin, father of your present Viceroy), Cardinal Manning, Fred. Rogers (Lord Blachford). Gladstone was then a high Tory, and carried a resolution condemning Lord Grey's Reform Bill, in May 1831. Palmer says Gladstone's speech on the occasion "might perhaps have been repeated without change of a word by those who dissented from his own Irish measure of 1886." So changed had this rarely gifted man's opinions become in the course of half a century!

In May 1845, "Gladstone resigned his seat in Sir Robert Peel's cabinet not to oppose, but to support the Government measure for the endowment of Maynooth College. On that occasion—wrote me: 'I am curious to hear from you some explanation about the part Gladstone is taking. If ever I try to learn anything of his intentions, or the present phases of his principles, by reading his speeches, I am always left more in the dark than ever. He certainly understands how to shroud himself in obscurity and thick darkness.'" What was true of the G. O. M. in 1845, is equally true in 1896!

It will interest your friends at the Calcutta Bar to know that Palmer was offered the post of Advocate General of Bengal in 1845, but he declined it after consulting Sir James Knight Bruce and Sir John Coleridge. It was then accepted by Sir James Colville.

Preparing for his degree after his third year, he joined a "vacation reading party" consisting of five or six men, one of whom was the late Archbishop Tait. They stayed at Seaton, in Devonshire, where there was a resident Dissenting Minister who, in hopes of one day becoming Poet Laureate, composed a poem entitled "Seaton Beach," in which a description was given of the reading party.

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He made one of them a Bishop, and another a Judge in the following lines:

He whom near yonder cliff we see recline
A mitred prelate may hereafter shine;
That youth, who seems exploring nature's laws,
An ermined Judge may win deserved applause.

When Palmer was made Lord Chancellor in 1872, Tait, already Archbishop, reminded him of the verses.

I must reserve my notice of some other books to next week. Meanwhile, your native friends at the Bar may like to have these jottings of an eminent Chancellor.

MONGHYR.

Jamalpur, September 20.

I am sorry to say that Baboo Soorja Coomar Sen, senior Deputy Magistrate of Monghyr, who was suffering from carbuncle, breathed his last on Tuesday, the 15th instant, leaving a widow and a number of infants. He was known to be a convicting officer but otherwise mild in his dealings with the public.

We had a heavy downpour lasting for 3 days and nights bringing down several mud-walled houses. This rain has much benefited the crops, especially the local *abutta*.

The prospects of the crops are very bad and much alarm is felt. The prices of the food grains have considerably gone up and show a tendency to further rise. The best quality of rice (the staple food) sells at 8 seers a rupee. The climate may be said to be pretty fair.

ONLY A LITTLE AT A TIME.

THERE are sound objections to one's knowing too much about his own body. I am going to tell you what they are; not to-day, but soon. To make sure of them you will have to watch these articles sharply in the newspapers. Yet we should know a little; and a fraction of that little I will serve up now. Please favour me with your attention.

Right across the middle of the body is a large, thin, flat muscle, stretched like a canvas awning—the diaphragm. By it you are divided into two large storeys or compartments. The upper one contains the heart and lungs, the lower one contains (chiefly) the stomach, the intestines, and the liver. The most painful (internal) diseases occur downstairs, the least painful upstairs.

The entire right side of the lower compartment, from the top down to the short ribs, is filled by the liver which is suspended to a mere point of the diaphragm and shakes about with every movement you make.

Now, from the location of the liver we have a word used for ages to express one of the most unhappy conditions a human being can fall into—the word *hypochondria* (often abbreviated to "*hpo*"), the word meaning *under the cartilages*.

"For seven years," writes a correspondent, "I suffered from complaint of the liver. I was very bilious, my skin was sallow and dry, and the whites of my eyes yellow. I had much pain and weight at my right side, and was constantly depressed and melancholy. It seemed to be out of my power to take a hopeful or cheerful view of anything. The effect of this complaint on the mind was one of the aspects of it hardest to bear."

"I had lost my natural appetite, and ate to support life; but there was no more any genuine relish for food or drink. The bad taste in my mouth made all that I took taste bad. Sometimes I would be taken sick and throw up all I had eaten; and after a meal, no matter how slender and simple, I was troubled with fullness and pain at the chest. I used many kinds of medicines and while some of them may have relieved me for the moment, none conferred any lasting benefit, and I was soon as bad as ever."

"In March, 1892, I read in a small book of what Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup had done in cases similar to mine, and was especially interested in the account given in the book of the nature and duties of the liver, and its disorders. I got a bottle of the Syrup from Boots' Drug Stores, and after taking it a few days felt quite like a new man. It seemed to correct my stomach and liver and clear my system of all bile; and it left me in capital health. Since that time I have kept Mother Seigel's Syrup in the house as a family medicine and have commended it to all my friends as the best known cure for ailments like the one from which I suffered so miserably and so long. You can use this statement as you like. (Signed) John Gent, 59, Coventry Road, Bulwell, Nottingham, March 21st, 1895."

"In the spring of 1891," writes another, "I found myself in bad health. I had no appetite, and the little I did eat did me no good, gave me no strength. I had great pain and weight at the chest and right side, and my skin turned sallow and dry. My kidneys also acted badly, and from time to time I had attacks of gravel; and cold, clammy, weakening sweats broke out all over me. Being only seventeen years old when the trouble began I was greatly alarmed and anxious. No doctor was able to help me, and I continued thus for over three years. In June, 1894, I began to use Mother Seigel's Syrup and soon felt better, lighter, and more cheerful. And by taking it a few weeks longer I recovered my health and strength. Since then, when I have any stomach, liver, or kidney symptoms I resort to Mother Seigel's Syrup and it never fails to set me right. You can publish this letter. (Signed) C. Hanson, 6, New Inn Lane, Gloucester, May 31st, 1895."

The stomach, the liver, and the kidneys are all connected parts of the food and digestive system. When disordered (usually through torpidity of the stomach) they cripple the body and throw a gloom as of night over the mind. On the earliest signs of anything wrong with them use Mother Seigel's Syrup at once.

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Memorial

TO THE LATE

SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scobie, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

Subscriptions will be received by Lieutenant-General McLeod Innes, 9, Lexham Gardens, Cromwell Road, London, W.

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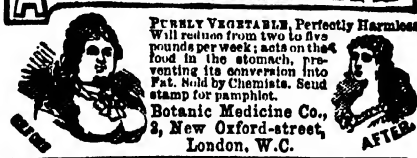
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late Editor of "Reis and Rayyet."

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to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.
to Wood-Mison, the late Professor J.

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OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record on the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindu Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are marvels of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unimpaired by ostentation and earnestness unspoiled by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unfailing instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 745.

PINDAR'S HYMN TO PERSEPHONE.

"Persephone appeared to him in a dream, and complained that she alone of all the gods had had no hymn made by him in her honour ; but added that he should yet praise her in the land of the dead. Ten days after this the poet died at Argos. Immediately after, his spectre appeared to an aged dame at Thebes, and recited a new hymn to Persephone ; some portion of which she was able to commit to writing." —See 'Life of Pindar' in "Ancient Classics for English Readers."

I.

It was the day that tuneful Pindar sent
To banquet with Apollo ; * I, who knew
Him far from Thebes, sat pondering the intent
Of that strange vision, which, revealed to few,
He trusted to my long-tried faithful breast
Ere unto Argos he his steps addressed.

2.

For ten days gone ('twas thus he told the tale)
There stood revealed his midnight couch beside
A form majestic, lifting her black veil :
At once he knew her for King Hades' bride,
Awful, yea terrible, yet fair to see,
With eyes that lit the gloom, Persephone.

3.

Upon the moonlight splendour of those eyes
His own, he said, fixed unaverted gaze,
The while he heard these words : "Thy melodies
Resound, O Pindarus ! each high god's praise ;
Each goddess' might and beauty make they known
Save one ;—they leave unhymned my praise alone.

4.

Why, Phœbus' nursling ! why, thus wrong my fame ?
Why weave no garland of fair song for me ?
Is this well done to slight my holy name ?
But yet thou, too, shalt praise Persephone,
Not here, near waters bright by Dircæ fed,—
By darker waves, in kingdom of the dead."

5.

I mused on this : night came, and with it stood
Pindar by me, changed since I saw him last ;
All signs of age were gone, his altered mood
Showed solemn joy, as one who had o'erpassed
The boundaries of our life, and all things seen
As gods behold them in their light serene.

6.

He held the lyre no more ; but full, rich song
Flowed from his lips like stream that swells in might ;

* "Pindar to supper with the god," was proclaimed by the sacristan at Delphi, each night, before he closed the temple door.

He praised Persephone, the fair, the strong,
The gentle,—then he vanished from my sight.
With me some fragments of that song remain,—
Take them, poor echoes of a lofty strain !

THE HYMN.

1st Strophe.

Hail ! thou whose crown,
Not made of gold, gleams bright when gold is dimmed,
Not twined of roses, blooms when roses die,
Persephone ! by me till now unhymned ;
Till now,—but now mine eye
Hath seen thee, and I praise thee. Thou far down
Wast carried, under Enna's plain,
In wider realms to rise again,
And share his throne whose awful frown
Shakes all that live with dread,
Whose smile sheds sunlight on the righteous dead.

1st Antistrophe.

Spouse of a king
Who rules his subjects with such gentle sway
That none from out of all that myriad band
Has ever sought his laws to disobey,
Or to escape his hand, *
Thou canst not mourn for thy long-vanished spring,
Or pant to share the hollow mirth,
Or see the fitful lights of earth,
Now that a steadier radiance fling
Round thee, with splendour pure,
The rays no night can quench nor mist obscure.

2d Strophe.

Hail ! awful queen !
Thou, who the earthen vessel shatterest,
Giving to sight
The gem within, till now unseen !
Thou, who dost wave thy wand and scatterest
The phantom host,
That eager troop around
The seekers after light !
Thou bringer-forth to view of treasures lost ;
By whose pure hands the coils that Life has bound
In tangled maze, are straight unwound !

* See Socrates in Plato's Dialogues.

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Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

2d Antistrophe.

Hail ! gracious one !
 Who liftest up from earth, safe carrying,
 Mighty and kind,
 The traveller whose long march is done ;
 Who longed for thy white feet, far tarrying
 On distant hill,
 As heavier grew his load
 As fiercer blew the wind :
 Once on thy bosom, he forgets all ill ;
 Borne in thine arms, o'er ocean's trackless road,
 To island, of the blessed abode.

3d Strophe.

Hail ! Lady of fair flowers,
 More lasting than on earth that grow ;
 For these with morning blow,
 Ope wide at noon, and droop at even-tide :
 But those that deck thy bowers
 Bloom on, a fadeless glory and a pride.
 No worm is at their root,
 And, when they turn to fruit,
 It keeps the promise of its birth.
 Nay more, within thy garner safe abide
 The sheaves we toiled to raise, but might not bind on earth.

3d Antistrophe.

Hail ! thou who dost unite
 The severed once by change, or death !
 Where turf, thy trees beneath,
 Spreads green and smooth in many an open glade,
 Friend after friend to sight
 Steps forth, and greets us from the holy shade.
 No whisper breathe they sad,—
 Their brows are clear and glad.
 There Orpheus meets Eurydice,
 Antigone her brethren ; nor afraid
 Is now the Theban king to bless his children three.

4th Strophe.

Hail ! Cleanser, hail !
 Whose holy touch removes the stain,
 The blot from sire to children cleaving,
 Which men have washed, and washed, in vain.
 " To-morrow 'twill be gone," Hope cries, deceiving ;
 Yet prayer and effort fail.
 But thou hast lustral waters, far
 More cleansing than in temples are ;
 Their dew makes pure at once ; and, clean again,
 Within thy halls we stand, for gladness scarce believing.

4th Antistrophe.

Hail ! Giver great
 To man of his desire, long sought,
 But unaccomplished ! Thou, his wish fulfilling,
 Dost give him what he grasped by thought
 Awhile, but vainly : disappointment chilling
 Still followed soon or late.
 Earth's gifts to shadows turns thy hand :
 Earth's dreams it bids substantial stand
 Around us, into life from shadows brought ;—
 Our heart's deep thirst with love, our mind's with wisdom stilling.

Epode.

Hail ! dealer of true praise !
 With thee the tinsel fades, the diamond glows
 Hail ! Mighty Teacher, hail ! Thou dost disclose
 The secret hid from man for many days ;
 Thy Hand unseals his eyelids, and he knows
 The God he sought in vain on earth by winding ways.

E. J. H.

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.

WEEKLYANA.

DURING his autumn tour, commencing on November 2, the Viceroy will travel by broad gauge railway from Kalka to Delhi, by narrow gauge from Delhi to Ahmedabad, by broad gauge again to Rutlam, then by narrow to Ujjain, broad gauge once more from Ujjain to Calcutta, where he will arrive at 9-15, A.M., Calcutta time, on Thursday, the 10th December.

The Levée has been announced for Thursday, the 17th December, at 9-30 P.M., and the Drawing Room for Saturday, the 19th December, at the same cold hour of winter night. Will any arrangement be made to protect gentlemen of the public entrée from exposure on the grand staircase to chill midnight air? The latest day for sending in cards for the Levée is Saturday, the 5th December. The notification says that "gentlemen who propose to present others must send in *in writing* for approval the names of such gentlemen to the Aid-de-Camp in Waiting, not later than Saturday, the 5th December, when, if they are approved, presentation cards will be forwarded." This is as it ought to be. Persons have been seen to pass through Government House, who, though proposed to be presented, had not been accepted. We hope special care will be taken to examine new presentations, if it is too late to clear the existing list of objectionable names. It has been ruled recently that "gentlemen who present others must themselves attend the Levée." This rule is not always observed and no attempt seems to have been made to enforce it. We will again observe that, after a Levée, an official list ought to be published for general information. The newspaper publication, though demi-official, is not accurate and cannot be authoritative.

THE *Gazette of India*, of September 26, publishes Draft Cantonment Rules, 1897, in supersession of rules and regulations made under Act XXII of 1864 (an Act to make provision for the administration of military cantonments), Madras Act IV of 1865 (an Act to make provision for the administration of military cantonments in the Presidency of Fort St. George), Madras Act I. of 1866 (an Act to repeal Madras Act No. IV of 1865, and to make provision for the administration of military cantonments in the Presidency of Fort St. George), and the Bombay Cantonment Act of 1867 ; all rules made under the Cantonments Act, 1880 ; and the Notifications of the Government of India in the Military Department No. 460, dated the 3rd May, 1895, and No. 597, dated the 22nd May, 1896. They are necessarily stringent. But we are glad to find a provision against groundless prosecution. "In any case in which a Magistrate is satisfied that the Cantonment Authority had no reasonable ground for instituting a prosecution under these Rules, he may direct the Cantonment Authority to pay to the accused such compensation, not exceeding fifty rupees, as he may think fit, and the sum so awarded shall be recoverable as if it were a fine." There is also a direction about payment of compensation. "The Cantonment Authority, in any case not otherwise provided for, may make compensation out of the Cantonment Fund to any person sustaining any damage by reason of the exercise of any of the powers vested in the Cantonment Authority, its officers and servants, by these Rules, and shall make such compensation if the person sustaining the damage was not himself in default in the matter in respect of which the power was exercised."

JOSEPH PARKER, Esquire, late Director-General of Stores, India Office, London, has been made a Companion of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.

ROBERT BRITTON, 39 years of age, a belt maker, Glasgow, was sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment for having neglected his seven children, of the ages of from 2½ years to 12 years, by failing to provide them with food and clothing and proper accommodation. The officer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children reported that the children were naked, the only food in the house was plain bread, and for eleven members forming the family there were only two beds with a single cover. In June 1893, Britton was sentenced to 30 days' imprisonment for similar neglect.

Unless it were an offence to have children when one has not the means of feeding and clothing them, Britton suffers for marrying and multiplying. His imprisonment means additional neglect of the children. A more humane course for the Society would have been to

find provision for them, than send their father and bread-winner to jail.

IN 1893, Germany headed the list of beer-producing countries, with 1,202,132,074 gallons. Great Britain was second with 1,164,752,952 gallons of malt liquor. Next came America with 1,084,433,460 gallons, followed by Austria with 385,256,168 gallons; Belgium with 209,856,174; France with 196,630,500 gallons; Russia with 93,639,892 gallons. Denmark brewed 45,000,000 gallons; Holland 33,000,000; Sweden 28 and a third million; Switzerland 26 and a sixth million gallons. Other countries for which statistics are available produced less than 20,000,000 gallons each. The total output of malt liquors in Europe and America was 4,500,000,000 gallons, produced from 7,270,000 tons of malt and 82,000 tons of hops.

•••

THE "Scientific American" of June 5, 1847, wrote:—

"A Belgian savant says he has just discovered that electric light directed on the human body makes it so diaphanous as to enable the arteries, veins and nerves to be seen at work, and their action to be studied."

It is not said what was the peculiar kind of apparatus used, for Crooke's tubes had not then been discovered.

DURING experiments to discover a means of preventing loss of life among miners, from underground explosions, Dr. John Haldane, lecturer on physiology, Oxford University, actually inhaled carbon monoxide for seventy-one minutes, with the result that vital energy was nearly extinguished. Life would have been extinct had not oxygen been specially administered.

Such devotion to science deserves more than ordinary recognition.

FOR extra labour in reporting the official debates, in addition to the ordinary daily reports for the paper, the parliamentary staff of the *Times* have been presented with a bonus of £50 each.

•••

THE *Effective Advertiser*, the journal of Printers, Stationers and kindred Traders, reports that the electric arc lamps at the offices of the *Manchester Guardian* being "found to be very injurious to the eyes," "by an ingenious arrangement the whole of the light is projected on to the ceiling from whence it is diffused, the result being a beautiful daylight effect which is at once pleasant to the eyes and altogether satisfactory."

•••

THE Madras papers record the death, in Black Town, of a Eurasian, named L. D'alvez, carrying on the business, on the Broadway, of Jewellers and Watchmakers, at the age of 93 years.

•••

THE editors, both Mahomedans, of two vernacular papers published in Triplicane, Madras, went to court charging each other with defamation. They, however, made up their differences out of court. The magistrate has recorded the following order:—

"The case coming on for hearing this day, both parties expressed their regret that they have hastily said things about each other in their respective papers, which they are sorry for, and they aver the matter complained of by each was written without malice in the heat of controversy. Having thus expressed their regret to each other in Court, they pray their cases may be withdrawn. The Court is of opinion the parties have acted sensibly and amicably in making such request, and permits the case to be withdrawn."

NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

—•—•—•—

THE number of Armenians killed at Eguin by the Kurds on the 15th and 16th September is given at upwards of one thousand. It is also reported that one hundred Armenians have been killed at Divrig in the same district. The Russian fleet is cruising off the mouth of the Bosphorus. Considerable uneasiness continues to be felt at Constantinople, and many Musalmans are sending away their families. The Sultan has sent an autograph letter to the Emperor William. The French papers state that Monsieur Cambon, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, in an interview with the Sultan warned His

Majesty of the armed intervention of Europe if the recent troubles were renewed. This would mean that if it did not end the Ottoman Empire at least it would put an end to the present dynasty. Monsieur Cambon added that the European entente is perfect.

THE Foreign press generally disapprove Mr. Gladstone's Liverpool speech, and regard his proposals as impracticable.

THE Sultan, in reply to an address from the Armenians, has granted them permission to elect a new patriarch.

SIRDAR Sir Herbert Kitchener has been promoted to the rank of Major-General. The North Stafford Regiment is returning to Koshah en route to Cairo. A complete panic has seized the Dervishes, and they are utterly disorganised and retreating on Omduman. The Second Brigade under Major Macdonald has started southwards to garrison Eldebbah, Merawi and Khandak. No advance on the part of the Nile Expedition beyond Dongola is contemplated this year, the state of the Egyptian finances rendering it impossible. British and Egyptian officers will administer the whole province of Dongola, and organise a police force. An Egyptian brigade will remain at Korti and Debbeh, which will be permanently garrisoned, and armed steamers will patrol the river. Colonel Rundle will probably be appointed Commandant at Dongola. No British troops will remain at the front with the exception of machine gunners and engineers. A railway will be completed to Kubar, whence stern wheel steamers will ply to the open water.

THE Japanese papers deny the statement of the *Times* that Russia and Japan have agreed to a joint protectorate over Corea.

LI HUNG CHANG arrived at Yokohama, where he had no reception. He has proceeded to Tientsin.

THE *Times'* Cairo correspondent states that it is reported that the Khedive, during his recent tour in Europe, saw M. Hanotaux in Paris, and conferred with him relative to a scheme for Egyptian Autonomy, which had been drafted by the Native officials. The *Times* discredits the report, but says that if it is true, the Khedive would enter on a course fraught with humiliation, and not improbably loss and danger to himself.

The statement that the Khedive had stayed a short time in Paris is true, but there is no truth in the statement that he saw M. Hanotaux or any other French Minister. His Highness left Paris as soon as his presence there became known.

THE *St. Petersburg Rourse Gazette* and the *Novosti* favour a political understanding between Great Britain and Russia.

A BANQUET was given at Cambridge to Ranjitsinghji to celebrate his achieving the highest recorded average at cricket. The guests, who numbered 280, included the leading University cricketers. A letter was read from Mr. Bannaghi expressing regret at being unable to attend, and adding that the banquet would prove that the people of India had English friends, who were ready to recognise the worth of a British subject regardless of colour and creed. Sir John Gorst remarked that Ranjitsinghji had done much to promote good feeling between the two peoples. Prince Ranjitsinghji referred to the value of the cordial relations between England and India which, he trusted, would always present a united front to a common enemy.

Punch has drawn Ranjitsinghji with upraised bat, and "An ode to the Black Prince—a Western dithyrambic in Eastern style" ends as follows:—

"When we want someone brilliant and steady, hawk-eyed, lion-hearted and cool,

A blend of Maclaren and Grace with the 'stick' of the Shrewsbury school;

The sparkle of Stoddart or Wynyard, the patience of Surrey's brave Bob,

May Ranjit, the Black Prince of cricket, be with us, and 'well on the job!'"

ADVICES from Tamatave report that the Tahavalos rebels have surrounded Antananarivo.

ANOTHER gold quartz vein, three hundred yards long, and thirty-three feet wide, depth unknown, has been discovered at Cape Bojie in Newfoundland. The whole region is intersected with reefs.

LATEST advices from Mishonaland state that Alderson's column have completely routed the rebels in the Mizoe district, and quelled the rising there.

FRANCE and Italy have concluded a settlement of their differences regarding Tunis. This removes a grave cause of discord between the two countries.

A FEARFUL hurricane has taken place on the Atlantic coast of America, especially in Georgia and Florida. A hundred people were killed and immense damage done.

THE autumn political campaign has opened with speeches from Mr. Asquith and Mr. Bryce, both urging the deposition of the Sultan. They believe that the beneficial action of Great Britain is possible without imperilling the European peace. The *Daily Mail* says that the Powers are agreed on a pacific settlement of the Eastern Question.

A DAY of humiliation and prayer has been proclaimed at the Cape in view of the ravages of rinderpest in the Colony.

THREE cargoes of Californian wheat were yesterday sold for shipment to India, an event hitherto unknown.

A MALIGNANT fever has broken out among the Merve Turkomans, and 10,000, mostly children, have perished.

THE Royal Commission on the Administration of the Expenditure of India has adjourned and is expected to reassemble in January next. Before adjourning, it resolved, "That without prejudice to the reception of pertinent evidence of Native or other independent witnesses, the Commission is willing to accept the suggestion of the Indian Government that the Bombay (Presidency) Association should be asked to nominate a witness." The Bombay Association, as that of the first city in India, is shewing commendable activity in the present business. Other cities and Associations seem occupied with more immediate politics of their own.

SIR Antony MacDonnell has not been deaf to the complaints of Lala Hurjimal, banker and contractor of Peshawar, regarding the management of railway authorities at Hurdwar. The N.-W. P. Government has communicated with the manager, Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, and the Lala's representation is under consideration.

WE make the following extract from a private letter dated Allahabad, the 29th September:

"There has been no rain here for the last month and a half and the heat is so excessive that it is difficult to get out after 9 A.M. The prices of grain are rising continually. Wheat is selling at about 8 seers per rupee and rice at Rs. 6 per maund. Imagine what must be the state of the poor, hundreds of whom are coming every now and then into the town from adjacent villages. The inrush of half-famished villagers into the town is creating an alarm in the minds of the well-to-do, specially the grain-dealers, who are apprehensive of being looted. In every crowd, however small, they see rioters.

Two or three days ago, a rumour reached this town that the grain market of Cawnpore had been looted. This created a great sensation and many feared a similar occurrence here. The rumour originated in a *hulwa* shop which was actually looted and not the grain market. If all these did not mean famine, I do not know what that is. Happily, there is no sickness in these parts.

The Lieutenant-Governor has not yet come down from Naini-Tal, but is he expected soon. His recent principal act has been the

prosecution of two sub-judges. I understand a number of subordinate officers in some of the district courts will be prosecuted for corruption."

GRAIN riots are reported from the Central Provinces. At Nagpur, grain valued at half a lakh was looted. The military had to be called out to suppress the rioters, two of whom were killed and fifty wounded.

PROFESSOR A. Vambéry writes to the author of "Hindu Castes and Sects" under date Budapest University, September 8:—

"I pray accept my best thanks for your most valuable book on Hindu Castes and Sects which you were so kind to send me. I must confess that my knowledge in this matter was very limited and defective and the cursory reading of your work has given me already a large amount of information which I could not collect anywhere else.

From your definition of Religion, I see that you have got liberal views rarely to be met with in Asia and in Europe, and I congratulate you upon it. I fully share your views, and I am only sorry that there are but very few scholars who have the courage of their opinion.

With best thanks and my respectful compliments."

THE City Theatre, under the guidance of Bahoo Naba Coombar Raha, late of the Royal Bengal, hopes to make a better record. Recently, the management did a good act, for which it deserves the sympathy of the generous. It gave a benefit night to a struggling Pandit, who, encouraged from high quarters and promised regular support by a Maharaja, opened a *tal* at Bhownipore and went into expense, to find himself thrown overboard by the Raja. The Pandit, true to his word, has named the school after the Raja, but the Raja, having obtained another lift in the new peerage, considers himself freed from his obligation. We are reminded of a clever dedication in a Bengali book. It was understood that the author would dedicate his book to a Bengali minister of a Native State, who would pay the costs of printing. The book was ready but the costs were not forthcoming. Notwithstanding, the writer himself paid the expenses and also dedicated the book to the minister reminding him of his broken promise. It seems the word of the great need not be kept. That breach, instead of proving a drag, helps their greatness.

THE defamation charges in the Police Court against the *Dainik* have been withdrawn. The defendants having expressed regret in due form, the apology has been accepted. It is in these words:

"We beg to express our sincere regret for the utterly false, malicious and outrageous libel, we were led to publish in our issue of the *Dainik* of the 13th *Shrabun* last regarding the complainants and their wives. We have already published an apology in our issue of the 15th *Bhadra* last, and we regret that we were wholly ignorant of the nature of the libel contained in the poem until our attention was called to it after publication. There is no doubt that it is the work of some cowardly and malicious person seeking to injure the complainants and their wives. We are sorry that we are unable to produce the manuscript of the libellous poem, not having preserved it. We have asked for forgiveness from the complainants and their wives, and we are thankful to them for having accepted our apology."

ON the 25th September, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce addressed the following letter to the Bengal Government:—

"The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to refer you to paragraph 3 of my letter No. 851-95, dated 10th July 1895, a copy of which is enclosed for easy reference, and to say that they have noticed with extreme concern the announcement in the public papers of the appearance of the Bubonic plague at Bombay. The Committee need not remind Government of the fatal character of this plague, nor of the ravages it has caused wherever it has made its appearance. Calcutta is closely connected with the Ports of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula as well as with the China ports, and the Committee consider that the time has now come to appeal to Government to take precautions to prevent the importation of this plague. An outbreak of such a plague must, in the opinion of the Committee, be a misfortune beyond the power or capacity of the Municipal Corporation to deal with, and they would therefore urge upon Government the advisability of taking steps to guard Calcutta against the importation of the disease, and also the advisability of precautions to meet it should it make its appearance."

A telegram from Simla, dated the 2nd October says:

"The plague in Bombay has been officially declared as genuine bubonic plague, though not of the severest nature. It is believed here that quarantine will be declared against Bombay, and that the mails will in future go via Karachi."

In reply to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Governor of Bombay telegraphed on the 30th September:

"Forty-four deaths last four days. If disease is plague, then of mild modified type, and no tendency to increase at present. Our sanitary

measures so far successful. All requisite steps being taken day by day."

The same day, the Bengal Government addressed the following letter from Darjeeling to the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation :

"I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letters noted on the margin (Nos. 4042 and 4046 dated respectively the 25th and 26th September 1896) regarding the reported outbreak of plague in Bombay, and in reply to forward, for the information of the Commissioners, copies of a telegram despatched by this Government to the Government of Bombay, and of the replies thereto. The telegram of to-day's date from His Excellency the Governor shows that the character of the disease is still open to question ; that active measures are being taken by the Bombay Government to deal with it ; and that all unnecessary panic or excitement regarding it is much to be deprecated. At the same time it is obviously desirable to take every reasonable precaution to prevent any outbreak of the disease in Calcutta, and to detect at the earliest possible moment any cases that may occur. Under the provisions of section 37 (5) (4) of Bengal Act II of 1888, the preventing or checking the spread of dangerous disease is one of the obligatory duties of the Municipality, and sections 321 to 334 of the Act contain the detailed provisions of law on the subject. The Lieutenant-Governor will be quite ready to sanction any measures which the Commissioners may desire to initiate under those sections. To begin with, it appears desirable to declare that bubonic plague or any form of typhus fever with glandular swellings is a dangerous disease, regarding any case of which information shall at once be communicated to the Commissioners or their Health Officer under section 321.

2. The next step is for the Commissioners to select a site for a temporary Plague Hospital away from the main thoroughfares, and to arrange for its prompt erection should the need arise. The Hospital should be built of matting and T-iron or bamboos in blocks to contain 10 patients each. Provisional contracts could no doubt be arranged for the rapid construction of such a building if required.

3. I am to say, with reference to a query irregularly addressed by the Health Officer to Government direct, that the Campbell Hospital cannot be used for the purposes of a Plague Hospital.

4. The Commissioners should, if the disease breaks out, have special carts (drawn by bullocks and specially marked) provided, one at each police-station, for the conveyance of cases to Hospital. Provision for disinfecting both carts and drivers in the vicinity of the Hospital after each journey would be necessary.

5. If the disease appears, the Town will have to be divided into Sanitary Circles of manageable size, and a Medical Inspector placed in charge of each, with full powers to carry out the measures that may be ordered by the Commissioners or Government for preventing the spread of the disease. Action under section 334 of the Act will then be necessary, and the Government will be prepared to appoint a Medical Board to assist the Municipality in devising measures to deal with the outbreak.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts, however, that no necessity for such measures will arise. Meantime he entirely approves of the steps that are being taken under the Commissioners' orders to give special attention to the cleansing and sanitation of the town. The Municipality of Howrah will be directed to take similar steps.

7. It is premature at present to propose any interference with, or medical inspection, of railway passengers. Orders on the subject of arrivals by sea will be issued by the Marine Department."

The Bengal Government, it is plain, does not accept the evidence as enough for unusual activity of the Health Department of the Calcutta Corporation. It seems to say that there is more panic than cause for fear, and that such panic may lead to harm.

The Health Officer's "Advice to Householdors for the Prevention of the Plague," among others, is that "All dirt and rubbish should be deposited in the streets in the early morning for removal by the Municipal carts." Householdors have also been warned by beat of drum not to deposit any refuse in the streets after 8 in the morning. What then is to be done with the refuse for full 24 hours? Is it to be preserved in the house for the next round of the conservancy cart? A more insanitary course could not have been devised. The endeavour should be to draw out all dirt and refuse from houses as soon as possible. An unsightly street is better than miasma-generating houses bordering it. The Chairman's notice inviting "information from any person regarding any accumulation of offensive matter on any public street, road, lane, by-lane or surface drain or regarding any man-hole or gully-pit emitting offensive sewer gas or about privies, public or private, not regularly or efficiently served by municipal mehters, or any neglect of the conservancy department," is conceived in a truly sanitary spirit.

THE Bombay Corporation has voted a lakh of rupees for suppressing the plague. The Government of Bombay has appointed a Commission. The Government of India has deputed Mr. Haffkine to investigate the outbreak.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, October 3, 1896.

HOLIDAY TRIPS.

THE general Pooja holidays are nigh. This is the season when many people in Calcutta, whose presence at home is not absolutely necessary, seek a change of scene for recruitment of health or the desire to see new sights. Railway travelling is common enough. River or sea journey is not generally thought of on account of its many inconveniences. A short trip down the river Hooghly only to Uluberia, is pleasant. Messrs. Hoare Miller's steamers leave the Armenian Ghat at 10 A.M., and return by 5 P.M. A short journey up the river is not safe, for the places bordering it are malarious. The East Indian Railway has a direct route to Kalka, at the foot of the Simla hills. It has made certain concessions to holiday tourists. The nearest station to Calcutta, for a change, is Raneegunj, 121 miles distant. It is the head-quarters of the Raneegunj Sub-division of the Burdwan District, with a population of 13,772 souls. Situated on the north bank of the Damoodar, it is a centre of the coal industry of Bengal. The sights are the coal pits, and the pottery works of Messrs. Burn & Co. The coal pits, with strong pillars supporting the immense upper structure as the roof, give one a glimpse of subterranean formation. There one can find roots of trees with entire stalks, still distinguishable by the eye alone though converted into coal. As health-recruiting places, coal stations, however, are to be avoided, for the *debris* being inhaled may remain impacted in the lungs. There is a kind of consumption peculiar to coal-miners known by the name of anthrakosis.

The places ordinarily preferred are Madhupur, Baidyanath Junction, and Deoghar. Madhupur is 183 miles from Calcutta, and Baidyanath 201 miles. Deoghar is four miles north-east of Baidyanath Junction and can be reached by a narrow gauge railway. Madhupur is usually overcrowded during the holidays. It has an abundant food-supply. Baidyanath Junction has few houses and food is procured with difficulty. The nearest *hat*, held twice in a week, is at Rohini, about two miles to the east. It contains ruins of buildings attributed to Raja Madan Pal. Deoghar, or the city of Mahadeva as Baidyanath (lord of physicians), is thickly populated. Many lepers, in hopes of recovery, go to the great deity and are housed in the home specially built for them by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, a mile east of the city. There are other places in the Sonthal Pergannas that are picturesque and healthy, but they are usually avoided for absence of markets. They are Mihijam, Jamtara, Simultala and Nawadi. Kharmatar, where the late Pandit Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar built a bungalow, and used to pass most of his latter days, has lost its reputa-

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.
(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M. Thursday, the 8th Inst., at 5-30 P.M. Subject: Vermes.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry ; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry ; Rs. 4 for Physiology ; Rs. 4 for General Biology ; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,
Honorary Secretary.

Oct. 3, 1896.

tion for salubrity. Hillocks, though not within easy reach, can be seen from most of these stations. The one near Baidyanath Junction is about eight miles on the north-west. A mile to the north of Deoghar is a hillock called *Nandan Paharh*. Subscriptions were at one time raised to build a sanitarium there, but, like many memorial funds that fatten the friends and admirers taking charge of them, we do not hear anything of the movement now. The Trikut Hills, about 1,300 feet above the level of the sea, are twelve miles to the east of Deoghar. Thence rises the Mayurakhya, which, passing through Moorshedabad, joins the Ganges. On the Deoghar side, a small stream issues from the hills. It has no outlet. The accumulation of water at the foot of the hill makes the place boggy and marshy. This stream can be utilized by the Deoghar Municipality for the supply of water, at a comparatively small cost. Water for drinking purposes is scarce in the town, the difficulty being increased during *Sivaratri* and *Chaitra Sankranti*. Well-water is largely used, for the small streams of Darhwa and Ajaya are at a distance. Wells, however, do not keep pure long, for sufficient care is not taken to keep them uncontaminated by direct use or indirect percolation. Madhupur is the changing station on the way to Giridi, another centre of the coal trade. From the last mentioned place, a route leads to the Pareshnath Hills, 4,230 feet. They are sacred to the Jains. About 2 miles west of Giridi is Pachamba—another health resort.

At Luckeeserai, the railway loop line meets the chord line which runs from Khana Junction, the next station to Burdwan. Some famous places lie on this line. Sahebganj, 219 miles from Calcutta, situated on the right bank of the river Ganges, has a population of 11,299. It has a communication with the Assam Behar Section of the Eastern Bengal Railway. It supplies the Sabai grass for the manufacture of paper. About seven miles above the place, the ruins of the old fort of Taliagarh or Garhi can be seen, which was once on the bank of the river but now is inland. Commanding the only road between Bengal and Behar, it was said to be the "key to Bengal." On the way to Sahebganj is a little tunnel, near Teen Pahar, a changing station for Rajmahal, the seat of the much abused Serajoodowla, with interesting ruins. Bhagalpur is a large commercial town on the right bank of the river Ganges. It is the divisional head-quarters. The Sonthal Perganna civil suits and criminal appeals are heard here. Bhagalpur will always be associated with the good work of Cleveland, the civilizer of the Sonthals, and is noted for a temple to Gopinath (Vishnu as the lord of the Gopis or milk-minds of Brindaban) on a rock in the middle of the river. About three miles from it, there is a Jain temple, a favourite resort of pilgrims. Champanagore, a Buddhist city, is four miles to the west. Jamalpore, the railway head-quarters for locomotive work, has a branch line to Monghyr of historic fame where Mir Cossim made a stand against the British. To retard the progress of the British troops, a bridge was blown up at Dukra Nulla, three miles south of Monghyr, massive pieces of which can still be seen. The Fort occupies a commanding position on a cliff overlooking the river. Within its walls is a lofty mound, on which stood the citadel, of which there are no remains. About a mile and a half to the north, is Kajra, close to the railway line. Near it, in the village of Oorien, is a granite hill, said to be a hermitage once occupied by Buddha and the scene

of a famous conversion. Numerous rock-cut remains are to be found here. Four miles from Monghyr, is a hot-spring—the holy Sita Kundu. Almost all stations on the loop line have lost their reputation as health-recruiting places. From Bukhtiarpur the old Buddhist city of Rajgir (Rajgriha) can be reached by journeying in a *palanquin* for twenty-four miles. The middle halting city of Behar has a Mahomedan shrine and was famous in olden times for its *kabab*. The rock-excavations at Rajgir testify to the merits of ancient architecture. A few springs enhance the beauty of this romantic place.

Patna is 332 miles from Calcutta, on the banks of the Ganges and has a population of 1,200,000. The ancient city dates its origin from the Hindu period when it was known as Pataliputra. During the Mahomedan supremacy it was the seat of one of the Viceroy of the Emperor of Delhi. In Patna, Dr. Waddel has recently discovered a place where Buddha Ghosha devoted himself to meditation. It is now the famous place for opium manufacture. The city has attractions for the Sikhs also—with the temple of Patna Devi and as once the seat of a religious college.

The next station, Bankipore, has nothing of interest, except a large granary erected in 1784 for storage of grain. It is the changing station for Gya and Digha Ghat railway branches. On the way to Gya, Poonpoo stands on the river of the same name sacred to the Hindus. Gya contains a population of 80,308. It is a city of particular sanctity to the Hindus, with the temple of Vishnu-pada-padma. A few miles from the city is Buddha-Gya, where Buddha Ghosha practised penances. There has recently been a fight between the Hindus and the Buddhists represented by Dharmapala acting under the auspices of Sir Edwin Arnold and Colonel Olcott, for control of the ancient temple. The criminal courts were sought to be utilised by the latter for the purpose. But the high Court has knocked the attempt on the head. Dinapore is more healthy than Patna or Bankipore. The cantonments situated $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the station contain many houses. In all the leading cities of Behar, food of various kinds is available. Koelwar, on the Soane, was once a good health resort, but it has lost its reputation. The East Indian Railway bridge on the Soane is a splendid construction. It is 4,726 feet in length and consisting of 28 spans of 150 feet, built upon 3 wells, of 18 feet outside diameter. The piers are sunk 32 feet below water level, the height from low water to underside of girders being 35 feet. The girders are of lattice type, and bear a double line of railway on top, with a roadway below between each pair of girders, but the width of this roadway is not sufficient to permit of its being used for cart traffic. The cost of this bridge was Rs. 43,33,324, or Rs. 917 per lineal foot. It was opened on the 22nd December, 1862.

The next station of importance is Arah. There are works to supply the city with water from the Soane, the achievement of the indefatigable Mr. Skrine, at present Commissioner, Chittagong Division. The chief place of interest is the "Arah House," where, in 1857, a handful of the residents, chiefly Europeans, were besieged by the mutineers under Koer Sing.

From Arah, by canal, Deheri (330 feet high) is reached. It is a fine place for change of air. Situated on the Soane, it commands a view of the

Kymore range. On the opposite bank is Baroon. Both the cities are mentioned by Hooker in his "Himalayan Travels." The Soane has been identified with the Eranboas of the Greeks. The name was probably derived from the Sanskrit Hiranya Vahu. On the Kymore range is the fortress of Rotas (Rohitāswa) named after the son of Raja Harish Chandra and Savyā, famous for the severe trials they underwent at the command of the sage Viswamitra. It is 1,490 feet above the level of the sea. At its foot is the celebrated Dunwah pass. The palace is now in ruins.

Moghul Serai is 469 miles from Calcutta. Here the O. and R. joins the E. I. Railway to run to Benares, Ajodhya, Lucknow, Aligarh and other stations of importance. Benares is six miles from Moghul Serai. The Ganges is crossed at Rajghat by the Dufferin Bridge. The holy city contains many temples, the principal among them being that of Mahadeva as Bisheswara (the lord of the universe), the top of it being covered with a plate of gold contributed by the late Maharaja Ranjeet Sing. Kedarnatha and Anna Purna are also famous. A visit to Durgabati is desirable. It has other attractions. The pillars of Madho Rao, and the Manmandir for astronomical observations are worthy of notice. But the city cannot be recommended as a health resort, though Hindus of both sexes retire there to die. Death there leads to emancipation from rebirth.

Lucknow still retains its many old traditions and attractions. The Kaiser Bag and Chatter Manzil are worthy of contemplation. The British Residency is an object of interest. It was there that Henry Lawrence and the handful of heroes under him withstood a continuous siege by swarming thousands of mutineers. From Lucknow to Aligarh; thence to Meerut. It was here that the first outbreak occurred of the Mutiny. From Meerut to Roorkee, the seat of the Thomason Engineering College. An onward journey thence leads the passenger to Hurdwar, another holy spot whence the Ganges begins its regular downward course. Kankhal has the tradition of being the scene of the great sacrifice of Dakhya which was destroyed by Siva.

Hurdwar has relics besides imposing sights. It has the ruins of a fortress said to be that of Bena, the son of Prithu. Bena was a vicious King. It was during his reign that the original four castes, by intermixture, produced many new ones. He was slain by the Brahmaus. Thus runs the sacred history. The Ganges canal adds to the beauty of the surrounding scenery.

Proceeding from Moghul Serai by the E. I. Railway one comes to Chunar, late a favourite health resort, now not much frequented. Mirzapur on the banks of the Ganges would be crowded by pilgrims before the opening of the Vindhychal station. It is the growing favourite. Last year, many tourists visited it. Allahabad, the capital of the North Western Provinces, lies on a *Tribeni*. It was the seat of the Rishi Bharadwaja, the progenitor of the Mookerjee clan of Brahmaus. Unlike other towns it covers an extensive area. The Alfred Park opened in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh's visit in 1870 has its attractions. The fort, at some distance from the city, stands at the confluence of the Ganges, the Jumna and the Saraswati. Inside the fort walls is an iron pillar, some thirty feet high, erected by the Buddhist king, Asoka, about 240 B. C. There are other inscriptions bearing on the history of that time. In this fort, under the

branches of the *Akshaya Vat* (deathless banian), Rama is said to have performed the *shrad* of his father, Dasaratha. *Prayag* is specially noted for its Kumbha fair and the Magh Mela. The bridge over the Jumna, at 562 miles, is 3,235 feet in length, consisting of 14 spans of 200 and 3 of 30 feet. The piers and abutments stand over brick wells sunk 42 feet below low water. The height from low water to underside of the girders is 60 feet. The substructure is for a double line, but girders for a single line have been erected. It has rails above and a roadway for cart traffic below. The cost was Rs. 44,46,300 or Rs. 1,374 per lineal foot. It was opened for traffic on the 15th August, 1865. Cawnpur is now a manufacturing town with Woolen Mills, Muir Mills, Elgin Mills, Cawnpur Cotton Mills, Cooper and Allen's Boot and Leather Manufactory, Government Harness Factory, the N. W. P. Tannery and Cawnpur Sugar Works. The chief object of painful interest is the Memorial Well in which it is said the bodies of the massacred were thrown during the mutiny. The Memorial Church and the Massacre Ghat also revive bloody memories of the past. Etawah is 770 miles from Calcutta. In the eleventh century the district was overrun by Mahmud of Ghazni, and in 1186 the city was sacked by Muhammad of Ghor. In 1528 it was annexed by Babar Shah. The objects of interest are the old ruined fort, the Jama-musjid, originally a Buddhist temple, the Athala, a Hindu temple, and the Hume Ganj named after Mr. A. O. Hume (of the Congress), who was Collector of the district during the mutinies.

Agra, on the west bank of the Jumna, was founded by Akbar in 1566. The old capital was on the other bank of the river, now occupied by the station of the E. I. Railway. Babar died here in 1530. East of the cantonments and about a mile below the fort rises that *chef-d'œuvre* of architecture, the world-renowned Taj, with its beautiful downs and gardens, "the charming monument of affection of Mogul taste." It was built by Shahjehan, in 1648, in memory of his wife, Arjamaand Banu Begum, known as Mumtaz-i-Mahal or the exalted of the palace. Built of pure Jaipur marble, the mausoleum stands on a raised platform, at each corner of which is a tall and graceful minaret. Beneath the large dome and within an enclosure of most delicately covered marble fret-work are the richly inlaid tombs of the princess and her husband. The Taj, which was commenced in 1630 and completed in 1658, is described as representing "the most highly elaborated stage of ornamentation, the stage at which the architects end and the jewellers begin. In regard to colour and design, its interior may rank first in the world for purely decorative workmanship." It contains the original mosque designed by Shahjehan in 1654. Outside the fort but now shut in by the railway station, is the Jama Musjid, constructed by the same emperor as a memorial of his pious and highly gifted daughter, Jahanara. The tomb of Intimad-ud-daula, the vizier and father-in-law of Jahangir, is also of remarkable elegance on the east bank of the Jumna, among the ruins of ancient Agra. The fort of Agra had been in possession of Scindia and was taken by Lord Lake in 1806. Fatehpur Sikri consisting of a mass of ruins is about 20 miles from Agra. The Catholic Mission with Orphanage was introduced by the Jesuits in the middle of the sixteenth century. Hathras Road has the ruins of a strong fort held by a Jat Thakur, Daya Ram. In 1817 Major General Marshall besieged and defeated him. The ancient city of Mathura, mentioned by Pto-

lemy as Modoura and by Arian and Pliny as Mathura lies on the right bank of the Jumna. Fa Hian, the Chinese traveller, spoke of it as a centre of the Buddhist faith about 400 A.D. Associated with the doings of Krishna, it is famous throughout Hindusthan. Five miles north of Mathura is Brindaban, famous for its many temples. Among them is that of Govind-deva, erected in 1590, though the real image of Govind-ji is in Jeypur. Gopinath's temple was built in 1580. The village of Gokul on the eastern bank of the Jumna, 7 miles from Mathura, is another holy place. The ancient town of Gobardhan with its tank, Manasi-Ganga, is sacred spot. Mathura was several times devastated by Mahomedan princes. In 1017, the great iconoclast, Mahmud Ghazni, and in 1500 Sekundar Lodi, destroyed many of the esteemed relics. Aligarh has a prominent feature, the centre of the town possessing an old Dor-fortress on which a mosque has been built. It has several times been the battle-field of many rival armies, Marhatta, Jat, Afghan, Rohilla. The fort was held by the Marhattas from 1784, and was subsequently occupied by Scindia for drilling his troops in the European fashion through the aid of the French Generals, De Boigne and Perron. In 1803 it was taken by Lord Lake after a hard and desperate struggle. Its fall gave the British the command of the whole of the Upper Doab as far as the Siwaliks. Recently it has been the scene of the educational adventures of Sir Syed Ahmed.

Delhi, on the west bank of the Jumna, is 954 miles from Calcutta. The old Dillipur, founded by Raja Dillu, about 50 B. C., is 5 miles below the present city. The real ancient city cannot be identified for the many ruins covering an area of 45 square miles, which are the remnants of the transposition by its different rulers, Hindu and Mahomedan. The modern city was built by Shahjehan in 1640 and called Shahjehanabad. The palace on the east of the city, is in the form of a parallelogram 1,600 feet East and West, and 3,200 feet North and South. It has many artistic designs. The splendid tomb of the emperor Humayun is about two miles from the town. The architectural beauties of the Jama Masjid, opposite the fort, the Kutab mosque, ten miles South of the city, and its adjoining Minar, the tallest pillar in India, being 238 feet in height, are well known. The bridge over the Jumna, at mile 953, near Delhi, is 2,640 feet in length. It has 12 spans of 211½ feet. It has the rails above and a roadway below. The piers are built on 10 wells, 10 feet outside diameter sunk 33 feet below low water level. The height from low water level to underside of girders is 23½ feet. The cost was Rs. 16,60,355 or Rs. 629 per lineal foot. It was opened on the 1st January 1867. The town of Delhi has seen many vicissitudes of fortune. In recent years, it was brought into special prominence during the Sepoy revolt. And it was not till the year 1877, that the neglected capital was deemed worthy of the scene of the Imperial Assemblage.

Panipat has the renown of being the place of three great battles. It is a walled town, lying near the old bank of the Jumna. Kurukshetra (Thaneswar) known as the place of the battle between the Kurus and the Pandavas, has a shrine or tank, lying between the Saraswati and the Gharghara.

Karnaul, the city of Karnau, a hero of the Mahabharat, has a large fort now occupied by the district school. In 1840, Dost Mahomed Khan, the

Amir of Kabul, was detained here for six months on his way to Calcutta.

The Hill stations in Bengal and the N.-W. Provinces for summer migration are few in number. Nearest to Calcutta is Darjeeling. Its ridges vary in height from 6,500 to 7,500 feet. It was ceded in 1840 by the Raja of Sikkim for a nominal sum of £300 per annum. From Darjeeling, Kanchinjanga, (five brothers or five peaks) is visible in a clear sky. Its height is about 21,000 feet. A better view is obtainable from Samdeksu. Towards Nepal, on the north-west, the peaks of Kubra and Junnoo (24,005 and 25,312 feet respectively) rise over the shoulder of Singalelah. In the north, rises Donkia to a height of 23,176 feet. In the south-east the fingered peaks of Tunkola and the cone of Chola (17,320 feet) gradually sink into the Bhutan mountains at Gipmoochi (14,509 feet.) Kinchin is 28,178 and seven others above 22,000. Darjeeling itself presents a magnificent sight. Here, there are no less than 12 peaks, many of which are as high as 20,000 feet and none less than 15,000 feet. The nearest of the perpetual snowy range is Nurshing, a sharp conical peak of 19,139 feet and 32 miles distant. The more distant Donkia is 23,176 feet and 73 miles off. Chamulnari (23,929) on the north-east is 84 miles distant. Sinchal, a place of excursion, has an elevation of 8,000 feet. Kurseong, on the way to Darjeeling, is preferred for its less rigorous climate and less costly living.

Naini Tal (Nayan Tal), a Hindu shrine, 22 miles from Katgudam, of about the same height as Darjeeling, can be reached by the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway from Barreilly and thence to the foot of the hills. The sight is picturesque with the lake embanked by mountains and guarded by the presiding deity of the place 30 miles up is Almora (7,815), whence one can have, in a clear sky at sunrise, a good view of the nearest peak Nanda Devi (39,749). Ranikhet is 12 miles from Naini Tal. The Pindri glacier is 6 marches from Almora. A little further up Barreilly, is Saharanpore. It has a healthy climate and a botanical garden. From this station Dehra Dun can be reached by *tonga* or *ekka*. Its height is about 8,000 feet. Saharanpore is on the way to Mussoorie and Landour. Mussoorie is 54 miles from the former, and 7 miles from Landour, a higher up city.

Lansdowne (6,000 feet) is situated in Garhwal, about half way between Mussoorie and Naini Tal. It is approached from the Najibabad Station of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

September 11.

Great Britain and Ireland. The Royal Commission on the "Financial Relations between Great Britain and Ireland" issued its final report in the shape of a Blue-book on Saturday. From a rough glance at it, one can see a clear line of demarcation between the Separatist and Unionist members. The latter are in a minority of two, but one of them is your late Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir D. B. Barbour, the other Sir Thomas Sutherland, Chairman of the P. and O. Company. The general conclusions of the majority are:

1. The Act of Union imposed on Ireland a burden she was unable to bear.
2. That the increase of taxation laid upon Ireland between 1853 and 1860 was not justified.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., in either how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

3. That identity of rates of taxation does not necessarily involve equality of burden.

4. That, while the actual tax revenue of Ireland is about one-eleventh of that of Great Britain, the relative taxable capacity of Ireland is not estimated to exceed one-twentieth.

Eleven members started with the assumption that, for the purposes of their enquiry, Great Britain and Ireland must be considered as "separate entities," a proposition stoutly and with conspicuous ability denied absolutely by Sir D. Barbour and Sir T. Sutherland. The Chairman--the O'Connor Don--is a Unionist, but six of them are apparently Gladstonian Separatists of a pronounced character, such as Lords Farrer and Welby and Mr. Gladstone's especial friend--but no friend of India--Mr. Bertram Currie. Three are pronounced Dillonites, and the Parnellites are represented by Mr. J. E. Redmond.

Considering the well-known character of their devotion to Mr. Gladstone, it is something to have their judgment that in the years when he was making his reputation as the "greatest financier of all time" (Gladstonese) the increase of taxation imposed on Ireland in the years between 1853 and 1860 was not justified by the "then existing circumstances." There are many questions of vital interest discussed in the several reports, such as Ireland's liability to bear her share of imperial expenditure on the national debt, the army and navy, but, as the "Times" truly remarks, "none of the innovations proposed by the majority seem to be within the range of practical politics, at all events in our day." The principle advocated by the late Mr. Childers and adopted by the majority of his colleagues, that Ireland should be differently dealt with, because of its population being an "agricultural" one while that of Great Britain is mainly concerned with "manufactures and commerce," involves consequences of a far-reaching character. The counties of England mainly engaged in "agriculture," would claim separate treatment from those in the north principally engaged in "manufactures."

On the question of the "taxable capacity" of the two countries, Sir D. Barbour points out with great force that, assuming in 1893-94 Ireland contributed say 2½ millions in excess to the imperial expenditure, she received back from Great Britain a sum of 3¼ millions in excess of what she had any right to claim on the ground of taxable capacity." But as the "Times," in a leading article, well says: "The principle of uniform taxation is one of the strongest foundations on which rests the structure of the modern State. It has been in other lands one of the chief instruments in the hands of far-sighted rulers for welding together provinces widely separated by race, by religion, by manners, by traditions, and by economic conditions."

France is in trouble over Madagascar. So far she has failed entirely to establish herself there, as a colonizing and civilizing Power. How far the deposed Queen and her party are answerable for the present lawless state of the island, remains to be proved. But with only 2,000 French troops--a large proportion prostrate with sickness--it is impossible to cope with the revolutionary Hovas.

Spain finds no peace either in Cuba or the Philippines. The condition of the former is really quite hopeless. In the latter, energy and courage may nip the rising spirit of revolt in the bud.

United States. All is mere guess work and will be so until the 3rd of November, when the vote of the electoral college will be declared. Mr. Bryan meanwhile admits that the controversy between the gold and the silver parties, is the most menacing through which the country has passed since the Civil War on the Slavery question.

Prince Ranjitsinghji. There is a very interesting article on this countryman of yours in this month's "Strand Magazine." I quote a single sentence from a letter of the Prince: "I take this opportunity of thanking the British public for the very kind way in which they have always received me on all grounds and that has in no small measure conduced to my success in cricket." He speaks almost with affection of the late Mr. Chester Macnaughten, whose untimely death must be a very serious loss to the Rajkumar College.

Turkey. There is still great unrest at Constantinople, and large numbers of Armenians are being daily shipped off by orders of the Porte. Their destination is unknown, but it is currently believed that vast numbers are simply thrown overboard to provide sustenance for the fish that disport themselves in these waters. Meantime, here at home, the "nonconformist conscience" is advertising itself in the person of D. Rogers of Clapham. He wants what he calls a "Christian" demonstration against the Sultan following the lines of the notorious "Bulgarian Atrocities" agitation of 1874, and poor innocent D. Rogers calls for another Gladstone. But it is always overlooked that at that time Gladstone was in opposition and Lord Beaconsfield Prime Minister. Subsequent to 1874, Mr. Gladstone himself held supreme power for nearly nine years. Will any one point out what he did during these years to drive the "unspeakable Turk bag and baggage out of Europe"? Dr. Rogers and his friends cry "Away with diplomacy. Let Great Britain act single-handed." But they never condescend to tell us how it is to be done.

Mr. Henry Broadhurst, the workingman M. P. and I think Under Secretary of State in the Home Department under Mr. Gladstone and Lord Rosebery, thus expresses himself in a letter that has been published. He is arguing how strong the sympathies of the working classes are with the Armenians, and then adds: "If a British warship were to raze Constantinople to the ground, and hang the Sultan at its yardarm, the commander and his ship would be adored by the British workers." Did you ever read such stuff and nonsense? And remember Mr. Broadhurst is not of the John Burns stamp of workingman. He is a modest, unassuming man, much respected by all parties in the House of Commons. And here we have his judgment on the Eastern Question! The true fact is, the problem is wellnigh insoluble. Constantinople, by nature, is so situated that it can only be attacked by an overwhelming army acting in concert with a powerful Black Sea fleet. Now, there is only one Power in Europe that could produce both combined, the army and the fleet. That Power is Russia, and although her armies could approach through Roumania and Bulgaria, where is her Black Sea fleet? Russia and Britain combined, might do the work, once the army of the former was at Adrianople, and the Mediterranean fleet of the other anchored off Constantinople. But how is our fleet to get there? It cannot enter the Sea of Marmora without the Firman of the Sultan, permitting it to pass the Dardanelles. Dr. Rogers and Mr. Broadhurst may insist that there are no batteries on either shore and no torpedoes ready to explode and hurl our mightiest man-of-war into mid air! Then in "razing" Constantinople, how is Mr. Broadhurst to distinguish between Armenians and Turks? The former would be mown down, as rapidly as the latter. Again, supposing all the Great Powers agreed, and the Turk driven over to Asia Minor, what about the division of the spoil? That does not affect Britain for she desires no territorial increase. But what of Austria and Russia, to say nothing of poor little Greece, which covets Macedonia? Dr. Rogers seems to think the question can be as easily settled, as the preparation of one of his turgid sermons.

Mr. Stuart Glennie has already applied the lash to Dr. Rogers' back. If a demonstration, let it be a "national" one, and not a "Christian" one. Mr. Glennie writes, with great truth, "the Armenians are massacred not as Christians, but as rebels or suspected rebels." And then he concludes with this bitter sting, its very bitterness consisting in its truth, "to make it a specially Christian demonstration would attach to the whole business an unpleasant suspicion of being worked for Nonconformist glorification."

There is a report this morning that the Powers are now seriously considering the deposition of Abdul Hamid. But that is a matter of supreme difficulty in the present posture of affairs. An ugly rumour is also abroad that one explanation of Russia's line of action lies in the fact that she is endeavouring to effect a private commercial treaty with the Porte, one of the conditions of which will be the abrogation of the Treaty of the Dardanelles in her exclusive favour. That, I presume, is an arrangement similar to the Treaty of San Stefano which Russia was eventually compelled by the other Powers to submit to the Congress of Berlin. The free opening of the Dardanelles to vessels of war must come to all the Powers or to none.

Scotch Novelists. The new school of Barrie, Crockett, and Watson (Jan MacLaren) keep themselves always well to the front. The first named is, I am told, a man of true genius, modest and retiring, and his work will live longer than that of the other two. Crockett and Watson are dissenting clergymen, the former belonging to the Free Church of Scotland, the latter to the Presbyterian Church of England. Without in the least disparaging their title as novel writers, their *modus operandi* of puffing and advertising is somewhat amusing. A quasi-religious publisher, let us say in Paternoster Row, starts a quasi-religious weekly newspaper. It is edited by a clergyman, I believe. The publisher gets hold of a writer. Immediately the weekly newspaper writes a book up. The paper circulates among the Nonconformists in England and Scotland, and a good sale is secured in what is called the "religious world." Week after week, the puffing continues. Uninitiated readers, unaware of the connection between the publisher of the book and the owner of the newspaper, naturally fall into the trap, and assume the book must be worth reading, when such a paper has so much to say in its favour. One peculiarity of the paper is a weekly prayer by the editor, himself a defunct Nonconformist clergyman who has found journalistic work more captivating and remunerative than the preparation of two sermons weekly, and the miserable pittance that, as a rule, falls to the unfortunate Nonconformist cleric. The journal in question is a violent Gladstonian paper and a virulent opponent of any one who differs in politics from the G. O. M. of Hawarden. Particularly severe is the editor on what are called "Liberal Unionists," but the vials of his wrath are mainly poured on the head of poor Mr. Chamberlain. The prayer of "Clandius Clear" is of the most unctuous description, grovelling in the dust as a miserable sinner, and beseeching the Fountain of all Light to illumine the understanding and enable the editor to

perform his functions with impartiality and with no other end in view than the advancement of truth. Then in a column close by you come upon the most fearful explosion on the "Liberal Unionists," and truth, justice, and fairplay are scattered to the winds. In a secular paper one would only laugh at it, but a feeling of intense nausea and disgust is generated when you read the secular matter alongside the prayer. It is no doubt a "sign of the times," but a very deplorable one, not to say disgusting. The "prayer" fetches unthinking people of a so-called religious turn. "What a good man," say they, "this editor must be!" and so they adopt him as a teacher in secular politics, and take as Gospel all he writes in applause of the clerical romancers. So, all goes well. The publishers sell their papers and their books. The editor secures a handsome salary, and the trick will be kept up so long as there are fools enough in England and Scotland, to waste their money on the weekly trash.

A squib has been going the round of the Edinburgh Clubs, taking off some of our most arrogant Scotch writers, clerical and secular. It suggests the formation of a self admiration, self-puffing society, which has for its motto the old Scotch saw

"Claw me and I'll claw you,"

which may be an Anglicised "Puff me and I'll puff you." It goes on,

"President :

Andrew Lang, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

the Rev. Dr. John Watson 'Jan Maclearen,' Rev. Mr. Crockett, J. M. Barrie, Esq. and Robert Buchanan, Esq. The object of the society will appeal to all Scotchmen, as well those who have never left their native land, as to those resident in England, in India, and in our colonies. It is to work assiduously for finding means of erecting monuments to dead and living Scotch writers, whose undoubted claims to immortality are liable to be obscured by the homage paid to the illustrious dead, such as Burns and Scott. Members are being enrolled, but subscriptions will not be called for until it has been finally determined what shall be the exact form of the memorial in each individual case. The names given above are a sufficient guarantee that no merely personal claims will be acknowledged. It is hoped that on the committee about to be formed the Established Church of Scotland will be represented by the very Rev. A. K. H. Boyd, D. D., LL. D., and the Free Church by the very Rev. George Adam Smith, D. D., LL. D."

This has no doubt been set on foot by Lord Rosebery's proposal to have a monument erected to the late R. L. Stevenson. It is frantically opposed by Mr. Wallace, one of the members for a division of Edinburgh, quondam minister of old Greyfriars Church and Editor of the "Scotsman," and now a member of the English Bar. He objects to it on the ground of Stevenson's senseless, almost brutal attack on Burns. The opportunity was too good to be lost on so modest, unassertive a man as Mr. A. Lang, so he rushes into print in the columns of the "Daily News." The value of his judgment may be assessed from his taking the opportunity to sneer at Dugald Stewart and other Scotch "dominies," as he impudently terms them. Andrew Lang sneering at such men! Could impertinence go farther? We shall soon have Crockett and Watson sneering at Walter Scott!

Books. Sir Richard Temple's new book the "Story of my Life" is promised by Messrs. Cassell in a few weeks. I make no doubt it will be one of uncommon interest to all who feel a concern for the welfare of India. He was a fine specimen of the modest, non-assertive Haileybury Civilian, and the natives of India will always feel grateful to him for the generosity with which, from his private purse, he contributed to what would advance their moral and intellectual progress.

Mr. Barrie's "Sentimental Tommy" will shortly be published here. It is now running as a serial in "Scribner's Magazine."

Wit and Humour of the Bar. It is astonishing how both at the English and Scottish Bar wit and humour have died out. The latter was, I think, at the beginning of the century, more famous in this line than the former. Lords Chancellor Cairns and Selborne were not adanted to encourage it, nor the late lugubrious Lord Chief Justice Coleridge. Cairns, a true type of an earnest Low Church evangelical, was as austere as his very High Church brother Selborne. The only Judge of later years who made any pretensions to something higher than wit was the late Lord Bowen. At the Parliament House in Edinburgh, with Lord Eldin (Clark) and Lord Robertson, spontaneous witticism passed away. Here is the famous story of the latter and Sir Walter Scott. The last named, still the "great unknown," had just brought out "Peveril of the Peak," maintaining as best he could his incognito. His head represented a massive peak. Patrick Robertson was a gross, heavily built man, but abounding in humour. One day Sir Walter was limping down the polished floor of the Parliament House and a group of advocates was standing at the fireplace. Robertson cried out "Here comes Peveril of the Peak." Scott replied "And there stands Peter of the Paunch," thus leaving the laugh against Robertson.

I have been led to write the above by an incident connected with the visit of Lord Russell of Killowen and Sir F. Lockwood to

the United States and Canada. The latter is *facile princeps*, the wit, the joker, the punster of the present English Bar. His latest corruscation of wit was deemed of such importance as to be cabled across to the Gladstonian journals. Interviewed as to his prospective tour, the great wit replied, "We are going to a place where there's some water ni! Ni! Niagara is it not?" Sublime wit, indeed!

The Reverend Dr. George Smith. I hear, among the many visitors you are to have this cold season, you may reckon on your old press colleague of the "Friend of India," the Rev. Dr. G. Smith. He now occupies the laborious but important office of Secretary to the Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, at Edinburgh. His advent in India after an absence of so many years is sure to be productive of good, and I am sure natives of all classes in Calcutta will give him a hearty welcome. As a former Headmaster of the Doveton College, he is sure of a warm reception from the Eurasian community. Should he preach when in Calcutta, you should not fail to hear him, as he is one of the most distinguished pulpit orators in Scotland. In any case, his visit cannot fail to be of vital interest to himself as well as to the native community, as his life has been one long probation of unaffected self-denial and self-effacement, so that he might, in any way, have a part in advancing the moral and intellectual development of India.

I see a capital story going the round of the papers worth quoting:

"A Baptist clergyman in Liverpool, who is about to pay a visit to the Holy Land (Christian), was making a great brag about his intended journey to a member of the Liverpool Muslim Institute. 'When I get there,' the parson said in his best pulpit tone, 'I will stand where Moses stood, and read the Ten Commandments from the top of Mount Sinai.' 'You had better stay at home and keep them,' was the Muslim's laconic reply."

AN INDESCRIBABLE SENSATION.

To be easily described a thing must have clear outlines and unmixed colours. In other words it must be simple. A rent in one's clothing, a boil on one's body, a tumble while walking, the shape of a box, &c., are easily set forth in words. On the contrary the complex and comprehensive things puzzle the mind and take the meaning from language.

It was for this reason that Miss Sabina Mitchell, alluding to an experience of illness, says: "At this time there came upon me an *indescribable* sensation. It was as if the power of life were going to fail me, and I should sink down without help, as a stone sinks in water. Yet in saying this I convey no adequate idea of the nature of that feeling. I hope I shall never have it again."

"The illness which led to it began in the spring of 1892. My health appeared to give way all at once. I found myself tired, heavy, and feeble. My appetite was poor, and after eating I had much distress at the stomach and pain at the chest and sides. My strength gradually declined and I became very low, weak, and nervous; and it was *when in this condition* that I felt the indescribable sensation I have spoken of."

"I soon became so depressed in body and mind that it was with great labour and strain that I attended to my business. I was extremely downhearted and feeble, and none of the many medicines I tried did me any real good. In December 1892, Mother Seigel's Syrup was recommended to me, and I began using it with, I confess, small confidence. But after having taken it for a few days I felt wonderful relief. My appetite improved, and eating no longer gave me pain. A short time afterwards the Syrup proved its value in the matter of my disordered nerves. The nervousness disappeared with my increasing strength. Nowadays, whenever I need any medicine, a few doses of Mother Seigel's Syrup quickly set me right. Having had so convincing an experience of what it can do, I recommend it to all my friends and customers. You can make such use as you like of this letter. (Signed), (Miss) Sabina Mitchell, Marchant-le-Fen, Boston, Lincol., May 17th, 1895."

"In March, 1892," writes another lady, "my health began to give way. I had lost my energy, and was languid and heavy in feeling. I had a sense of faintness and dizziness that was almost constant, and occasional spells of sinking which I cannot describe. Hot and cold flushes came over me, my mouth tasted badly, and after eating I had a feeling at the chest like the pressure of an actual load upon it. I never seemed rested, and awoke in the morning more tired than when I went to bed. I was also much troubled with wind or gas from the stomach, and raised a sour, biting fluid."

"In this manner I continued to suffer for nearly two years, no medicine that I took giving me any relief. In January, 1894, I got a small book and read in it of cases like mine having been cured by Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I immediately procured the medicine from Boots' Drug Stores, and after taking it about ten days felt much better. I could eat something nourishing without any pain following. I kept on with the Syrup and was soon in my former good health once more. You have my permission to make this statement public. (Signed) (Mrs.) Ann Shaw, 174, Barnsley Road, Batsmore, Sheffield, March 8th, 1895."

Touching the "*indescribable sensation*" alluded to by both ladies, an eminent medical author says: "It is syncope without the loss of consciousness. The sufferer has the keenest realisation of the bitterness of dissolution. I have seen stalwart men unnerved and shaken by such experiences till they trembled like aspen leaves."

The cause is an acid poison in the blood produced by indigestion or dyspepsia. The remedy is to purify the blood with Mother Seigel's Syrup, and to tone the stomach in the same way. Use the Syrup on the approach of the earliest signs of weakness.

Sir George Chesney Memorial Committee.**CHAIRMAN :****General Sir Henry W. Norman.****MEMBERS :**

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Memorial**TO THE LATE****SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.**

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

Subscriptions will be received by Lieutenant-General McLeod Innes, 9, Lexham Gardens, Cromwell Road, London, W.

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POSTSCRIPT.
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OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his life and letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Bibus, the life of at least one most interesting Indian journalist has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet* was a profound student and an accomplished writer, who has left his mark on Indian journalism. In that he has found a Civilian like Mr. Skrine to record the story of his life he is more fortunate than the great Kristodas Pal himself.—*The Tribune*, (Lahore) October 2, 1895.

The career of "An Indian Journalist" as described by F. H. Skrine of the Indian Civil Service is exceedingly interesting.

Mookerjee's letters are in vials of pure diction which is heightened by his nervous style.

The life has been told by Mr. Skrine in a very pleasant manner and which should make it popular not only with Bengalis but with all those who are able to appreciate merit unmarred by ostentation and earnestness unspiced by harshness.—*The Muhammadan*, (Madras) Oct. 5, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 246.

KUMAR SHRI RANJIT SINGHJI.

PRINCE Ranjit he marched to the westward, from the borders of Bom-
bay he came
To the banks of the Cam, and he collared the crown of the glorious
game,

The game which the Graces and Stoddarts, the flannel-clad ones of
the West,
Declared of all masculine pastimes the proudest and noblest and best.

In the cohort of century-pilers, the sphere-smiting Gilbert was king,
But Ranjit the Run-Getter entered the lists, his triumphs I sing.

Though the poets from Pentaour to Petrarch, from Homer to Austin
would fail
To picture in adequate tints this swart boss of the bat-ball-and-bail!

His sire was a Jam in the East, and so is his son—*real* Jam
In the Raj-Kumar school in the East, or in Trinity College, by Cam,

Upon cocoa-nut matting at home, or green turf at the Oval or Lord's,
"Ranji" shaped like a cricketer sound, and there's scarcely a sight
which affords

More pleasure to judges of "form" than the sight of the slim, swarthy
Prince,
In batting as neat as a trivet, in fielding as sharp as a quince,

Giving beans to the best British bowling, or stopping or sprinting like
steam,
On making that lovely late cut, a serene thing of beauty, a dream

Of delight, an ideal of art, with the charm of a perfect technique,
Which a fellow who knows what is what at the wickets, could watch
for a week!

The public soon knew "Mr. Smith," and they yelled every time he
appeared,
And they gave him the nick-names crowds give to the cracks to their
bosoms endeared—

"Ramegate Jimmy," or "Run-Gin-and-Whiskey"—more pat than
polite, to a Prince,
But the cricketing crowd by familiar facetiousness loves to evince

Its rough but sincere hero worship, as he the great Doctor doth know,
Whom they love to acclaim as "the Old-un, and chaff when he bends
for a "blow"

After running a fiver—near fifty! But Ranjit the Run-Getter soon
Began piling "centuries" quickly to a most remarkable tune,

And having a cut at all records. Some toppers that way he's rubbed
out.

He's a-top of the Averages now, and he means getting higher, no
doubt—

If that's not a bull—Sussex's hope, and the pride of the Cam he
appears,
And when the Light Blues give that banquet, your lovers of big British
cheers

Will have every tympanum tickled by shouts for the "Black Bat,"—
not night,
As Tennyson put it in *Maud*, and Sims Reeves to a nation's delight

Hath flutily piped it so often. And faith! the "Black Bat" hath *not*
flown,
And all Britons hope, well, he won't do, for we love to think "Ranji"
our own.

An ode to him, then, unto whom we, this season, have owed such a lot!
And then British bats fight for those "ashes," and there are some signs
of a "rot,"

When we want someone brilliant *and* steady, hawk-eyed, lion-hearted,
and cool,
A blend of MacLaren and Grace, with the "stick" of the Shrswebury
school,

The sparkle of Stoddart or Wynyard, the patience of Surrey's brave
Bob,
May Ranjit, the Black Prince of cricket, be with us, and "well on the
Job"!

—Punch.

THE CANADIAN BOAT SONG.

[A correspondent sends to the *Glasgow Herald* the following as the
best and most correct of all versions.]

Listen to me, as when you heard our father
Sing, long ago, the song of other shores;
Listen to me, and then in chorus gather
All your deep voices as you pull your oars;
Fair those broad meads—those hoary woods are grand;
But we are exiles from our father's land.

From the lone shieling of the misty island
Mountains divide us, and a waste of seas;
Yet still the blood is strong, the heart is Highland
And we in dreams behold the Hebrides.

We ne'er shall tread the fancy-haunted valley,
Where 'twixt the dark hills creeps the small clear stream—
In arms around the patriarch banner rally,
Nor see the moon go on royal tombstones gleam.

When the bold kindred, in the time long vanished,
Conquered the soil and fortified the keep,
No seer foretold the children should be banished
That a degenerate lord might boast his sheep.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient
medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be
given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Come, foreign raid ! let discord burst in slaughter !
 Oh, then for kinsmen true, and keen claymore !
 The hearts that would have given their blood like water
 Beat heavily beyond the Atlantic's roar.
 For these broad meads—those hoary woods are grand :
 But we are exiles from our father's land.

WEEKLYANA.

THE general Durga and Lakshmi Puja holidays begin from Monday, the 12th October and continue to Thursday, the 22nd October. There are certain offices in Calcutta in which all these days will not be observed as a holiday. For instance, the Custom House will be open for transaction of business on the 12th, 17th, 19th and 20th October, the Treasury being open. The Custom House will be open (on a day's notice being given), free of charge on the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 21st and 22nd October, from 11 A.M. to 12 noon, for entering or clearing vessels, and for the issue of Bills of Entry or Shipping Bills covering free goods from or to the same. The Treasury on these days will be closed. Such is the notice of the Collector of Customs. The Port Commissioners have notified : "The Collector of Customs having notified that the Custom House will be open on the 12th, 17th, 19th and 20th October, during the usual working hours for the transaction of business without any restriction, these days will be counted as working days under Section 113, Clause 2 of Act III of 1890. On all other days work will be allowed at the Docks, Jetties, and Wharves subject to Customs Regulations." The Comptroller-General has given notice that the Public Debt Office and the Government Account Department at the Bank of Bengal will be open for the transaction of business and the receipt and payment of money on Government account on the 12th, 17th, 19th and 20th October 1896. The Paper Currency Office at Calcutta and the Comptroller-General's Office will also be open on the above dates.

There is no absolute holiday in the Post Office. Only two deliveries will be made daily from the Calcutta General Post Office and its Town Sub-Offices on the three great days of the Durga Puja, viz., the 13th, 14th and 15th October, the delivery arrangements on these days, in all respects, being the same as on Sundays. The other Departments will as usual remain open for the receipt of registered and insured articles and of parcels, and for the issue and payment of Money Orders, as well as Savings Bank transactions.

THERE has been a cry from many quarters for a law to regulate the sale of poisons. The Government of India has not yet seen its way to any such enactment. The sale is unrestricted in the Calcutta market. In advance of Local Governments and Administrations and other municipalities, the Municipal Boards of Hapur, Baghpat, Sardhana, Baraut, Ghaziabad, Shahdara, Mowana and Pilkhwa have taken a bold step and framed rules regarding sale of poison, which have been confirmed by the Local Government. Breach of the rules is punishable with a fine of Rs. 50 and, when continued, with a daily fine of Rs. 5. No person will be permitted to sell, without license, within the municipalities, white, red and yellow arsenic, aconite, nux vomica, dhatura and bichloride of mercury. Licenses are to be granted for terms of years not exceeding five which, however, can be renewed, and no license will be granted unless the applicant is a person of good repute and has sufficient knowledge of the several properties of the poisons. A license-holder is not to sell any of the poisons to any person who is unknown to him, unless the sale be made in the presence of a witness who is known to him and to whom the purchaser is known. Before selling any poison, the license-holder shall satisfy himself that the purchaser requires it for a legitimate purpose, and no sale is to be made to any person who he in good faith believes is below the age of eighteen years. The restrictions do not apply to sale to a medical practitioner or on the prescription of a medical practitioner.

..

AUSTRIA is prepared to allow women to practise medicine. A decree has been published rendering valid medical decrees and diplomas obtained by Austrian women at foreign universities.

..

A GERMAN physician has found that storing uniforms harbour the bacilli of consumption (tuberculosis) in the form of dust.

THE health statistics of British troops in India for the year 1895 are very satisfactory. The ratio per 1,000 of admissions to hospitals is 14'60; of deaths, 13'79; of invaliding 24'34; loss from death and invaliding 38. In the decade 1870-79, the last figure went up as high as 62. Up to 1856, deaths of European troops ranged from 84 to 56 per 1,000.

IN a letter to the *Times*, "Admiral" makes the general statement that the cadets in the *Britannia* acquire coarse manners, use bad language, display contempt for religious duties, bolt their food as if they were animals from the Zoological Gardens, and in other ways behave as cubs rather than as gentlemen. The letter, as was to be expected, elicited many comments and replies. A "Schoolmaster" endorsed the view of the "Admiral." "The Father of a Mid" thought the statement about the irreligious tone of the boys an unjust criticism and did not see how zoological manners could prevail at meals when a naval officer was always present to maintain order. He also said that his son never gave way to bad language nor grumbled at being bullied. One "Contented Mother of a Midshipman" wrote : "I believe the majority, like myself, have every reason to be satisfied with their sons at the end of their course in the *Britannia*. My boy always spoke with respect, often with affection, of his officers and those in authority; his demeanour towards me, and in social intercourse generally, was considerate and gentlemanly. When going to his room to wish the last good night I frequently found him Bible in hand—a proof that the religion taught in childhood still exerted its influence. After three years' commission in the Mediterranean he has returned unchanged—amenable as of old."

WE read in the *Army and Navy Gazette* :

"The passage of the gunboat through the cataracts between Wady Halfa and Gemai was a triumph of energy and skill, upon which Colonel Hunter and his staff will look back with pride. Commander Robertson and Lieutenant Beatty, R.N., with the military officers who assisted them, are to be congratulated on the manner in which the craft were handled. The *Meleemeh* was the first boat through the Babel-Kebir; she was followed by the *Abu Klea*, *El Teh*, *Tamai*, and other boats, and the correspondent of the *Daily Graphic*, writing from Gemai on August 20, gives a most striking picture of the difficulties, the barges in tow having to be left behind. The first real difficulty was at the Minnekiddeh Rapids, where the river swirls rapidly round a mass of rocks. Here guy ropes had to be fixed, and Major Martyr and Lord Athlumney plunged through the seething torrent for the purpose. In the shallows of Shagaz one boat had her side ripped open, while Jurash and Kaderma could only be passed by many men hauling on the bank. The Kutara Channel and Kodenha Rapids were ascended without great difficulty, but at Fash the strong arms of 700 men of the 1st Egyptian Battalion were not too many to keep the vessels in their course.

It had been a slow and anxious business occupying three days, in which the muscles and nerves of those engaged had been severely taxed even to get thus far, and none were sorry to pause before attempting the still greater work of hauling the boats through the Babel-Kebir, one of those narrow gates through which this branch of the Nile comes down by steps and steep some 50ft. in the course of 500 yards. The middle descent is the worst, where a great press of water rushes over a sharp ledge of rock. To employ steam power at this place was impossible, so a wire hawser was passed round the hull of each boat, to the bow end of which was attached a coil of some 300 fathoms, with a couple of hawsers; 1,400 men of the 1st and 15th Battalions manned these hawsers and the guys. Lieutenant Beatty stood in the bows of the *Meleemeh*, anxiously guarding against the bow hawsers being fouled, and every officer on board had charge of a rope to see that it was hauled upon or slackened in obedience to signal. It was an anxious moment, and the slight craft, creaking and swaying from side to side in the grip of the torrent, seemed as if she would be swept below, but little by little the combined strength of the men began to tell, and upon a zig-zag course she moved slowly ahead; at length came the final struggle, when her bows rose high out of the water as she trembled on the roaring torrent that swept over the threshold of the gate. Strong arms and winches hauled her forward, and as a wave lifted her stern she glided over the obstacle into calm water. The succeeding boats met with the same difficulties, and, though one carried away a bow hawser, the guys held her steady until the damage could be repaired. With the passage of the Babel-Kebir the chief obstacle was surmounted.

Lord Athlumney and Major Martyr are very gallant officers, but without denying them credit for venturesome swimming in the Nile we may observe that the black chaps think nothing of carrying out ropes and hawsers through the boiling cascades. They swim like otters from boyhood. It was, however, no ordinary feat of British officers to attempt such novel work as the officers we name performed the other day above Sarraa. One correspondent relates that the men of two native battalions were engaged in work a little out of our line, namely, diving for the rails submerged in the river, which they were obliged to unscrew under water. He adds : "Fortunately all the Egyptians are almost amphibious, and are equally comfortable on the land or in the water."

NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

&
THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE Queen is suffering from her eyes, and is being treated by Dr. Pagenstecher, a German oculist. The malady has in it nothing abnormal, and is due to age.

THE Tsar and Tsarina arrived at Cherbourg on Oct. 5, and were welcomed by M. Faure, the Presidents of the two Chambers, and the Ministry. The Tsar and the President reviewed the French Squadron, and were accompanied by the Tsarina, notwithstanding the rough sea which prevailed. A grand banquet was given in the evening at which the President and the Tsar mutually toasted each other. It is estimated there are three millions of visitors in Paris. The French papers, in welcoming the Tsar and Tsarina, as a pledge of peace, convey a hint that Alsace and Lorraine are not forgotten. The German papers are equally convinced that the sentiment of Revanche remains in France.

The Tsar and Tsarina entered Paris on Oct. 6 in brilliant weather. No hitch whatever occurred to mar the proceedings, and the enthusiasm of the people was most intense. Their Majesties were evidently greatly gratified by their reception. At a grand banquet at the Elysée, the same evening, President Faure, toasting the Tsar, said the union of the powerful Russian Empire with the laborious French Republic has already produced a beneficial effect on the peace of the world, and would continue to extend its beneficent influence. The Tsar, in reply, said he felt deeply touched by the welcome extended to him in Paris, and added that the precious ties between France and Russia would continue to have a most fortunate influence.

The Tsar has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Newsky Order on MM. Loubet, Bresson, Méline and Hanotaux.

Next day, the Tsar laid the foundation-stone of a new bridge over the Seine to be called Alexander III. Bridge. His Majesty then visited the Hotel de Ville, where he was welcomed by the Municipal President in an address as the ally of the Republic. The Tsar, in reply, merely thanked the Municipal President.

THE *Daily Mail* states that Lord Salisbury returned to London to-day (Oct. 2), and held a conference with Baron De Courcel, the French Ambassador, and M. De Staal, Russian Ambassador. The same paper states that the Sultan has sent ten torpedo boats to the Dardanelles in pursuance of the advice given by the Russian General Tchikatchew, who lately inspected the defences of the Straits under an agreement arrived at between the Tsar and the Sultan. At the conference, it is now evident, the Armenian question was discussed, for a telegram of the 8th says that Great Britain, Russia and France have agreed to an immediate despatch of a vigorous note to the Porte demanding the adoption of reforms which will secure the safety of the Armenians.

A BAND of insurgents in Macedonia have attacked and annihilated a Turkish detachment consisting of fifty soldiers.

SIR William Harcourt, speaking at Ebbw Vale, said he was in favour of an understanding with Russia on the whole Eastern question and the abrogation of the Cyprus Convention.

LORD Rosebery has addressed a letter to the Liberal Whip in which he resigns the leadership of the party, and says: "I find myself in apparent difference with the mass of Liberals on the Eastern question and in some conflict of opinion with Mr. Gladstone, and I receive implicit support scarcely anywhere." This is regarded as the outcome of the recent veiled attacks on him in the Radical papers and elsewhere. The resignation is generally ascribed to Mr. Gladstone's intervention in the Armenian question, and Sir W. Harcourt's persistent ignoring of Lord Rosebery's existence.

TAKING advantage of the high tide washing up to the German Consulate, Said Khalid, the pretender, was to-day (Oct. 2) privately conveyed to the German man-of-war *Seeadler*. Mr. Cave, British Consul, was

not informed of the proposed step, and has lodged a vigorous protest with the German Consul.

The German Press affirm that Said Khalid being a political prisoner, it was impossible to extradite him, and that he was removed openly under a show of force in order to assert the dignity of Germany, because Great Britain protested.

The *Cologne Gazette* publishes a violently anti-English letter from Zanzibar affirming that Said Khalid is the rightful heir to the throne, and that Consul Cave and General Matthews promised to reinstate him if he left the Palace. The letter adds that the British Marines have looted in a manner unworthy of the disciplined troops, and concludes by a virulent personal attack on Consul-General Hardinge and Consul Cave.

The *St. George Frigate* of Admiral Rawson, at present at Cape Town, has received orders to proceed immediately to Zanzibar. Reinforcement from the British Mediterranean Squadron has also been ordered to Zanzibar.

A TERRIBLE explosion of a magazine took place at Bulawayo, on Oct. 3, in which five whites were killed and several wounded. Scores of Kaffirs were crushed by fragments of rock, and the streets were strewn with rocks and débris. The hospital, gaol and market are filled with the wounded.

DEATHS are announced of the poet William Morris, M. Dr. Maurier, Artist, and Lord Kensington.

THE latest weather report is that the air is becoming drier in Northern India. The report from Doshi and Chitral on 2nd October states that rain has fallen every day in the valley and snow on the hills. It is cool at Calcutta with north wind.

THE first forecast of the *Braboi* crops in Bengal for the present year is not hopeful. The estimated general outturn is lower than last year's. It is 11 against 13 annas of 1895. Out of the 45 districts, only one, Palamou, returns a bumper crop; four districts—Birbhum, Binkura, Hazaribagh and Singhbhum, an average of 16 annas; 12 districts, from 12 to less than 16 annas; and 28 districts at less than 12 annas. From Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Cuttack, and Puri, the crop is returned even below 8 annas.

THE Government of India has recognized the new terror that has appeared at Bombay, and has cabled Home that true bubonic plague of a mild type exists in the Mumdvie quarter of Bombay, and that about eleven deaths from it are daily taking place. Notwithstanding, the homeward mail, which left Bombay on the 3rd instant, was granted a clean bill of health by the Port Health Officer. Bombay arrivals from India at Naples will be placed under quarantine. Plague has begun to move. It has shewn itself in other quarters of the city and has travelled northwards to Ahmedabad, which is 21 miles by rail from Bombay. Last week, we were privately informed that the distemper had travelled 300 miles. Its march seems not so rapid. The setting in of the cold weather may arrest the advance, if not stamp out the disease. We pray to the destroyer of all evils—the ten-armed Goddess of the lion throne, Who will be worshipped next week in Bengal, that She protect us from the visitation!

"PLAGUE," in its widest sense, is any fatal epidemic, such as malarial, cholera, or small-pox pestilence in India; carbuncular pest, from which Hzekiah suffered; or the *berri-berri*, the plague of Southern India, which, in November, 1878, visited Calcutta. In a limited signification it is a specific fever, attended by enlargement of maxillary, axillary and especially of inguinal (bubonic) glands. It is called by various names, such as—the pest; inguinal, bubonic, glandular, Oriental, Pili, and Levantine plague; Oriental typhus; septic pestilence; Fr. *la peste*; Ger. *die pest*. Three varieties of this disease have been described:

1. The abortive (larval), the prominent symptoms being enlarged glands of the groins, armpits, and necks without pain and without fever. This form is becoming less and less in virulence.

2. The grave or plague in its usual form. This is heralded by aching of limbs and pain in the body, accompanied by shivering and fever. From the second to the fourth day the inguinal glands take prominence. Suppuration is not a necessary development in fatal cases. Then there are headache, thirst, nausea, vomiting of coffee-

ground matter, constipation and delirium. The temperature of the body soon rises to even 107° F. Blotches or red marks cover the whole body. Sometimes there is hæmorrhage from many of the passages. Death preceded by coma generally ends the agony.

3. The third or fulminant is the severest type. Sufferers are struck down suddenly without any enlargement of glands, &c. This generally occurs in the beginning of an epidemic. Convulsion or coma ends the life.

The Bombay outbreak is evidently a mild type of the second kind. Glandular enlargement can be seen in other diseases affecting only one portion of the body. It is the general enlargement of almost all the glands, especially of the groins, that distinguishes this type from others.

IN ancient times, plague of kinds caused destruction in several countries but not in India. The earliest is recorded by the physician Rufus of Ephesus, who lived in the time of Trajan (A.D. 98-117), and this notice is preserved in the *Collections of Oribasius*. It was bubonic, (the swelling being especially fatal) and found chiefly in Libya (North Africa) for centuries considered the home of plague, Egypt and Syria from the end of the third or the beginning of the second century before Christ. Both Livy and Orosius speak of a pestilence which destroyed a million of persons in Africa. It was not till the sixth century, during the reign of the Emperor Justinian (A. D. 527-565) that Europe was invaded. This plague of Justinian, lasting for half a century, is described by Gibbon in his forty-third chapter. It began at Pelusium, in Egypt, in 542 A.D., spread over Egypt and passed to Constantiaople, where in one day it carried off 10,000 persons. The great pestilence of the 14th century, known as Black Death, which overspread Europe, is said to have appeared first in the Kingdom of Kathay (North China), where pestilence and inundations are said to have destroyed 13 millions, and to have proceeded gradually westward by way of Armenia into Asia Minor, thence to Egypt and Northern Africa. It reached Sicily in 1346, Constantinople, Greece, and parts of Italy early in 1347 and towards the end of that year, Marseilles. Next year, it attacked Spain, northern Italy and Rome, eastern Germany, parts of France and Paris and England, and afterwards the Scandinavian countries. In Florence, the distemper carried off 60,000 people, including the historian John Villani. There are writers who distinguish black death from plague and hold that that disease began and ended with the outbreak of the 14th century. It was characterized by a gangrenous inflammation of the respiratory organs, violent fixed pains in the chest, vomiting and spitting of blood, and a horribly offensive and pestiferous breath, which could be perceived at a considerable distance from the patient. In Sir Richard Quain's *Dictionary of Medicine*, we read:—

"Other writers consider black-death to have been a modification of bubonic plague. But if this view be accepted, the extraordinary development and remarkable modification which the disease underwent in the 14th century, stand quite alone in the history of the affection, and constitute phenomena which would have to be regarded as indicative of a secular evolution of morbid changes. This last named view of the relation between black-death and bubonic plague is not without a present interest. For Hirsch and others believe that the *Mahamari* of Northern India—the *Pali*, or *Indian plague*, as the disease is also termed—which has several times prevailed as a local epidemic since the commencement of the present century, is a disease analogous to the black-death of the 14th century. Probably these writers would now include the more recently known *Yunnan plague* in the same category."

Might not *Mahamari* be a type of malarious fever which devastated Gour? The present *Kalu-azar* of Assam is suspected to be another variety of it.

The mortality of black death in various parts of Europe has been calculated at two-thirds or three-fourths of the population in the first pestilence. In England, it was even higher. Hecker calculates that one-fourth of the population of Europe, or 25 millions of persons died in the whole of the epidemics.

Thucydides, who himself was infected, gives an account of a plague which overtook Athens about 430. B.C.

Plague had two centres. The first in Egypt including Southern Europe, Africa, Arabia, Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Assyria and Persia. The other was North China, including the whole of it, Anam and Cochin China. According to Sir Guyer Hunter, these places were also the home of cholera. It is probable that European countries received cholera from Africa, and India from China. In the London plague of 1665 no less than 68,596 persons died. The great fire of London in 1666 stopped its further ravages. Another plague appeared at Marseilles in 1720, and in 1770 Moscow suffered from the same cause. Notwithstanding that the countries

bordering it on the east and west were visited by the same scourge, India had always been free. The year before last, China was threatened with plague and now Bombay has it. The cause of plague is as unknown, as its devastations are certain. Present opinions ascribe it, like other epidemics, to organic putrefaction, bad drainage, and bad water. In the Chinese plague, Dr. Kitasato discovered a bacillus of the disease, but further research is needed to settle the question. Dr. Yersin is just now experimenting with his anti-bubonic injections at Amoy. Dr. Haffkine and Mr. Hankin have been deputed by the Government of India and the N.-W. P. Government respectively to investigate the Bombay outbreak. When will the Bengal Government send its bacteriologist, Dr Cunningham?

It will not be uninteresting to know old world notions about the cause of the disease. They are not entirely valueless.

Some think that insects are the cause of it, in the same way that they are the cause of blights, being brought in swarms from other climates by the wind, when they are taken into the lungs in respiration; the consequence of which is, that they mix with the blood and juices, and attack and corrode the viscera.

Mr. Boyle thinks it originates from the effluvia or exhalations breathed into the atmosphere from noxious minerals, to which may be added stagnant waters and putrid bodies of every kind.

Mr. Gibbon thinks that the plague is derived from damp, hot, and stagnant air, and the putrefaction of animal substances, especially locusts.

Dr. Chandler, who gives an account of the plague at Smyrna, is of opinion that the disease arises from animalcules, which he supposes to be invisible.

The Romans believed  Esculapius sometimes entered into a serpent, and cured the plague.

THE distemper has also been fitful.

Plagues are sometimes partial attacking particular animals, or a particular description of persons, and avoiding others altogether, or attacking them but slightly. Fernelius speaks of a plague or murrain, in 1574, which invaded only cats. Dionysius Halicarnassensis mentions a plague which attacked none but maids; and that which raged in the time of Gentilis, killed scarce any women, and very few but lusty men. Bateria mentions another plague, which assailed none but the younger sort. In the malignant yellow fever which raged in Philadelphia towards the close of the 18th century, the mortality was not so great among women as among men. The corpulent high-fed, and drunken men, common prostitutes, and such of the poor as had been debilitated for want of sufficient nourishment, and lived in dirty and confined habitations, became an easy prey to it; whilst those who resided in the suburbs, enjoying the benefit of country air, were little affected by it. A singular fact is, that the French residing in Philadelphia were in a remarkable degree exempt from it. Cardan speaks of a plague at Basil, with which the Swissers were infected, and the Italians, Germans, or French, exempted; and John Utenhoviuss takes notice of a dreadful one at Copenhagen, which, though it raged among the Danes, spared the Germans, Dutch, and English, who went with all freedom, and without the least danger, to the houses of the infected. During the plague which ravaged Syria in 1760, it was observed that people of the soundest constitutions were the most liable to it, and that the weak and delicate were either spared or easily cured. It was most fatal to the Moors.

It is related that when plague raged in Holland, in 1636, a young girl was seized with it, had three carbuncles, and was removed to a garden, where her lover, who was betrothed to her, attended her as a nurse, and slept with her as his wife. He remained uninfected, and she recovered, and they were married.

The Merv malignant fever reported by Reuter last week, has selected children for its attack.

THE current number of the Englished *Charak-Samhita* seems to have anticipated the outbreak of plague at Bombay. Lesson III of "The Place of Vimanam" treats of the destruction of towns and large villages. To the question of Agniveṇa—"How can the habitations of men who differ in nature, food, body, strength, capacity of bearing particular things and practices, mind, and age, be simultaneously destroyed by one disease," the illustrious son of Atri replies:

"O Agniveṇa, of men differing from one another in these particulars, viz., the circumstances of nature and the rest, there are other circum-

stances that are common (or similar); these last being perverted, diseases agreeing in point of time and of symptoms, break out and become destructive of habitations.

Verily, there are these circumstances that are common to human habitations, *vis.*, atmosphere, water, soil, and time (season).

Amongst them, when the atmosphere becomes as follows, it should be known as destructive of health: *vis.*, contrary to (what is proper for) the season; exceedingly moist; exceedingly changeful (as regards direction), exceedingly keen, exceedingly cold or exceedingly warm, exceedingly dry, constantly pouring vapours, fraught with awful roars, blowing from different directions and counteracted in respect of its currents, blowing in whirls, and fraught with disagreeable scent or vapour or sand or dust or smoke.

When the water becomes exceedingly foul in scent, colour, taste, and touch, full of impurities, deserted by aquatic fowl, almost dried up in its receptacle, and disagreeable, it should be known as reft of its proper virtues.

The soil (of a region), again, should be known as baneful when, as regards its nature, it has become foul in colour, scent, taste, and touch; full of impurities, afflicted by reptiles, and wild beasts, and gnats, and insects (such as locusts and other leaf-eating ones), and flies, and mice, and owls, and such vultures and jacksals and other animals as live in crematoria (or subside on carcion); when it abounds with high grass and *saccharum cylindricum* and bushes, teems with creepers of every kind, full of abandoned (uncultivated) fields, and is disfigured with dried up and lost crops; when its atmosphere has become smoky; when it resounds continually with the cries of birds and barking of dogs; when agitated animals in crowds and birds in flocks are seen to run and fly over it in different directions; when its cities and towns and villages have abandoned, or become reft of, piety, truth, modesty, established usages, good conduct, and other merits; when its receptacles of water are continually agitated; when meteors and thunderbolts are constantly seen to fall and earthquakes are frequent; when it constantly echoes with loud noises; when the sun, the moon, and the stars, are frequently covered by masses of clouds that are dry or coppery or red or white; when the inhabitants are always agitated by anxiety or fear, and when cries of grief seem to come from every side; when a darkness seems to overspread the whole area; when night-wanderers and ghosts seem to stalk over every place; and when cries and loud noises of various kinds seem to come from every direction.

As regards Time, that should be known as baneful which discovers symptoms contrary to those which properly belong to the season (that is running), or symptoms that are aggravated or attenuated in comparison thereto.

They that are possessed of knowledge and experience say that these four, when existing with such conditions, become destructive of cities and towns and villages.

Even if all the four ending with Time become vitiated still if men be treated with (proper) medicines, they are not likely to be afflicted.

Of men not subject to death as their common fate or not characterized by commonness of acts, medicine consisting of the fine operations is said to be the highest remedy.

In such cases the due administration of *Rasayanas* is highly spoken of, as also the support of the body, with the aid of the medicinal plants culled beforehand.

We give another old receipt from a different source:

"The Mahomedans believe that the plague proceeds from certain spirits, or goblins, armed with bows and arrows, sent by God to punish men for their sins; and that when the wounds are given by spectres of a black colour, they certainly prove fatal, but not so when the arrows are shot by those that appear white. They therefore take no precaution to guard themselves against it. The wiser professors of this religion, however, at present act otherwise; for we find a receipt recommended by Sidi Mohammed Zerroke, one of the most celebrated Marabout's, prefaced with these remarkable words: 'The lives of us all are in the hands of God, when it is we must die. However, it hath pleased Him to save many persons from the plague, by taking every morning while the infection rages one pill or two of the following composition; *vis.*, of myrrh two parts, saffron one part, of albes two parts, of syrup of myrtle-berries, *q. s.*'"

In 1770, the Commission at Moscow invented a fumigation-powder which was believed to be a preventive. Its efficacy was tried in the following manner. Ten malefactors under sentence of death, were, without any other precautions than the fumigations, confined three weeks in a lazaretto, and upon the beds and dressed in the clothes which had been used by persons sick, dying and dead, of the plague in the hospital. None of the ten were infected. The powder was prepared thus:

Take leaves of juniper, juniper-berries pounded, ears of wheat, guaiacum-wood pounded, of each six pounds; common saltpetre pounded, eight pounds; sulphur pounded, six pounds; Snyrna tur, or myrrh, two pounds; mix all the above ingredients together, which will produce a pood (equal to 36 pounds English avoirdupoise) of the powder of fumigation of the first strength.

THERE are two pictures painted by Puget representing some of the horrid scenes during the Marseilles plague of 1665, which carried off not less than 60,000 people in seven months during which it raged. Lady Craven, in her *Letters*, alluded to these two pictures, says: "They are only too well executed. I saw several dying figures taking leave of their friends, and looking their last anxious, kind, and wishful

prayers on their sick infants, that made the tears flow down my cheeks. I was told the physicians and noblemen who were assisting the sick and dying, were all portraits: I can easily conceive it; for in some faces there is a look of reflection and concern which could only be drawn from the life."

THE Health Officer has issued the following request to medical practitioners in the town:

"As Plague appears to have broken out in Bombay, it is highly desirable that any suspicious case occurring in Calcutta should be immediately brought to the notice of the Health Department; and the Health Officer will be much obliged if practitioners will assist him in this matter by reporting such cases at once; so that timely and effective precautions may be taken to prevent its spread.

The disease being of rare occurrence, the Health Officer would point out the more prominent symptoms in order to facilitate its early detection. The incubation period usually lasts from 3 to 5 days.

Symptoms. The disease is generally ushered in by shivering, general pains, great malaise and depression. High fever, ranging from 103 to 105, is present on the first day; severe headache and violent delirium may set in and the symptoms rapidly assume a typhoid form. On the 2nd or 3rd day, buboes appear in the groins, the armpits or beneath the angle of the jaws, attended with severe pain and tenderness, and which usually, after a few days, suppurate. The occurrence of the buboes is generally followed by subsidence of delirium and fever, the skin being covered with a profuse sweat and the pulse falling to 90 or 100. Associated with the buboes, Patechiae and Vibices are often present over the surface of the body. There may be Hæmaturia, Hæmoptysis or Hæmatemesis.

29th September, 1896.

W. J. SIMPSON, M.D.,
Health Officer."

Mr. R. Steel has suggested:

"Let the Health Department publish a list of competent men who will be willing, for a moderate fee, to inspect private premises and give orders for the removal of nuisances and the proper use of disinfectants. For this purpose I think that competent native doctors would be most useful and the most easily available. There should be a first visit for inspection and order, and, after an interval, a second visit to see that orders have been carried out. Native servants would have no objection to their godowns being visited by a man of their own religion, and a fee of Rs. 16 would be sufficient remuneration for the service indicated and would be readily paid by householders."

Our suggestion is that volunteer medical practitioners be appointed to inspect the several wards and to report on them to the Health Officer. We are sure there are medical men who will willingly, without any remuneration, do the work. During a great calamity, men grow generous, for their own good and the good of their neighbours. There are occasions, private and public, when the most avaricious or the parsimonious are free with their purse, and the present is one which cannot fail to appeal to their humane feelings. In our own ward, we can, we think, count upon the voluntary services of two at least. Dr. Sircar's health will not perhaps be able to bear the strain. Dr. Jugendra Nath Ghose is a Municipal Commissioner and is always on the move. He is not expected to grudge the task. Dr. Han Chandra Ray Chaudry is a public-spirited citizen and devotes much of his time to study of special subjects, including sanitation. He will not possibly refuse the request.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, October 10, 1896.

THE LAW CONGRESS IN AMERICA.

LORD RUSSELL'S ADDRESS.

CONGRESSES and Conferences are the order of the day. Not the least of recent years was the gathering of lawyers at Saratoga in August last, when the Lord Chief Justice of England delivered a masterly address.

Peace hath her victories

No less renown'd than war,

The scene of General Burgoyne's humiliation, the turning point in the war of American Independence, was the place where another of England's sons, though belonging to a different sphere, received every possible mark of homage. We read in the *Times*:

"Saratoga Springs, N. Y., August 20. The Law Congress was opened here to-day in the Convention Hall, over 4,500 persons being present. The audience was one of the most distinguished that ever gathered at this cosmopolitan resort, and gave great attention and a cordial reception to the address delivered by Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Chief Justice of England, before the American Bar Association. When Lord Russell had concluded, the vast audience spontaneously rose to their feet and gave vent to enthusi-

astic applause. Cheer after cheer rang through the hall, and it was a quarter of an hour before the last echo died away. Many flocked on to the platform and, heartily shaking both his lordship's hands, congratulated him on his masterly speech."

The theme on which Lord Russell spoke was International Law. After the usual preliminary courtesies, he proceeded to refer to his plea for choice of subject, and, in doing so, paid high compliments to American jurists for services rendered in the field of International Jurisprudence. He then gave an outline of the plan in which he proposed to deal with his subject. He said he would begin by defining the nature of International Law and describing its sources, and, after referring to the ethical standard to which it ought to conform, would conclude with some needful observations on what was called International Arbitration.

It is impossible, within the compass of this article, to refer to all the facts, or to discuss all the questions that were dealt with in the address. Yet as there are some points in it which are of great interest to both the philosophical jurist and the practical politician, we cannot do without noticing some of the views and doctrines propounded by the illustrious speaker. In defining International Law, he began by taking exception to Austin's analysis of what that great jurist calls positive law. According to Austin, law is the command imposed on the subject members of a political body by their superior who has the coercive power to compel obedience and punish disobedience. Lord Russell says that this definition is too narrow, inasmuch as it relies too much on force as the governing idea. It must, however, appear clear upon reflection that, although law is in the majority of cases obeyed by the people voluntarily, yet there is a substantial difference between the functions of the secular rulers of a country and those of the moral teacher. The latter may consider it sufficient for them to impress upon men the nature of the rules they seek to inculcate. But a secular monarch must enforce his commands by condign punishment, and a legal code must be very different from a book of sermons. There is hardly any rule of law in the statute-book of any civilized nation for which a sanction is not provided. In this country, there have been proposals for making decrees for restitution of conjugal rights unenforceable by coercion. If the law were so altered by the Legislature, it would be the only instance of a legal right without a corresponding sanction.

It is easy enough to find apparent faults with the Austinian definition of law. For instance, it does not render it possible to distinguish between laws properly so called and the orders imposed by a powerful sovereign on a weak and protected ruler of a neighbouring State. Austin himself has not only admitted this, but has shown that the defect is unavoidable. He says that the definition of the abstract terms "independent, political, society" and "sovereignty," which are involved in his definition of law, cannot be worded in language of perfectly precise import, and are, therefore, a fallible test of specific cases. (See Lecture VI.) The difficulty of defining the characteristics of an independent political society or of sovereign power is, to a great extent, of the same nature as that which is experienced by mathematicians in defining a point or a line. It is no more possible for the jurist so to define sovereignty or independent political society as to be a test of specific cases, than it is for the geometer to define a point or line in such a manner as to be equally applicable to all concrete

instances and at the same time useful for scientific purposes. Austin's definitions of the above mentioned juristical notions have yet their use, just as the geometrical definitions have theirs.

Lord Russell says that, if the Austinian definition of law were accepted, there could be no such thing as International Law. By the same process, Mr. Nelson, of the Indian Civil Service, arrived at the conclusion that there could be no such thing as Hindu Law, and that what was so called was only a phantom of the brain of lawyers without Sanskrit and of Sanskritists without law. Lord Russell admits the existence of International Law, and denies only the correctness of the Austinian definition.

In controverting the Austinian doctrine, Lord Russell lays much stress on the facts revealed by history relating to the origin and development of legal systems. Historically, law has its origin in those rules of conduct which are recognised as binding by the tacit consent of the members of primitive societies, and which are called customary laws. At a later period, these rules, with more or less modifications and additions, are reduced to writing by a jurist claiming to be divinely inspired, and embodied in a code which is regarded as a gift of the Deity and, as such, infallible. At a still later period, these rules are practically amended or repealed by exegetes and Judges. But at these stages there does not appear anything in the process of legislation to show that the rules framed for regulating the conduct of men are the commands of any sovereign. Their authors are wise enough not to proclaim from the house top that they are the political superiors, and that the laws framed by them must be obeyed, because of their having so ordered. They are content with the reality of the power, and take every care not to make any ostentatious display of it. Their very *modus operandi* rendered it impossible for the people to discern the hands that put the chains for preventing lawlessness. Is it, therefore, to be said that the laws they framed were not their commands? One might as well believe in the fiction that the Judges of England have never made laws, but have, from the beginning, only interpreted them. The historical objection raised by Lord Russell does not, it seems, go far to prove that the Austinian definition is untenable. Of course, we speak with diffidence and deference. When the highest authorities differ, who shall decide?

Lord Russell defines International Law as the sum of the rules or usages which civilized States have agreed shall be binding upon them. In this view, International Law can certainly be so called consistently with the Austinian definition of law. When the great jurist says that law is the command of the sovereign, he does not certainly mean that only the so called Kings, Parliaments, Senates, and Legislative Councils have the power of making laws, or that it is not in their power to adopt tacitly the rules framed by eminent jurists. When sovereigns ruling different countries agree among themselves to accept any set of regulations for their guidance in matters relating to their conduct towards one another, those regulations, whatever

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their source, become law according to the substance of the Austinian definition. The great jurist himself is somewhat opposed to the designation commonly given to the subject under consideration. He says:

"The department of the science in question which relates to International Law, has actually been styled by Von Martens, a recent writer of celebrity, 'positive oder praktisches Völker recht': that is to say, *positive* international law, or *practical* international law. Had he named that department of the science 'positive international morality' the name would have hit its import with perfect precision." (Lecture V).

It should be noted here that, in such passages as the above, the author speaks more of international rules of morality than about rules of international conduct recognized by independent sovereigns, either by tacit consent or by express agreement. The latter class of rules form the theme of Lord Russell's address, and might well be called international law consistently with the Austinian definition of the term law.

Lord Russell is not in favour of codification of international law in the present stage of human civilization. He said that International Jurisprudence is in a state of growth and transition. To codify it would be to crystallize it; uncoded, it is more flexible and more easily assimilates new rules. We confess we cannot catch the force of the objection. If codification of the rules of International law be feasible at all, then the code first compiled might be modified also, from time to time, as experience grew, or to meet cases that might arise afterwards. The chief objection is that it would be exceedingly difficult to frame rules that might be equally acceptable to all nations. The great Powers in the enjoyment of exceptional advantages cannot be easily led to concede to the weaker States perfect equality. Take, for example, the case of the Indian princes. The Lord Chief Justice of England says in his address:—

"It is a cardinal principle of the law of nations that each sovereign power, however politically weak, is internationally equal to any other political power, however politically strong."

A noble principle no doubt, and one that ought to be written in letters of gold in every Council Chamber and Secretariat. But will the British Government place the Indian princes on a footing of equality with its own? That millennium is never likely to arrive.

Considering the present state of things, the great Powers can never be expected to take the initiative in codifying International Law, and the weaker States have presumably neither the power nor the activity to make their ideas acceptable. The codification can, therefore, be rendered possible only by the great jurists and statesmen of different countries clubbing together and collaborating. If attempts by individual jurists like Field or Bluntschli have failed, we need not despair. The task is an exceedingly difficult one, and there must be some failures in the beginning, especially when undertaken by individuals. The efforts made deserve the highest commendation, and it is much to be regretted that the Lord Chief Justice of England has not a word of encouragement for them.

In speaking of the undesirableness of codifying International Law, the Lord Chief Justice refers by way of analogy, to the question of dealing with Hindu and Mahomedan law in the same manner, and says that the codification of these is objectionable on the same ground as that of International Law. There is, however, no real analogy between the two. The codification of Hindu and Mahomedan laws, however desirable from an abstract

point of view, is undesirable for the simple reason that it would be regarded by Hindus and Mahomedans as an interference with their religion, and would create a deal of discontent without any compensating advantage. There are, no doubt, many disputed points in both Hindu and Mahomedan Law which may, to some extent, be set at rest by legislation in modern form. But codification may give rise to new questions quite as embarrassing as those that now puzzle Judges and advocates in their ignorance of our laws. At any rate, so long as questions of Hindu and Mahomedan law are decided on the basis of recognised authorities, the people can have very little ground for complaint, however erroneous the decision in any particular case may be. But once those authorities are pushed aside and reliance is placed solely on laws enacted by the Indian Legislature, the party suffering by the innovation would be sure to raise the cry of interference with religion, and the very existence of the British empire would be threatened.

The codification of International Law involves great difficulties. It is, however, not, like the proposals for similar treatment of Hindu and Mahomedan Law, objectionable from the point of view of sound statesmanship.

With regard to the limits of arbitration for the settlement of International disputes, Lord Russell is very practical.

"It behoves, then, all who are friends of peace and advocates of arbitration to recognize the difficulties of the question, to examine and meet these difficulties, and to discriminate between the cases in which friendly arbitration is and in which it may not be practically possible. Pursuing this line of thought, the shortcomings of international law reveal themselves to us and demonstrate the grave difficulties of the position. The analogy between arbitration as to matters in difference between individuals and to matters in difference between nations carries us but a short way. In private litigation the agreement to refer is either enforceable as a rule of Court, or, where this is not so, the award gives to the successful litigant a substantive cause of action. In either case there is behind the arbitrator the power of the Judge to decree and the power of the Executive to compel compliance with the behest of the arbitrator. There exist elaborate rules of Court and provisions of the Legislature governing the practice of arbitrations. In fine, such arbitration is a mode of litigation by consent, governed by law, starting from familiar rules, and carrying the full sanction of judicial decision. International arbitration has none of these characteristics."

"Again, a nation may agree to arbitrate and then repudiate its agreement. Who is to coerce it? Or, having gone to arbitration and been worsted, it may decline to be bound by the award. Who is to compel it? These considerations seem to me to justify two conclusions. The first is that arbitration will not cover the whole field of international controversy, and the second, that unless and until the great Powers of the world, in league, bind themselves to coerce a recalcitrant member of the family of nations, we have still to face the more than possible disregard by powerful States of the obligations of good faith and of justice. The scheme of such a combination has been advocated, but the signs of its accomplishment are absent. We have, as yet, no league of nations of the Amphictyonic type."

Lord Russell concluded with the following magnificent peroration:—

"Mr. President, I come to an end. I have but touched the fringe of a great subject. No one can doubt that sound and well-defined rules of international law conduce to the progress of civilization and help to insure the peace of the world. In dealing with the subject of arbitration I have thought it right to sound a note of caution, but it would, indeed, be a reproach to our 19 centuries of Christian civilization if there were now no better method for settling international differences than the cruel and debasing methods of war. May we not hope that the people of these States and the people of the Mother Land--kindred peoples--may in this matter set an example of lasting influence to the world. They are blood relations. They are indeed separate and independent peoples, but neither regards the other as a foreign nation. We boast of our advance, and often look back with prying contempt on the ways and manners of generations gone by. Are we ourselves without reproach? Has our civilization borne the true marks? Must it not be said, as has been said of religion itself, that countless

crimes have been committed in its name? Probably it was inevitable that the weaker races should in the end succumb, but have we always treated them with consideration and with justice? Has not civilization too often been presented to them at the point of the bayonet and the Bible by the hand of the filibuster? And apart from races we deem barbarous is not the passion for dominion and wealth and power accountable for the worst chapters of cruelty and oppression written in the world's history? Few peoples—perhaps none—are free from this reproach. What, indeed, is true civilization? By its fruit you shall know it. It is not dominion, wealth, material luxury: nay, not even a great literature and education widespread—good though these things be. Civilization is not a veneer; it must penetrate to the very heart and core of societies of men. Its true signs are thought for the poor and suffering, chivalrous regard and respect for woman, the frank recognition of human brotherhood, irrespective of race or colour or nation or religion, the narrowing of the domain of mere force as a governing factor in the world, the love of ordered freedom, abhorrence of what is mean and cruel and vile, ceaseless devotion to the claims of justice. Civilization in that, its true, its highest sense, must make for peace. We have solid grounds for faith in the future. Government is becoming more and more, but in no narrow class sense, government of the people by the people and for the people. Populations are no longer moved and manœuvred as the arbitrary will or restless ambition or caprice of Kings or potentates may dictate. And although democracy is subject to violent gusts of passion and prejudice, they are gusts only. The abiding sentiment of the masses is for peace—for peace to live industrious lives and to be at rest with all mankind. With the prophet of old they feel, though the feeling may find no articulate utterance, 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace.' Mr. President, I began by speaking of the two great divisions—American and British—of that English-speaking world which you and I represent to-day, and with one more reference to them I end. Who can doubt the influence they possess for insuring the healthy progress and the peace of mankind? But if this influence is to be fully felt, they must work together in cordial friendship, each people in its own sphere of action. If they have great power, they have also great responsibility. No cause they espouse can fail; no cause they oppose can triumph. The future is, in large part, theirs. They have the making of history in the times that are to come. The greatest calamity that could befall would be strife which should divide them. Let us pray that this shall never be. Let us pray that they, always self-respecting, each in honour upholding its own flag, safeguarding its own heritage of right and respecting the rights of others, each in its own way fulfilling its high national destiny, shall yet work in harmony for the progress and the peace of the world."

When such sentiments find such exponents and meet with such cordial reception from the best men in the New World the "good time" dreamt of by the poet may not be very far in the distance.

We may not live to see the day,
But earth shall glisten in the ray
Of the good time coming.
The pen shall supersede the sword,
And Right, not Might shall be the lord
In the good time coming.
Worth, not Birth, shall rule mankind,
And be acknowledged stronger;
The proper impulse has been given;
Wait a little longer.
War in all men's eyes shall be
A monster of iniquity
In the good time coming.
Nations shall not quarrel then
To prove which is the stronger,
Nor slaughter men for glory's sake;
Wait a little longer.
Hateful rivalries of creed
Shall not make their martyrs bleed
In the good time coming.
Let us aid it all we can,
Every woman, every man,
The good time coming.
Smallest helps, if rightly given,
Make the impulse stronger;
'Twill be strong enough one day;
Wait a little longer.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

September 28.

The British Association met at Liverpool on Wednesday, under the distinguished presidency of Sir Joseph Lister. I send you a full report of his address as, from time to time, you might find space to reproduce it in your columns. To your medical readers it abounds with matter of a highly instructive character, while the layman will find in it a mine of instruction as to the correlation of science and surgery. With a modesty, one of the most attractive features of his character, so rarely met with in his profession, Sir Joseph Lister tells the story of his own wonderful discoveries, and heartily acknowledges all he owes to Pasteur. But he cannot rob himself, even if he would, of the debt of gratitude humanity owes him for his "contribution to the promotion of human happiness and ease."

The Armenian Agitation grows apace, but it is doubtful if it will lead to anything. All the outlets of public opinion go to show that no good can come out of such a demonstration, possibly a vast amount of evil. Without the aid of Russia we are helpless, and for us to run the risk of a European war with the great Powers against us would involve a shedding of blood, to which the Constantinople atrocities would bear no parallel. I say nothing of the squandering of untold millions, but the consensus of all moderate, unshrinking opinion is, that were Great Britain to attempt to interfere off her own bat, we would witness a general European conflagration without a parallel in the world's history.

Tynan or No 1. On the morning of the 14th instant, we were all startled by the announcement that the infamous No 1 of the Phoenix Park Tragedy had been apprehended at Boulogne by an officer of Scotland Yard. For fourteen years he has managed to evade the officers of justice, but all the time the head officials of our detective department had been silently but sagaciously watching his movements. So, when warned of his having left America for Europe, booked to Genoa, his movements were carefully watched, and at last, on Sunday the 13th, he was arrested at Boulogne. The arrest, in itself, is a matter of supreme moment, but, taken in connection with others that have been seized at Rotterdam and Glasgow, it would appear we have just escaped a recrudescence of Fenianism in its very worst and most diabolical development. Curiously enough, the public had just been warned that Fenianism was neither dead nor sleeping. In connection with Mr. Dillon's grotesque convention at Dublin, it was pointed out that the two prime movers in Irish affairs were the Priests and the Fenians. Many wild reports are flying about, but nothing really definite will be known until Tynan is extradited from France, and the other scoundrels from Holland. Meanwhile, the Glasgow accomplice, Bell, is safely lodged here, and in the course of three weeks or so we may hope to have the plot unravelled at Bow Street. Bell was at Bow Street yesterday and his case remanded for a week. Bearing on these fiends the question of

Release of the four Dynamitards is somewhat *apropos*. The Home Secretary having, on the strong recommendation of medical experts, released four of the notorious Dynamitards, has come in for a full measure of searching criticism, particularly from his own party. Our friend Sir H. Howorth from his Highland retreat exhausts his pen (if that be possible) in acting the part of the "candid friend" immortalised by George Canning. It is amusing to watch the angry diatribes of those supporters of the Government who think they have a grudge against it. For example, Lord Londonderry in his most truculent style sits upon the Home Secretary. Now, if he were plain Mr. Charles Stewart no one would give the smallest coin of the realm for his opinion on any subject whatever. But, because he is Marquis of Londonderry, the journals hostile to the Government elevate him at once to the rank of a statesman. Of Sir H. Howorth's muddle-headed letters to the "Times," I have already spoken. But where are Sir A. Rollic and Captain Bowles? They must be touring beyond the reach of newspapers, otherwise they would have joined in the fray, not to be outdone by Charles Stewart and Howorth.

The policy of condemning these wretched Dynamitards to imprisonment for life, is a question quite apart. They were guilty or not guilty of one of the foulest conspiracies against human life. If the latter, they should have been acquitted. If the former, they should have forfeited their lives. As to the middle course of life-long imprisonment, I have never been able to see the justice or good policy.

Mining labour in Bengal. The report of the Labour Commission issued by the Bengal Government indicates that the great question of Chinese labour is likely to come to the front, and that before very long. I feel sure Sir Alexander Mackenzie will deal with the question in a very different spirit from that which has

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

guided American and Australian legislation. It seems to be admitted that a "Chinese miner will turn out four times the quantity of coal which the leisure-loving Sonthali labourer cuts in a day; that he will work many more days in the year." The report points out the enormous development of the coal industry in Bengal. It now supplies all but three quarters of a million tons, of the entire output of India. In the three years from 1891-94, the number of Bengal mines returned to Government increased from 77 to 194. This naturally led to a demand for increased labour. The local labourers are well enough if they would work with a will, but they are easy-going, devotees of amusements innocent enough in themselves but not consistent with steady prolonged work from day to day throughout the year. The Commission suggests a larger importation of native labour from the North Western Provinces, and to get rid of the present far from satisfactory arrangements for recruiting such labour, by seeking for Government interference and control. The wages earnable at the mines are adequate to tempt labourers from Northern India, being seldom less than double and often fourfold of what could be obtained in the districts from which they come.

Our *Commercial Morality* does not appear to improve, notwithstanding the boasting of the Churches. In a case recently tried before the Lord Chief Justice of England, he made some very severe remarks on the question of "secret commissions in trade." Sir Edward Fry, a high authority, has addressed the "Times" on that and other cognate matters of a disreputable character. He enumerates the following:

1. Over insurance of vessels.
2. Bad and lazy work too often done by those in receipt of wages.
3. The adulteration of articles of consumption.
4. The ingenuity exercised in the infringement of trade-marks.
5. A whole class of frauds exists in the manufacture of goods by which a thing is made to appear heavier or thicker, or better than it really is.
6. Bribery in one form or other makes hollow and unsound a great deal of business, including transactions in which the profession of engineers and architects are interested.

Sir Edward Fry goes on to say "these practices are a disgrace to our civilization; they are specially disgraceful in an age which prides itself on its recognition of that social tie between man and man which every one of these practices tends to break or loosen."

So you see when we upbraid natives of India engaged in trade for their laxity of principle, we have first to take the "more out of our own eye." There are two of your Calcutta institutions freely spoken of as requiring the sharp eye of Government to be kept upon them. I refer to the Municipality and the Port Trust. What too about your Docks at Kidderpore? Was there no bribery and corruption involved in their construction? It is a subject of common observation among old Indians what marvellous fortunes some English members of the Public Works Department manage to accumulate. Their style of living could never be covered by any amount of savings out of their ordinary salaries, after throwing in their somewhat inadequate pensions.

Mr. Curzon's remarkable series of papers on the Geography of the Pamirs and the source of the Oxus has now been completed. The latter question is still unsettled, many of our most eminent Anglo-Indian geographers finding it impossible to accept Mr. Curzon's conclusions, while fully acknowledging the "thoroughness and fairness of his work." In his last paper Mr. Curzon reviews the "discoveries made by the long list of travellers of many nationalities, who from the commencement of the Christian era have visited or crossed the Pamirs." The first historic glimpse we get of the "roof of the world" is due to the Buddhist pilgrims who journeyed from China between 399 and 829 A. D. Then a great gap follows, and it is not until 1274 we come upon the travels of the great Venetian, Marco Polo, for the elucidation of which we are so much indebted to that accomplished and much respected Anglo-Indian, the late Sir Henry Yule. Again some six centuries pass before, in 1838, Captain Wood of the Indian navy lays the foundation of scientific discovery in "Central Asia." Mr. Curzon is satisfied that Captain Wood followed the route taken by the Chinese Buddhists fourteen centuries ago, and again by Marco Polo in 1274. Full justice is done to those native representatives of the Government of India who followed in Wood's footsteps, and whose devoted labours were of so real a value. Then, in 1874, the Indian Government sent the first expedition undertaken by British agents with a "fully equipped staff."

In 1877, "three French savants passed from Russian territory in Ferghana to British Indian territory in Chitral." Many names are given of distinguished officers who have rendered signal service in Pamir exploration, during recent years, and recognition is made of the Dutch Comte de Bylandt in 1894, and of the Swedish Dr. Soen Hedin in 1895. The "Times" adds, "if a fair diplomatic understanding has now been arrived at between Great Britain and Russia, it is due in no small measure to the cumulative effect of explorations conducted by independent travellers

with no political interest to serve." It is amazing what Russian persistency and energy have accomplished. Mr. Curzon says: "In the majority of places the Russians have not been the first in point of time to arrive. But, having arrived they have commonly effected more. It is only twenty years ago that Skobelev's expedition began the initial work, and in 1877 the first fully equipped expedition was sent forward by General Kaufmann." The demarcation commission of last year left Russia in possession of the bulk of the Pamirs, leaving the Little Pamir as "a sort of unpeopled buffer state between." Mr. Curzon finally adds, "the boundaries having been determined, there survives no legitimate cause of political quarrel." The words applied by Mr. Gladstone in January 1878 to Lord Beaconsfield always seem to me to be applicable to the onward march of Russia East and West. "It is the persistent, never-failing will, always watching the opportunity," &c., &c. It is the marvellous continuity of Russian policy, which never sleeps, and which never halts even when suddenly deprived of such a leader as Prince Lobanoff. Mr. Gladstone's words have been recalled to my mind by the latest development of Russia's onward progress.

It is no less than the "creation of a new Sevastopol on the extreme northwest point of European Russia, to which is to be given the name of Ekaterinograd. The pioneer of this marvellous undertaking, M. Bielmor, has already obtained for it imperial sanction. The spot determined upon is in what is known as Murman Bay on the Murmanian or Russian Lapland coast. A Norwegian engineer has been appointed by the Russian Government to lay the foundations of this "new military harbour and arsenal." M. Bielmor writes: "My idea is first to establish a powerful naval station in the Murman Bay, and to connect that strategical point by railway with Kronstadt and St. Petersburg, this line to pass by Kemi and Petrozavodsk. As there is already a railway as far as Uleaborg, this new line would not be so very long. Another point about this port would be that no hostile fleet should be able to blockade it." M. de Witte's recent visit to this very point indicates the importance attached to the project.

In the not distant future we shall see Russia, by her persistent energy, with an outlet on the east in her harbour of Vladivostok, and on the west in the Arctic Bay of the Murman coast. Nor is this all. The early completion of the Trans-Siberian Railway and its connections will bring about "one of the most remarkable revolutions in the conditions of transport that the world has ever seen." "The total length of this line, the longest hitherto constructed or projected in the history of the world, is 4,547 miles from Cheliabinsk to Vladivostok." It is anticipated we may see the completion of this line in from two to three years. Over 900 miles were constructed last year, and there are now engaged on the works more than 70,000 men besides the "engineering and administrative staff." But it is not only the main line that commands our wonder and admiration. There are several branches, one of the most important of which is one projected from Kiakhta to Peking. This would only involve an addition of from 600 to 700 miles, and "once at Peking the line could be carried without difficulty to Tientsin." Then comes the question What does this revolution in transport involve? It would bring Europe within a few days of Peking. Taking the normal rate of speed on Russian railways, Peking should then be within eight days of St. Petersburg. This would mean little more than ten days from London to Peking, instead of thirty! I copy entire the following pregnant sentence:

"It can hardly be necessary to add that such an event would be fraught with tremendous consequences to both East and West, to the growth of civilization, to the amount and the conditions of travel, to the course and the incidence of trade, to the balance of power in the East, and to many other matters that hang upon the abridgment of time and space, and the bringing more closely together of the progressiveness of the Occident with the conservatism and stagnation of the Orient."

The writer then discusses the probable effect such a development of the Russian railway system would have on the future commercial relations between China and Great Britain. It will not be this generation that will be called upon to face the grave possibilities involved. At the present time the "United Kingdom supplies China with imports four times as much in value as those furnished by the whole of the rest of Europe." In the ten years preceding and up to 1894, the direct imports from this country to China have almost doubled. And when we take into account the enormous cost of transport of merchandise by rail, as compared with that of seaborne traffic, it will be seen the merchants of HongKong have not much to be afraid of. The first effect on the volume of our trade would only be in respect of certain descriptions of goods, not carried in large quantities, and which Russia, ever rapidly extending her industrial resources, would not be insensible to. There is another aspect of this question to be looked at. Between Vladivostok and Nagasaki there is a distance of only about 600 nautical miles. So that allowing a travelling speed of 35 versts an hour, London would be brought, for passengers, within 16 days for Japan, and 17 for China. At present, the most rapid route is that taken by

Li Hung Chung on his return journey, by way of the Atlantic and the Canadian Pacific line, involving a journey of 12,800 nautical miles, and requiring 28 days to reach Japan, and 30 days to China. The final sentences of this important communication to the "Times" cannot be abridged, emphasizing as they do the description I gave above of the vigilant continuity of Russian policy.

"Although it is of no real consequence, as bearing on the questions that have been discussed in this article, it may be pointed out here that the Russians have not now for the first time realized the importance of establishing railway communication with Peking. On the contrary, it is an old Russian hobby, and one that assumed practical shape as far back as 1858, when Sofronov, a Russian engineer, submitted a plan to construct a line from Saratof across the Kirghiz plains to the Amur and Peking. This line was never carried beyond the paper stage, but it has been more or less in the minds of Russian statesmen and engineers ever since, and it is probable that the pending journey to America and England of Prince Khilkoff, the Russian Minister of Ways and Communications, has to do directly with the extension of the Trans-Siberian line in the direction and for the purposes that we have indicated, although its object is said to be to "study the improvements in railway construction and working recently introduced."

Madagascar. As soon as the Chamber of Deputies meets, we may look for some stirring scenes over the present state of things in this the latest of French acquisitions. The correspondent of the Paris "Temps," writing a month ago from Antananarivo, says: "The situation becomes worse and worse daily, and the extent of the insurrectionary movement is very considerable." Our own "Times" says the "disturbances are chaotic rather than insurrectionary." Our Government has never thwarted the French in carrying out their policy towards Madagascar, when veiled in the first instance as a "protectorate" to be subsequently transformed into an "annexation." "It was expected, at the least, that when Madagascar was formally incorporated in the dominions of France a *minimum* of security not less than that enjoyed under the Hovas might be counted upon." The result up to now has been far otherwise. There is "complete social chaos." Europeans cannot venture outside the protection of the French army of occupation without running the risk of being maltreated and even murdered. Now, weak and unstable as the Government of the Hovas was, it had a certain ascendancy of a legitimate and effective character over "native tribes of a lower type." The real question as between French politicians comes to be, Should France have been content with a "protectorate"? The unquestionably able Minister who controls the foreign policy of France, M. Hanotaux, was himself, when out of office, a strong advocate for being content with a protectorate. It is barely six months since M. Hanotaux described M. Bourgeois' (then Prime Minister) policy of annexation as "illogical and absurd." But "in" and "out" of office are two very different things, as we know well enough in our own House of Commons. When M. Hanotaux's sudden conversion took place he had even then the candour to admit the "inconveniences and dangers of every sort which would result from a too direct intervention in the affairs of the country."

Instead of governing through the authority (ill-balanced and defective as it was) of the ruling Hova caste, France has attempted, in M. Hanotaux's own words, to "carry into an imperfectly civilized country the traditions and habits of a rigid and inelastic bureaucracy." As a result, anarchy prevails and French observes demand "consistent, steady, and well considered military action." The "Times" remarks "order must be restored throughout the island by the energetic employment of military force, whatever the cost, direct or indirect, may be." Months ago, M. Berthelot protested against annexation, on the ground that "it would involve enormous expenses and responsibilities which were impracticable." Experience proves he was entirely in the right and France may well deplore M. Hanotaux's fatal conversion. It will be remembered when the late Sultan of Zanzibar died suddenly and mysteriously a few weeks ago, pressure was brought to bear on Lord Salisbury to adopt at once the French policy in Madagascar. But our Foreign Office traditions and Lord Salisbury's own long experience and firmness of will, at once recognized the legitimate successor. It is true, treaty obligations with France and Germany somewhat tied his hands, but these Powers would not have stood in Lord Salisbury's way, had he deemed it indispensable to resort to annexation instead of maintaining the *satus quo ante*. Without any boasting, both France and Germany have much to learn from Great Britain as a colonizing Power.

Samoa. Since the death of R. L. Stevenson, we have been deprived of his occasional letters to the "Times" from his island home at Apia. They were always full of interesting matter, written with his rare literary touch, and gave an animated description of passing events. For long I have failed to see any reference in the public prints to the state of affairs in these far off islands, but only very recently the American Consul-General at Apia Mr. Mulligan, has furnished his Government with an exhaustive report on the "political and commercial condition of the archipelago." You will remember, seven years ago, Germany, Great Britain and the United States

agreed upon a common basis of action, embodied in what is known as the "Berlin treaty for the administration of Samoa." Mr. Mulligan describes the treaty as "an utter, unrelieved failure, an injustice to the United States, and a great wrong to the people of Samoa." In reading the following words, one would suppose that the condition of the Samoan group was, in miniature, not unlike the present state of things in Cuba. "The treaty sought to provide a form of government, to adjust differences, to give peace; but, two wars, almost five years of rebellion, waste, stagnation, and almost general if not always aggressive, rebellion, marked by two years of active hostilities, have been added since the treaty was proclaimed." And Mr. Mulligan does not spare the terms of the treaty in themselves as most discreditable to the three great civilizing Powers concerned. "It was full of detail where detail could but hinder, limit, and embarrass, and imposed a complicated, ill defined, and imposed a complicated, ill-defined, and involved system of government on about 30,000 people, already over-governed. Fairly efficient administration cannot be had in the absence of reasonable harmony of policy and interest; yet here, between all parties is a certain degree of diversity of policy, conflict of interests, and clash of rights. Each of the Powers must be more or less influenced by what it considers its immediate rights and ultimate interests." And the conclusion of the whole matter as put by Mr. Mulligan is that the United States should have the Berlin treaty abrogated, as, in such case, "they would lose nothing, and much would be gained by the Samoans."

The United States in the throes of a Presidential election are not likely to have much time to think of Samoa, especially as its foreign interests must at present be absorbed by the affairs of Turkey and of Cuba. But, what an indictment both of Germany and Great Britain! To the latter Apia is all important as a place of call on the high sea road between San Francisco, New Zealand and Australia.

AN INDESCRIBABLE SENSATION.

To be easily described a thing must have clear outlines and unmixed colours. In other words it must be simple. A rent in one's clothing, a bolt on one's body, a tumble while walking, the shape of a box, &c., are easily set forth in words. On the contrary the complex and comprehensive things puzzle the mind and take the meaning from language.

It was for this reason that Miss Sabina Mitchell, alluding to an experience of illness, says: "At this time there came upon me an *indescribable* sensation. It was as if the power of life were going to fail me, and I should sink down without help, as a stone sinks in water. Yet in saying this I convey no adequate idea of the nature of that feeling. I hope I shall never have it again."

"The illness which led to it began in the spring of 1892. My health appeared to give way all at once. I found myself tired, heavy, and feeble. My appetite was poor, and after eating I had much distress at the stomach and pain at the chest and sides. My strength gradually declined and I became very low, weak, and nervous; and it was *when in this condition* that I felt the indescribable sensation I have spoken of."

"I soon became so depressed in body and mind that it was with great labour and strain that I attended to my business. I was extremely downhearted and feeble, and none of the many medicines I tried did me any real good. In December 1892, Mother Seigel's Syrup was recommended to me, and I began using it with, I confess, small confidence. But after having taken it for a few days I felt wonderful relief. My appetite improved, and eating no longer gave me pain. A short time afterwards the Syrup proved its value in the matter of my disordered nerves. The nervousness disappeared with my increasing strength. Nowadays, whenever I need any medicine, a few doses of Mother Seigel's Syrup quickly set me right. Having had so convincing an experience of what it can do, I recommend it to all my friends and customers. You can make such use as you like of this letter. (Signed), (Miss) Sabina Mitchell, Marcham-le-Fen, Boston, Linco., May 17th, 1895."

"In March, 1892," writes another lady, "my health began to give way. I had lost my energy, and was languid and heavy in feeling. I had a sense of faintness and dizziness that was almost constant, and occasional spells of sinking which I cannot describe. Hot and cold flushes came over me, my mouth tasted badly, and after eating I had a feeling at the chest like the pressure of an actual load upon it. I never seemed rested, and awoke in the morning more tired than when I went to bed. I was also much troubled with wind or gas from the stomach, and raised a sour, biting fluid."

"In this manner I continued to suffer for nearly two years, no medicine that I took giving me any relief. In January, 1894, I got a small book and read in it of cases like mine having been cured by Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I immediately procured the medicine from Boots' Drug Stores, and after taking it about ten days felt much better. I could eat something nourishing without any pain following. I kept on with the Syrup and was soon in my former good health once more. You have my permission to make this statement public. (Signed) (Mrs.) Ann Shaw, 174, Barnsley Road, Batsmoor, Sheffield, March 8th, 1895."

Touching the "*indescribable sensation*" alluded to by both ladies, an eminent medical author says: "It is syncope without the loss of consciousness. The sufferer has the keenest realization of the bitterness of dissolution. I have seen stalwart men unnerved and shrunken by such experiences till they trembled like aspen leaves."

The cause is an acid poison in the blood produced by indigestion or dyspepsia. The remedy is to purify the blood with Mother Seigel's Syrup, and to tone the stomach in the same way. Use the Syrup on the approach of the earliest signs of weakness.

Sir George Chesney Memorial Committee.**CHAIRMAN:****General Sir Henry W. Norman.****MEMBERS:**

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Memorial**TO THE LATE****SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.**

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

Subscriptions will be received by Lieutenant-General McLeod Innes, 9, Lexham Gardens, Cromwell Road, London, W.

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Colonel T. Deane,
Simla.

Subscriptions will be received, in India, by Messrs. King, King & Co., Bombay; Messrs. King, Hamilton & Co., Calcutta; and by the Alliance Bank, Simla, and its branches at Calcutta, Cawnpore, Agra, Ajmere, Darjeeling, Lahore, Murree, Mussoorie, Rawal Pindi and Umballa. Subscriptions are limited to a maximum of Rs. 32 in India.

By order of the Committee,
T. Deane, Col.,
Hony. Secy.

Simla, 18th July, 1896.

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We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 247.

THE FAY AND THE PERI.

(From the French of Victor Hugo.)

THE PERI.

BEAUTIFUL spirit, come with me
Over the blue enchanted sea ;
Morning and evening thou canst play
In my garden, where the breeze
• Warbles through the fruity trees ;
No shadow falls upon the day ;
There thy mother's arms await
Her cherished infant at the gate
Of Peris I the loveliest far—
My sisters, near the morning star,
In ever youthful bloom abide ;
But pale their lustre by my side—
A silken turban wreathes my head,
Rubies on my arms are spread,
While sailing slowly through the sky,
By the uplooker's dazzled eye
Are seen my wings of purple hue,
Glittering with Elysian dew
Whiter than a far-off sail
My form of beauty glows,
Fair as on a summer night
Dawns the sleep-star's gentle light ;
And fragrant as the early rose
That scents the green Arabian vale,
• Soothing the pilgrim as he goes.

THE FAY.

Beautiful infant (said the Fay),
In the region of the sun
I dwell, where in a rich array
The clouds encircle the king of day,
• His radiant journey done.
My wings, pure golden, of radiant sheen
(Painted as amorous poet's strain),
Glimmer at night, when meadows green
Sparkle with the perfumed rain
While the sun's gone to come again.
And clear my hand, as stream that flows ;
And sweet my breath as air of May ;
And o'er my ivory shoulders stray
Locks of sunshine ;—tunes still play
From my odorous lips of rose.

Follow, follow ! I have caves
Of pearl beneath the azure waves,
And tents all woven pleasantly
In verdant glades of Faëry.
Come, beloved child, with me,
And I will bear thee to the bowers
Where clouds are painted o'er like flowers,
• And pour into thy charmed ear
Songs a mortal may not hear ;

Harmonies so sweet and ripe
As no inspired shepherd's pipe
E'er breathed into Arcadian glen,
• Far from the busy haunts of men

THE PERI.

My home is afar in the bright Orient,
Where the sun, like a king, in his orange tent,
Reigneth for ever in gorgeous pride—
And wafting thee, princess of rich countree,
• To the soft flute's lush melody,
My golden vessel will gently glide,
Kindling the water 'long the side.
Vast cities are mine of power and delight,
Lahore laid in lilies, Golconda, Cashmere,
And Ispahan, dear to the pilgrim's sight,
And Bagdad, whose towers to heaven uprear ;
Alep, that pours on the startled ear,
From its restless masts the gathering roar,
As of ocean hamm'ring at night on the shore.

Mysore is a queen on her stately throne ;
Thy white domes, Medina, gleam on the eye—
Thy radiant kiosques with their arrowy spires,
Shooting afar their golden fires
Into the flashing sky,—
Like a forest of spears that startle the gaze
Of the enemy with the vivid blaze.

Come there, beautiful child, with me,
Come to the arcades of Araby,
To the land of the date and the purple vine,
Where pleasure her rosy wreaths doth twine,
And gladness shall be alway thine ;
Singing at sunset next thy bed,
Strewing flowers under thy head.

Beneath a verdant roof of leaves,
Arching a flow'ry carpet o'er,
Thou mayst list to lutes on summer eves
Their lays of rustic freshness pour ;
While upon the grassy floor
Light footsteps, in the hour of calm,
Ruffle the shadow of the palm.

THE FAY.

Come to the radiant home of the blest,
Where meadows like fountain in light are drest,
And the grottoes of verdure never decay,
And the glow of the August dies not away.
Come where the autumn winds never can sweep,
And the streams of the woodland steep thee in sleep,
Like a fond sister charming the eyes of a brother,
Or a little lass lulled on the breast of her mother.
Beautiful ! beautiful ! hasten to me !
Coloured with crimson thy wings shall be ;
Flowers that fade not thy forehead shall twine,
• Over thee sunlight that sets not shall shine.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

The infant listened to the strain,
Now here, now there, its thoughts were driven—
But the Fay and the Peri waited in vain,
The soul soared above such a sensual gain—
The child rose to heaven,

—*Asiatic Journal*.

WEEKLYANA.

THE salary of the President of the Republic of Andora, in the Pyrenes, is — £3 a year.

- • •
- HERR KRUPP, the gun-maker, is said to be the richest Prussian subject. He is taxed on an income of 7,135,000 marks, or half the crown donation which the emperor gets as King of Prussia. The next richest is Baron Rothschild. Count Hutten-Czapskia, Captain of the 14th Hussars, comes after him with an income of 3,085,000 marks, paying a tax of 123,400 marks. Only seven persons have incomes over 2,000,000 marks, and thirteen between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 marks.

• • •

ACCORDING to a statistician, the average Englishman consumes £62 worth of food per year; Germans and Austrians £54; Frenchmen £53; Italians £27 and Russians only £24. As regards consumption of meat, the English-speaking nations also head the list, with 128 pounds of meat a year per capita of the population; the Frenchman consumes 95 pounds; the Austrian 79; the German 72; the Italian 52; the Russian 50. The ratio of consumption of bread is reversed, thus: the Englishman eats 410 pounds a year; the Frenchman 595; the Austrian 605; the German 620; the Spaniard 640; the Italian 660; the Russian 725.

What about the Indians, perhaps the least fed of all the nations in the world. Their average diet is no more than £7 a year. A high Bengali, high in Her Majesty's service, once assured a Governor that food did not cost him more than Rs. 10 a month.

• • •

ELLEN SWEENEY, of Swansea, is dead. A remarkable woman, she died in the workhouse where she had been sent on the 280th conviction for drunkenness. She was 56 years of age, two-thirds of the last 30 years of which she spent in jail or in the workhouse for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. The most prominent of a trio of female habitual drunkards, she figures in a group of photographs taken by the police — with "Mad Maggie" with 182 convictions and Sarah Norman with 106. An English paper remarks: "Convicted first while in her teens, the remarkable career of the deceased, a fresh conviction often occurring within an hour or so after a discharge from prison, is a blot on our jurisprudence. It is a record of failure, curative and deterrent, and unhappily it is but a type of many other similar cases which have appeared mostly in the 'weaker sex.'"

• • •

MR. Justice Strachey and Mr. Justice Badrudin Tyabjee, of the Bombay High Court, having been bracketed together for a Bench, the first question that arose and on which they could not agree was—Who was the senior Judge? The native Judge claimed precedence, since, as he argued, his appointment as acting Judge was made first, and that the confirmation of his appointment by the Home Government simply continued him in his seat on the Bench. Mr. Strachey contended that as the Letters Patent appointing him Judge were issued before those conferring the same honour on his Mahomedan colleague, he was entitled to precedence, and that the priority of the acting appointment did not affect the question of seniority. The difference being reported to the Chief Justice, he decided in favour of Mr. Strachey.

• • •

THE *Bombay Gazette* says:—

"Mr. H. Wynford Barrow, the Municipal Secretary, will on his retirement next year, be entitled to a pension of Rs. 5,000 per annum. Mr. Barrow having applied for a gratuity at the time of his retirement, the Municipal Corporation some days ago appointed a committee to take the matter into consideration and submit a report thereon. The committee have, we learn, come to a unanimous decision that, in consideration of Mr. Barrow's long, faithful, and zealous services, he should be granted a gratuity of Rs. 20,000, in addition to his pension."

The Calcutta Secretary, Mr. Robert Turnbull, has been equally, if not more, fortunate. He drew in pay and allowances Rs. 1,200 or Rs. 200 more than the pay of the Vice-Chairman. When Mr. Turnbull went on leave preparatory to retirement, the Commissioners decided upon a pension of Rs. 500, and since his retirement he is being paid at the rate of Rs. 600 a month, or nearly the amount of his pay.

• • •

THE Revd. M. M. Carleton reports in the *National Magazine* the following results of experiments made in horticulture at Ani, a village at 4,500 feet in Kulu sub-division, 65 miles from Simla:

I.—First experiment in apple cultivation. After ten years the whole experiment has proved well nigh a failure. American apple trees, as well as English, are not prolific in this climate at 4,500 feet. A few apples were obtained, and the growth of the trees has been all that could be desired, but apples brought from England and Scotland, or from the Northern part of the United States and Canada, will not be profitable below 6,000 feet. As an example of one variety, I introduced the Porter apple tree from New England, a standard apple for the last 50 years, both in Canada and New England. The trees grew finely, they are the finest in my orchard. They are now 8 years old, but they have never produced even a blossom. This result is the same when trees from New England and Canada are transferred to the Southern States, especially Florida; they grow well, but never produce fruit.

II.—Experiment No. 2 with Kashmir apricots has proved a remarkable success. The native apricot in this warm valley was not prolific, and, from analogy, we concluded that the place was too warm for the Kashmir or English variety. We, however, introduced ten trees from the Government Garden at Lahore. They grew very vigorously, and began to bear fruit the fourth year. They are even more prolific than the native variety in Kulu valley. The fruit ripens about the 15th or 20th of June. I should advise the extensive cultivation of the Kashmir and English apricot in all the lower hills. The successful introduction of the famous Kashmir American fruit-drying machines into Simla would enable enterprising persons to establish a very profitable industry in preparing dried apricots for the Indian markets.

III.—Experiment No. 3 with American grapes has proved an unqualified success. My first experiment, made 15 years ago, was with grapes from the Government Gardens of Lahore. The variety was called the Black Hamburg. After 12 years' experiment they proved an utter failure, scarcely a single cluster of grapes in the 12 years. About nine years ago I sent to America for a variety of hardy prolific grape grown on the northern limit of grape cultivation where the spring opens in May, and frost comes in September. I held the opinion that such a variety would ripen in July before the heavy rain, because the spring opens the last of February, or the 1st of March. My experiment proved that the American grape in these lower hills is a great success. Only one vine lived of those I first received, that is about 8 years old and now, to-day (May 7), there are about 70 lbs. of green grapes on the vine. A few such vines around the houses of intelligent zemindars in the Simla District would give a handsome return especially in the Simla market in the month of July.

IV.—Experiment No. 4 with the common Himalayan walnut is also a success. Very fine large trees in ten years and very fruitful.

In 35 years a grand change in the use of the walnut has taken place. In former times in Kashmir, Coochab and Kulu, the only use of the fruit was the production of oil to adulterate ghee. But now the demand for walnuts in the plains is greater than the supply. On account of the valuable timber the cultivation of the walnut should belong to the Department of Forestry. But in California the horticulturist has captured the species, on account of its valuable fruit. They have introduced the celebrated Persian walnut, and find it one of the most profitable fruit trees. We are surprised that the Department of Forestry have done little or nothing with the walnut in the Simla District.

V.—Experiment No. 5 with the European orange has proved that the variety commonly called the Maltese orange can be grown in the lower hills as high up as 4,500 feet. In California orange cultivation is extending up the rich valleys of the Pacific slopes, and I see no reason why in these lower hills, orange cultivation should not be a success. This year, from one tree eight years old, we gathered 220 oranges. They were of the crop of last year, but they were taken from the tree, February 25th. We follow the custom in California and Florida and keep the fruit on the trees till the new leaves appear, the last week in February. We have noticed one remarkable fact in this connection. In the winter of 1890-91 we had two snowstorms, the snow began to fall in the night, and it remained on the orange leaves till 8 A.M. next morning. I could not discover that the fruit was in the least injured though after the snowstorm the leaves most exposed were somewhat injured. The crop of oranges should be gathered about 1st of March, and kept in a dry, suitable place till the season opens in Simla. I learn that oranges sold from the Government Garden in Gujranwalla, and other gardens, usually fetch from 5 to 8 rupees per hundred, and it is quite certain that Maltese oranges sent to the Simla market in April, when there is a little fruit for sale, would fetch 8, and perhaps 10 rupees per hundred. An orange tree 8 years old that gives an annual crop of over 200 oranges could give the owner a profit of 16 rupees, and that on only 10 feet square of ground."

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NOTICE.

AS in previous years, on account of the Durga Puja holidays, there will be no issue of *Reis and Rayyet* for two weeks, that is, on the 24th and 31st October. The next number will appear on the 7th November.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,
OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

REUTER'S agency is informed that the cruiser Gibraltar has been despatched from the Mediterranean Squadron for service at Zanzibar. It is understood that the naval re-inforcements for Zanzibar are connected with Sud Khalid's fight. The Zanzibar affair is regarded as serious owing to the hostile attitude assumed by Germany.

THE Russian Press state that the toasts at the Elysée amount to the confirmation of a definite alliance between France and Russia for their mutual security and the protection of the peace of Europe. The French press attach the greatest importance to the visit of the Tsar and Tsarina to Versailles as being emblematic of purifying it from the pollution attaching to the place after the proclamation of the German Empire there. A grand review of seventy thousand troops was held at Chalons, on October 9, before the Tsar and President Faure. The spectacle was a most inspiring one, and the troops looked splendid. The Tsar replying to the toast at luncheon which followed the review, said the two countries were bound by unalterable friendship, and their armies were united by profound sentiment and comradeship. The Tsar departed for Darmstadt the same day. The French and Russian press agree that the utterances of the Tsar while in France consecrate the Russo-French alliance. The Czar from the French frontier telegraphed to President Faure that he felt the heart of France beating in the beautiful capital, and that the memory of the visit is deeply engraved on the heart of himself and the Czarina.

LORD Rosebery, speaking at Edinburgh, said he felt unable to sacrifice the interests of his country to personal ambition, and he, therefore, resigned the leadership of his party. The character and extent of the Armenian outrages, he said, raised the whole Eastern question and partial remedies were futile and dangerous. He was unable to assent to Mr. Gladstone's proposals, which were the proximate cause of his resigning. In conclusion, Lord Rosebery said he would fight tooth and nail against the isolated intervention of Great Britain in the East, which would involve a European war. He emphasized the absence of explicit support from his colleagues which was especially essential when the leader of the party was a Peer. He virtually designated Mr. Asquith as his successor. Mr. Asquith, who was present, spoke deploring Lord Rosebery's resignation, and a resolution was adopted urging him to reconsider his decision. The general tendency among the Liberals seems to be in favour of leaving the leadership of the party unfilled for the present. In a speech made by Mr. Asquith, he regretted that a passage in Lord Rosebery's speech at Edinburgh should have been misinterpreted, as indicating his preference regarding his successor.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, who was Mr. Gladstone's guest, was seized with a fit of apoplexy in Hawarden Church on October 11, and was carried to the Rectory where he died. He sank to the ground while the Rev. Stephen Gladstone was reading the Absolution.

IT is now believed at Rome that the Tunisian treaty has been imposed upon Italy and therefore the Franco-Italian hostility remains unabated. The possibility, however, is being discussed of Italy joining France to compel England to evacuate Egypt, and to establish Franco-Italian supremacy in the Mediterranean. The reports are discredited on good authority, and it is not believed that Italy will join any understanding directed against England for the evacuation of Egypt.

THE *Nova Vremya* says that the change of tone displayed by England will materially facilitate united European action in regard to the Porte.

PREPARATIONS at Calcutta to meet the dreaded visitor have not been too early. At the end of last week, it was reported that plague had overtaken Howrah, brought from Bombay by a Goanese named James Cotta. At any rate, it was certified by Drs. Cobb, Simpson, and Tones that he was "suffering from fever with glandular enlargements of the groins" and that his disease was "bubonic plague of the mild ambulatory form (*pestis ambulans*). Such is the dread of the disease that, while the three doctors recommended Cotta's removal to hospital, many would not accept the certificate. They are inclined to think that Cotta is the victim of his own youthful indiscretions and that his disease is no more than ordinary inguinal swelling. Since then, however, a number of cases have been discovered in Calcutta. On Tuesday, the *Englishman* reported:

"No fewer than four cases of what is said to be the veritable Bubonic plague have been reported to Dr. Simpson, the Health Officer of Calcutta. Three of these, one a European girl, residing at Chatterwallah Gully, and the other two, being native lads, aged about 15 years, residing, respectively, at Jinn Bazar Street, and a lane off Elgin Road, near the South Suburban Hospital, are said to be suffering from the plague. The girl is seven years old. Last Friday she was taken to the Chanderoy Hospital suffering with enlarged glands and fever, with a temperature of 102 degrees. Her case being pronounced to be suspicious she was taken on Sunday morning to the Medical College Hospital. Here also her case appeared suspicious, and the matter was reported to the police, who communicated with Dr. Simpson, the Health Officer. Dr. Simpson, Dr. Cobb, and another doctor thereupon proceeded to the residence of the girl. She was examined carefully, and pronounced to be suffering from the plague. Some blood was extracted for bacteriological analysis. Dr. Simpson directed the removal of the girl to the Manicktolla Isolation Hospital, but her father has objected, and so the girl is still under his roof. Her father has also been warned by the Health Officer not to attend office till the infection has been stamped out of his house.

An East Indian personally reported himself to the police saying that he thought he was suffering from the plague, but on examination by the Health Officer it was found not to be the case. A native lad aged about 14 years, residing near the South Suburban Hospital, in a lane off Elgin Road, came under the observation of Dr. Simpson on Saturday night. As he was found to have the plague, he was removed that same night about 10-30 P.M. under the orders of the Health Officer to the Manicktolla Isolation Hospital.

Another case was reported yesterday morning. In this case the patient is an up-country native lad, aged about 14 or 15 years. He resides at a grain depot situated in Jinn Bazar Street, which is in front of the thannah. This lad was found to be suffering from high fever with a temperature of 106 degrees and delirium. He had a swelling of the glands, accompanied by pains all over the body. He has also been removed to the Isolation Hospital at Manicktolla."

These reports reaching Dupleing, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who was still hesitating, at once made up his mind and issued the following order:

RESOLUTION NO 937F. -M., DATED 10TH OCTOBER 1896.

"In the Government letter No 770F. -M of the 30th September, (published in R & R. of the 31 Oct.), copy of which is annexed to this Resolution, the Corporation of Calcutta were addressed on the subject of the reported outbreak of plague in Bombay, and it was suggested that the following measures should be taken under sections 321 to 334 of the Calcutta Municipal Act:—

- (1) To declare bubonic plague or any form of typhus fever with glandular swellings to be a dangerous disease, regarding any case of which information should at once be communicated to the Commissioners or then Health Officer under section 321.
- (2) To select a site for a temporary Plague Hospital away from the main thoroughfares, and to arrange for its prompt erection should the need arise.
- (3) To provide special carts for the conveyance of cases to Hospital, and to arrange for the disinfection of both carts and drivers.
- (4) To divide the Town into Sanitary Circles of manageable size, and to place in charge of each a Medical Inspector with full powers to carry out the measures ordered by the Commissioners or Government for preventing the spread of the disease.
- (5) To draw up Regulations under section 334 of the Act, in order to give effect to such special measures as might be necessary to prevent, check or mitigate an outbreak of plague.

The Corporation were further informed that the Government would be prepared to appoint a Medical Board to assist the Corporation in devising measures to deal with the disease.

2. While trusting that no necessity for the above measures would arise, the Lieutenant-Governor expressed his entire approval of the steps taken under the Commissioners' orders to give special attention to the cleaning and sanitation of Calcutta. A copy of the letter was sent to the Commissioner of Bowdoin, who was directed to instruct the Magistrate of Howrah to move the Municipality to take the necessary action to cleanse and sanitize the town.

3. A case of mild bubonic plague is now reported to have occurred in Howrah, the patient being a Eurasian lad of 17, who arrived from Bombay on the 26th September, and is believed (though this is not certain) to have brought the disease with him. It may be hoped that the case is an isolated one, and that no general outbreak of the disease will take place. But the occurrence of even a single case in a crowded area

where the sanitary conditions are such as to favour the spread of contagion, if not actually to generate the disease, convinces the Lieutenant-Governor that the time has now come to adopt further preventive measures.

4. It has accordingly been decided to appoint the following gentlemen to form a Medical Board for the purpose of determining the action to be taken by all executive authorities, whether official or municipal, with the object of preventing and checking the plague throughout Bengal:—

President.

Hon'ble H. H. Risley, C.I.E., Secretary to Government, Financial and Municipal Departments.

Members.

Hon'ble P. Playfair, C.I.E.

Hon'ble J. G. H. Glass, C.I.E., Chief Engineer.

Surgeon-Colonel Ross, Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.

Surgeon-Captain Dyson, Sanitary Commissioner.

Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, C.I.R.

Secretary.

Surgeon-Captain Robson-Scott, Officiating Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Presidency Circle.

5. All cases of illness which are believed to be plague should at once be reported to the Board by the Magistrate of the district where they occur, and in Calcutta by the Health Officer of the Corporation. The orders issued by the Board on matters affecting health and conservancy should be deemed to be the orders of Government and carried out with all possible despatch by all executive authorities. Steps will hereafter be taken, if necessary, to legalise all action taken during the present emergency. Nothing should meantime prevent the Board from ordering, or the executive authorities from carrying out, any reasonable measure of precaution, segregation or disinfection which may appear called for.

6. The areas which the Board will have in the first instance to deal with in order to arrest the spread of the plague, are the following:—

- (1) The Town of Calcutta.
- (2) The Port of Calcutta.
- (3) The Municipality of Howrah.
- (4) The small Municipalities adjacent to Calcutta and Howrah.
- (5) The lines of railway.

7. *The Town of Calcutta.*—The plague has already been declared to be a dangerous disease under section 321 of the Municipal Act, and it is further understood that the measures indicated in the Government letter of 30th September have already been adopted, or are in course of adoption by the Corporation. The Commissioners have asked the Government to select for them a Chief Superintendent to organise and control the conservancy and nuisance branch of the Health Department for three months on a salary of Rs. 1,000 a month. Dr. Banks, Civil Medical Officer of Port, who possesses in a high degree the requisite qualifications, has been appointed to the post, and directed by telegram to join at once. Sites have been selected in Maniktola for an isolation hospital and a special burning-ghat and burial-ground for plague patients. The Town is being divided by the Health Officer into Sanitary Circles, and Regulations under section 334 of the Act are about to be submitted for the sanction of Government. The Lieutenant-Governor feels sure that the Commissioners, the Executive Officers of the Corporation, and their subordinates will work cordially with the Medical Board and carry out promptly and fully all the recommendations of that body.

8. *The Municipality of Howrah.*—The Chairman of the Municipality has been instructed by telegram to isolate the patient now suffering from the plague, to destroy his clothes, and to disinfect the house in which he has been living. The Municipality have asked by telegram for the appointment of an officer of the rank of Surgeon-Captain as Health Officer of the town on a salary of Rs. 1,500 a month and carriage allowance; but the Lieutenant-Governor considers that the needs of Howrah can best be met by transferring the present Civil Surgeon, who is in weak health, to a lighter station, and deputing a younger officer, Surgeon-Major Wilsh, to carry on the combined duties of Civil Surgeon and of Health Officer with the assistance of an experienced supervisor of the Public Works Department, who will receive Rs. 500 a month with horse allowance and house rent. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner of the Western Circle was ordered to Howrah to assist in sanitary measures two days before the case of plague was reported to Government.

9. *The adjacent Municipalities.*—The Chairmen of the Municipalities noted in the margin* should now report to the Medical Board, through the Magistrate of the district, what steps they propose to take to prevent the plague spreading to their jurisdictions. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioners will be directed to visit these Municipalities as soon as possible, and to explain to the Chairmen personally what ought to be done.

10. *The Port of Calcutta.*—The Government of India have been moved by telegram to sanction the introduction, with such modifications as may be necessary, of the revised rules for quarantine against plague which were introduced in August 1894 for the protection of Calcutta from the importation of plague from Hongkong. It has also been suggested that under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act the export of rags and second-hand clothing from Bombay should be prohibited. Steps are being taken to provide accommodation for plague patients near the quarantine anchorage at Diamond Harbour, and all suspected vessels will be carefully examined and disinfected by the Port Health Officer before communication with the shore is permitted.

11. *The lines of Railway.*—Under section 71 of the Railway Act IX of 1890, a railway administration may refuse to carry persons suffering from any infectious or contagious disease, and under section 117 any

such person may be removed by a railway servant from the carriage in which he is travelling. On the 1st October, the Governor of Bombay was asked by telegram whether, in event of the disease increasing, he would be prepared to move the Railway Company to prevent suspected persons from leaving Bombay by rail; and on the next day, His Excellency replied that the Municipal and Railway authorities were in consultation, and that if the disease increased the necessary measures would be taken. The East Indian Railway have already posted native doctors at Aunsol, Allahabad and Tundla to scrutinise all passengers, especially those coming from Bombay, while tickets are being checked. The Assistant Superintendent of Emigration at Raniganj and Aunsol has been instructed to give all possible assistance to the railway officials in the matter. The Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Administration of the Central Provinces, have also been addressed on the subject."

There was no time to communicate with the independent gentlemen nominated for the Medical Board, and it was expected that they would not refuse a public duty on a grave public occasion. Alive to the danger of the situation, Dr. Sircar, we are glad to find, notwithstanding the state of his health, has earnestly taken up the work. He has circulated the following letter dated the 13th October:

"DEAR SIR, Having been appointed by Government a member of the Medical Board for the prevention of the Plague, I am anxious to inspect the various parts of Calcutta with a view to see with my own eyes their sanitary condition and needs. I shall feel obliged if you will be kind enough to render me any help in this matter. I shall be very glad to accompany you to any place which you may consider as particularly requiring careful inspection, or to visit any patient suspected to be suffering from the disease."

The reported Ahmedabad cases have been explained away, and there has been no fresh case to cause alarm. It is to be hoped that the Calcutta, like the Ahmedabad, outbreak will prove no more than a scare. The quarantine rules against the plague for vessels leaving Bombay are published in a *Gazette of India* Extraordinary. They apply to Aden and the Persian and Somali coast. The Spanish Government are for a quarantine in Spain on all vessels which left Bombay after the 10th instant. A telegram from Bombay reports Hindu discontent at the forcible removal of plague victims. "Petty fights took place between the relations of the victims and the police. The grain dealers of Mandvi refuse to open their shops. Bullock cart drivers and dock labourers are arranging to strike work if the authorities persist."

Plague is the disease of the poor. Their food as much as their dwelling requires enquiring into. Cheap and nasty articles of food equally with uncleanly homes and surroundings contribute to the generation of the pest which, spreading, creates havoc among all classes.

THE following account has a moral of its own:—

"In the year 1656 the plague was brought from Sardinia to Naples, being introduced into the city by a transport with soldiers on board. It raged with excessive violence, carrying off in less than six months 400,000 of the inhabitants. The distemper was at first called by the physicians a malignant fever; but one of them affirming it to be pestilential, the viceroy, who was apprehensive lest such a report would occasion all communication with Naples to be broke off, was offended with this declaration, and ordered him to be imprisoned. As a favour, however, he allowed him to return and die in his own house. By this proceeding of the viceroy, the distemper being neglected, made a most rapid and furious progress, and filled the whole city with consternation. The streets were crowded with confused processions, which served to spread the infection through all the quarters. The terror of the people increased their superstition; and it being reported that a certain nun had prophesied that the pestilence would cease upon building a hermitage for her sister nuns upon the hill of St. Martin's, the edifice was immediately begun with the most ardent zeal. Persons of the highest quality strove who should perform the meanest offices: some loading themselves with beams, and others carrying baskets full of lime and nails, while persons of all ranks stripped themselves of their most valuable effects, which they threw into empty hogheads placed in the streets to receive the charitable contributions. Their violent agitation, however, and the increasing heats, diffused the malady through the whole city, and the streets and the stairs of the churches were filled with the dead; the number of whom, for some time of the month of July, amounted daily to 15,000.

The general calamity was increased in Naples by malcontents, who insinuated that the distemper had been designedly introduced by the Spaniards, and that there were people in disguise who went through the city sowing poisoned dust. This idle rumour enraged the populace, who began to insult the Spanish soldiers, and threaten a sedition; so that the viceroy, to pacify the mob, caused a criminal to be brake upon the wheel, under pretence that he was a dispenser of the dust. A violent and plentiful rain falling about the middle of August, the distemper began to abate; and on the eighth of December the physicians made a solemn declaration that the city was entirely free from infection."

* In Hooghly district: Hooghly-Chinsurah, Serampur, Uttarpara, Budyabati, Bhudieswar, Kurrang, Bansheria. In Howrah district: Bally. In the 24 Parganas: Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktola, Baranagar, South Suburban, South Dum-Dum, North Dum-Dum, South Barackpore North Barackpore, Baraset, Naihati.

We have already (*R and R.*, 3rd October), given the letter of Professor Vambéry of the Budapest University written direct to the author of "Hindu Castes and Sects." Today we give an extract from another letter from the same eminent Professor of Oriental languages:

'As to the work of your learned friend, I shall certainly not neglect the opportunity to do justice to his most valuable and instructive book which, I dare say, is the first of its kind about the Sects and Castes of India.

With regard to the liberal views of the author, I fully share his opinion on religions in general, being already sick of the horrible hypocrisy and unblushing mendacity of Christianity. You must not believe we continental people are like the English. Many of us, and particularly literary people, are fully convinced of the shame of belonging to any positive religion, and we are working hard to pull down this abominable fabric of lies."

We are sure the Professor, though speaking in passionate terms, means no offence. He writes more in sorrow than in anger. We can enter into his feelings, for we too are sometimes led into denouncing the action of men of our religion. Generally, it is the professors of religion who are to be handled roughly, for men are better than their religion. Those who live and fatten by pandering to vice under the garb of religion, are more to be avoided than the bad phases of a religion.

IN speaking of the Sultan of Turkey, our London correspondent is unusually hard on poor Abdul Hamid. Our correspondent is generally very liberal in his estimate of men and things. His catholicity has won our admiration. If he knew the Sultan personally, he would speak of him in a different tune. Professor Vambéry knows him and gives him a good character. The more-sinned-against-than-sinning Sultan has again been driven to a situation in which he needs sympathy and disinterested counsel. We make no doubt that Professor Vambéry and others will come to his rescue in this hour of peril. We confess we have a sneaking fondness, if not for the Sultan, for Turkey, and we do not relish the prospect of her exclusion from the comity of Europe on the unique occasion, if only for the numerous Mahomedan subjects of Her Majesty in the Indian Empire.

We cannot be sufficiently thankful to our London correspondent for his offer of hospitality to native visitors to England during the celebration of the 60 years' reign of our beloved Sovereign, who has proved herself a true Hindu mother to her dark children.

THE following is a cutting from the *New York Herald*:-

"A curious and singularly interesting book has come to us from Calcutta, the publishers being Thacker, Spink & Co., and the author being Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya, M.A., D.L., President of the College of Pandits, Nadiya, and author of an able work on Hindoo law. The present work is entitled 'Hindoo Castes and Sects,' being an exposition of the origin of the Hindoo caste system and of the bearing of the sects toward each other and toward other religious systems. Only those who have lived in India can have any idea of the importance and many ramifications of the Hindoo caste system, and of the difficulty of obtaining exact information in regard to the points of difference between the various castes and sects. The author here clearly explains the origin and nature of the caste system, after which he devotes a chapter to each caste, showing us where it flourishes and how it differs from other castes. Thus he tells us about military castes, scientific castes, writer castes, mercantile castes, artisan castes and clean and unclean castes. As an introduction to this part of his book he gives us a succinct account of the Brahmans throughout India, showing us the causes that have led to their degradation in so many cases.

The better part of the book is devoted to a description of the various Hindoo sects and is mainly interesting for the reason that it throws some light on Buddhism and other Oriental forms of belief. More interest is now being taken in the East and in Eastern manners and customs than was ever taken before, and this book by such a learned Oriental professor will certainly tend to keep alive this interest. Not that the book will ever become popular, for, to speak frankly, it is rather heavy reading, but, wedged in between the long jawbreaking Indian names and the dry historical passages are a few gems of folklore and mythology, and if only for these the book will be prized by many a student of Oriental faiths and customs."

By an order dated the 5th of October, appearing in the *Gazette of India* of the 10th of October, 1896, the Governor-General in Council has appointed the 6th day of October, 1896, as the day on which the Pilgrim Ships Act (XIV of 1895) shall come into operation. It has also been ordered that every pilgrim ship shall contain, in the first or upper be-

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tween deck, at least 12 superficial feet and 72 cubic feet, and, in the second or lower between-deck, at least 16 s. feet and 96 c. feet, of space available for each pilgrim; and that two persons of the age of one year and upwards and under the age of 12 years shall, unless otherwise expressly provided, count as one pilgrim. The same *Gazette* publishes the rules under the Act, which rules, under it, are practically the Act itself.

IN his Inspection Report on the Darjeeling Municipality, the Sanitary Commissioner remarks:

"I only say at once that a high standard of municipal administration has been attained, Darjeeling being in this respect much in advance of any of the hill stations in the Punjab (including Simla), of all of which I have personal experience. By this I must not be understood to mean that the sanitary administration here is perfect: it is far from that; but judging from the advance that seems to have been made in recent years, and the eager desire on the part of the authorities to carry out suggested reforms, the time is probably not far distant when there will be little or nothing to find reasonable fault with in the municipal administration of Darjeeling."

Speaking of public latrines, Dr. Dyson says:-

"In Darjeeling one always knows when one is approaching a public latrine from the strong smell of phenyle with which it is the custom to disinfect it. I suppose phenyle is used because it is supposed to be a strong germicide. It is a germicide, but not a powerful one, and as it is objectionable in smell, perhaps the municipality would like to try some other disinfectant. I recommend the following solution of perchloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate):-

Corrosive sublimate	...	...	1/2 oz.
Hydrochloric acid	...	...	1 oz.
Aniline blue	...	...	20 grains.
Water...	...	...	3 gallons.

This is a very powerful germicide, and has the additional advantage over phenyle that it is odourless."

Dr. Dyson is a member of the Medical Board appointed to prevent plague at Calcutta. Let us hope he will make it as sanitary as Darjeeling. O for a month of Sir Stewart Hogg!

THE B. I. S. N. Company having established a third weekly steamer service between Calcutta and Rangoon, mails for Burma and the Straits Settlements will be closed on Saturday, with a supplementary mail of unregistered articles only; Sunday for Burma and the Straits Settlements by the steamer timed to leave Calcutta on Monday; Tuesday for Burma only by the steamer timed to leave Calcutta on Wednesday; Friday for Burma only by the steamer timed to leave Calcutta on Saturday.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, October 17, 1896.

THE SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL FROM EXECUTIVE POWER IN INDIA.

AN esteemed English correspondent writes:

"Mr. M. Ghose's paper on Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions is not quite what is wanted---people here are nearly all agreed that they ought to be separated. What is wanted is to shew that the expense will not be so great, if the existing officials are separated and allocated to one or other function."

This is satisfactory news so far as it goes. The first step gained, we may look forward to the final. But we are not sure that cost is the only impediment. In Calcutta, the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation was also the Commissioner of Police. It was long urged on the Government of Bengal that the two offices should be separated. Government, though convinced of the reasonableness of the demand, waited and waited. When the Bill in which the present elective Municipality was provided for, was in Council, under charge of the then Chairman of the Corporation, Sir Stewart Hogg, a petition went up for the separation of the two offices. Sir Richard Temple, the then Lieutenant-Governor, who had ordered the election clauses of the Bill, was also willing, we believe, to allow the separation. But Sir Stewart Hogg then demi-officially explained that the old provision was retained that there might be no change in the position of the then holder of power. We understood that the next amendment of the law would disunite the two offices. When Sir Henry Harrison introduced his Bill to raise a larger revenue

from the house-owners of Calcutta, Government had decided upon the separation and the Bill provided that the Chairman of the Corporation shall hold no other office. At the final stage of the Bill, Sir Henry moved an amendment to preserve intact the old arrangement. It was not agreed to. This shews how officials in India cling to power and how jealously and zealously they guard it. It is something if the feeling reported by our correspondent is that of the India Office. We make no doubt that the general voice in England is against the present practice. But unless the India Office has been able to prove superior to officials in India, we cannot hope for the change. Here we may mention that the Secretary of State was always opposed to separation of the offices of Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation and Commissioner of Police. It is evident, when Mr. Ghose published his pamphlets he was under the belief that the objection based on the ground of expense was not the only obstacle, though put forward as such. He is not convinced that the India Office and those in authority require only to be shown that the separation does not involve additional expense. Mr. Ghose is now engaged on a second edition of his pamphlets in one volume, and we hope he will, in that volume, meet both the objections. We expect him to give the previous history of the two offices of Magistrate and Collector.

Let us take a glance. Immediately after the acquisition of the Dewany in 1765, it was not thought prudent to entrust the collection of revenue or the administration of justice to European servants of the Hon'ble East India Company. The first step to introduce Europeans for the purpose was taken in 1769, when Supervisors were appointed for superintending the native officers. It was not till 1772 that regular arrangements were made. A Board of Revenue was appointed and two courts—Dewany or Civil and Fouzdary or Criminal Court—established. The Supervisors, now termed Collectors, presided over the civil court and attended the other court to see that all formalities of trial were observed. Appeals from these courts lay to two other courts—the Dewany Sudder Adalat or Chief Court of Civil Judicature and the Nizamut Sudder Adawlut or Chief Court of Criminal Justice. In 1774, the European Collectors were withdrawn, a new system of police was introduced and native officers styled Fouzdars appointed, the superintendence of collection of revenue being vested in Provincial Councils established at Calcutta, Burdwan, Dacca, Moorshedabad, Dinagepore and Patna. In the same way, the administration of civil justice was transferred to aumils. Six years after, in 1780, courts of justice were established in the six great provincial divisions, distinct from and independent of the Revenue Council. These courts were presided over by covenanted servants. "The Judges of these courts were wholly unconnected with the Revenue Department, except in the four frontier districts of Chittra (or Hazaribagh), Bhaugulpore, Islamabad (or Chittagong), and Rungpore, where, for local reasons, the offices of Judge, Magistrate, and Collector were vested in the same person, but with a provision that the judicial authority should be considered distinct from, and independent of, revenue functions." Next year, the Provincial Councils were abolished and Collectorships reconstituted. The same year also found the withdrawal of fouzdars and thanadars, introduced in 1774, and 18 Civil Judges "were invested with the power, as Magistrates, of apprehending dacoits and

persons charged with the commission of any crime or acts of violence within their respective jurisdictions." They had not the powers of a judge to try but only the power of the police to apprehend.

With the advent of Lord Cornwallis as Governor-General of Fort William in Bengal, began a further change. "The European Civil servants superintending the several districts into which the country was divided were each of them vested with the united powers of Collector, Civil Judge and Magistrate." In ordering this union of different authorities in the same person, the Court of Directors were influenced by considerations of its "having a tendency to simplicity, energy, justice, and economy." They were actuated by the necessity of accommodating "their views and interests to the subsisting manners and usages of the people, rather than by any abstract theories drawn from other countries, or applicable to a different state of things."

It was not long before Lord Cornwallis found out the mistake of the amalgamation. Differing from the Court of Directors, in 1793, before closing his first term of office, he annulled the judicial power of all officers of the revenue, established courts of civil judicature in districts, in which the new Judges were European Covenanted servants of higher official rank than Collectors, who exercised the powers of Magistrate as well as of Civil Judge and controlled the police, one officer in each district being Judge and Magistrate, and another Collector. This arrangement continued for a long time.

Lord William Bentinck once more united the two offices of Magistrate and Collector. It was a temporary union. The duties of a Collector having considerably increased with operations for resumption of revenue-free tenures, Lord Auckland, in 1837, again decided upon separation. The process continued till 1845, when the two offices were disunited everywhere except in three districts of Orissa and in the independent Joint-Magistracies of Pubna, Maldah, Bogra, Bulooah (or Noakhally), Furreedpur, Bancoorah, Baraset and Champaran. The salaries of the separated Collectors were uniformly fixed at Rs. 23,000 a year, except in Bhagulpur, Monghyr and Birbhum, where they were Rs. 18,000. It was proposed that the salaries of Magistrates would be in two grades of Rs. 18,000 and Rs. 12,000. They were, however, in 1842, reduced to Rs. 10,800 per annum.

The creation of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal knocked the "separate" system on the head. In 1854, the Deputy Governor of Bengal was raised to a Lieutenant-Governor and the Governor-General ceased to be Governor of Bengal. This separation of the two offices of Governor-General of India and Governor of Bengal revived the question of amalgamation of the offices of Collector and Magistrate, and the mutinies hastened the decision which we have now to fight. The re-union sanctioned in 1859, was vigorously opposed by Mr. Grant. But Sir Frederick Halliday, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Lord Dalhousie and Lord Carnarvon having supported the measure, Lord Stanley, who was then Secretary of State for India, sanctioned the amalgamation, by his despatch No. 15, dated the 14th April 1859. He directed "(1) that the offices of Magistrate and Collector, where now disunited in Bengal, should be combined in the same person, and that such of the covenanted officers as are now Magistrates, and are not absorbed in the higher office, should be employed as Joint-Magistrates

and Deputy Collectors, but without any decrease of salary; and (2) that the Joint-Magistrate in each district should ordinarily have the superintendence of the police under the general control of the Magistrate."

It is not denied that the work of a Collector-Magistrate is increasing every year and that it is too varied for one head however great. Sir Henry Harrison, when Junior Secretary to the Bengal Government, wrote: "It is rather hard to expect a district officer to perform any work which is put upon him, from an agricultural exhibition to a report on *celacea*, and then to blame him for not knowing the interior of his district."

We will conclude this hasty account with an extract from a minute by the Lieutenant-Governor Sir William Grey, which does not appear in Mr. Ghose's collection.

"There are, at all times, men in the service who are better suited by the character of their intellect and by temperament for judicial work than for executive work. The converse is also true. I have known men badly qualified for the judicial bench make very good commissioners, and I know others of great ability, and the character of whose intellect peculiarly qualifies them for judicial work, who have, from special causes, entirely failed to give satisfaction as commissioners. It would be a gain to the judicial service to retain such men as these last; and it would, on the other hand, be a great advantage to the general service of Government that they should not be placed in an office, such as that of commissioner, the duties of which, though not requiring greater intellectual ability than the office of judge, do nevertheless require the possession of certain special qualifications which are not necessarily or always found in combination even with superior intellectual capacity.

Under the existing system which leads civil servants to regard a commissionership as the ordinary promotion from a judgeship, it is very difficult to reject the claims of an able man to a commissionership, even though it may be felt that he is not well fitted for that particular office."

• An attempt has also been made, by Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, of the Indian Civil Service, now Commissioner of the Orissa Division, to shew that the cost of separation of the two services—executive and judicial—will not be so heavy as it is supposed to be. We must not, however, omit to mention that Sir Antony MacDonnell, while officiating as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, found fault with Mr. Dutt's scheme which was published in *India* in August 1893. We understand that the next (October) number of the *Imperial and Asiatic Quarterly Review* will open with a paper, by Sir Charles Elliott, on the subject of this article.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

September 23.

To-day our most gracious Queen and Empress has reigned longer than any of her predecessors on her great imperial throne. George the Third's reign was, until to-day, the longest in our annals. But the last ten years of his reign were practically non-existent, as far as he was personally concerned, because of his melancholy mental derangement. Our Sovereign to-day has reigned and ruled since the 20th of June 1837, and, as all loyal subjects in Great Britain, India, and her colonial possessions devoutly pray, she may be spared to see the 20th of June 1897, completing sixty years since she ascended the throne. On that day there will be an outburst of loyalty, such as the world has never before witnessed. Every monarchy in Europe, and the great Republic of France will be represented, but I hope Turkey will on that occasion be boycotted, and, should the miserable Abdul Hamid be then in life, Lord Salisbury will have the courage to tell him, that on no terms can he be allowed to join the comity of Europe. Then, I believe, we are to have representatives of your ancient dynasties, princes who bear grand historic names and to whom the people of this country will pay unbounded homage. And our colonies, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and our West India settlements will not be behindhand in paying their tribute of loyalty and fealty to as noble a Sovereign as ever held the sceptre of Empire. The papers to-day are flooded with details of her reign, so I will be brief.

The Queen's marriage was a singularly happy one, and Prince Albert's death, in 1861, was to Her Majesty an overwhelming sorrow. But, how nobly she bore her grief! Lord Beaconsfield has borne his testimony, and our gracious Queen is one of the most accomplished ladies of business in her grand empire. The 20th of June next year will be a record one in the annals of European monarchies. And as the son of a man who gave his life for India, I shall be proud to be the host in London of any of your friends who are desirous of paying their tribute of homage to the Gracious Empress of India.

September 25.

To-day the great factor in all our papers is the appearance yesterday at Liverpool of the G. O. M. Time is so pressing that I have not been able to follow his speech in detail, but I have seen enough to understand that he not only relieved the present Government from undue responsibility, but went further in his attempt to rouse the national feeling of Europe. I myself was a thorough supporter of Mr. Gladstone until, in 1886, he initiated his Home Rule policy in regard to Ireland. But, although no worshipper at the present moment of Mr. Gladstone, I cannot refrain from saying that his appearance yesterday at Liverpool, and the speech he delivered will form an epoch in the annals of British rhetoric. The position of affairs at Constantinople is of the very gravest character, and should Abdul Hamid carry out his threats against our ambassador, be the cost what it may, Great Britain will, if she has to stand alone in spite of the blood relationship between the monarchies of England, Russia and Germany, know how to protect the national character.

Validity of Anglican Orders. I do not suppose this is a question of much interest to your readers, but, as it is a burning one here, I cannot pass it over altogether. The Romanist party in the Church of England has been fortunate in this, that both in Lord Salisbury and Mr. Gladstone they have had warm sympathisers, particularly in the latter, whose close personal friends are to be found in the Church of Rome. So long as the High Church party confined themselves to improving the somewhat bald worship of the Low Church party, things worked pretty smoothly. But when the former began to imitate the Roman ritual, and the Bishops were either in sympathy with them, or indifferent, a strong reaction set in, not powerful enough apparently to set a curb on those "priests," who, while enjoying the status and emoluments of the "Protestant" Church of England, are at heart antiprotestants and claim for themselves all the supernatural powers supposed to be vested in the One Church ruled by the vicar of Christ, that is, the Pope. This arrogant sacerdotal party in the Anglican Church is represented by the English Church Union, of which Lord Halifax (son of Sir Charles Wood, so well known in India as the author of the famous education despatch of 1854) is President. He lately made a pilgrimage to Rome, to endeavour to persuade the Pope to bring about a reunion of the two Churches on the basis of the Roman Church acknowledging the validity of the orders of the Anglican.

From a striking article in the "Times" of the 19th instant, I see the movement has collapsed, the "prisoner of the Vatican" having put his foot down and given judgment that there can be no reunion until the peccant clergy and laity of the Anglican Church return to the true fold. The text of the apostolic letters has not yet been published, but, "we are given to understand that they are so worded as to leave no loophole for escape. Anglican orders are declared to be null and void. Rome has spoken and the controversy is now closed, and, we venture to add, it is closed none too soon." Mr. Gladstone, in his famous letter which at once alienated the "nonconformist conscience," wrote of the "cordial sentiments of reverence, gratitude and high appreciation" with which he and his friends in the Church of England, regarded the Pope's proceedings in the matter. The writer of the "Times" article goes on to say: "They have not much to be grateful for, since they find themselves treated as mere outcasts, denied all share in the most sacred mysteries of Church and deriving no benefit from the miraculous powers which their invalid clergy have been claiming and professing to exercise. Now that they have got the Pope's sentence, some of them may be led to review their own position and to be less certain that they are really in possession of the vast supernatural powers which the Pope so cruelly denies to them, and which not a few of their own order have never so much as professed to share. As to the traditional policy of Rome, there can be no room for doubt. The duty of submission to the Pope stands clearly as an article, not of opinion, but of faith. On this point, therefore, the Pope may claim the full infallibility which the Vatican decrees have conferred upon him. He is, and he intends to be, master in his own house, and he tells us *ex cathedra* the only conditions under which outsiders can be allowed to enter. Unfortunately they do not support the correctness of the information which Mr. Gladstone was allowed, through the kindness of Lord Halifax, to share, while they show a sadly negative result from the labours of his Holiness Pope Leo XIII. in

furtherance of truth and peace.' But we are none the less thankful to the Pope for having so clearly defined his own position, and that of the Anglican Church, in language which no party in the Church can ever again pretend to misunderstand or to misinterpret."

While this crushing blow has fallen upon the extreme sacerdotal party in the Church of England, a most interesting yet painful correspondence has been going on in the columns of the "Times" on the "poverty of the clergy." It is a terrible thing to have to allow that although in some aspects the Anglican Church is one of the wealthiest, in others it is one of the poorest of Churches. With a revenue of over seven millions, it is an acknowledged fact, and the figures are understated, that "400 beneficed clergy receive less than £50 a year; 3,500 less than £100 a year." And then in contrast with this frightful impoverishment you have 2 Archbishops dividing £25,000, while 31 Bishops take an average of £4,500, each. In addition to these, 179 Deans, Canons Residentiary, and Archdeacons absorb about £130,000. On the face of these figures, it would seem as if these 200 to 220 highly paid clergy might make a beginning by coming to the relief of their poorer brethren. An endeavour is being made to work a Church Sustentation Fund under the auspices of such lay men as the Duke of Westminster and Lord Egerton of Tatton. But, as Lord Grimthorpe has well pointed out, there will be no hearty response on the part of the laity generally, so long as in matters of ritual they are at the mercy of "sacerdotal" priests. This Papal bull (published since I wrote the above) may do a signal service to the Anglican Church, if it succeeds in divesting these arrogant priests of their impudent assumption that they possess "supernatural powers," and are a class set apart from the laity.

Egypt. The success of the Khedive's troops in their advance on Dongola, reflects the very highest credit on the Sirdar (Sir Kitchener) and the officers he "has the honour to command." The absence of any effective resistance on the part of the Dervishes does not in any way detract from the masterly generalship of the Sirdar. Common opinion now is that Khartoom itself is within his grasp, and, as I wrote some weeks ago, when the Egyptian with British flag floats on the ramparts (such as they are) of Khartoom, it will be felt poor General Gordon's cruel fate has, in some measure at least, been avenged.

Madagascar. M. Laroche has been recalled and General Gallieni goes out to assume supreme command, civil as well as military.

Letters to the Editor.

THE BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE AT KRISHNAGHUR.

WHEN Cicero came forward as the accuser of Verres, what were the arguments he advanced why the prosecution should be committed to him? "Because," said Cicero, "I am acquainted with the evasions and sophistry of his advocate Hortensius. I am accustomed to combat and overthrow him." Being an eye-witness of the last conference, I am justified, I think, without aspiring to the fame of the great Roman I have quoted, in writing the following lines on the same.

In the words of Lord Clive, Krishnaghur is the Indian Belvedere. In this historic old town, the second Bengal Provincial Conference held its sittings. About a hundred and fifty years ago, from this place, mandates were issued for government, in social matters, of nearly the whole of the Hindu population of Bengal, by Maharaja Krishna Chandra Roy, who may not unfitly be spoken of also as the Mæcenas of Bengal for the encouragement he gave to literature. It was here that the foundation was laid of British Rule in India. In the very hall where the Conference met, Maharaja Krishna Chandra had received Lord Clive and plotted with him for the destruction of the highly unpopular rule of Serajuddowla, the last of the independent Nawabs of Bengal, Behar and Orissa.

Somewhat on the principle of killing two birds with one stone, I had the pleasure of paying a visit to my native town after years of monotonous life in the metropolis full of "universal hubbub wild of stunning sounds and voices all confused" as a delegate, without any instructions and as a patriot without any patriotism. It was simply for curiosity's sake and not for the sake of delivering India from the "ruthless spoliation" of the British Rule, that I went there. In spite of the ceaseless downpour which deluged the town, the student population of Krishnaghur worked with unabated zeal for the comforts of the delegates. The enthusiasm that filled them, and the attention they showed them, were beyond all praise. They laboured day and night, without any rest. Commenting upon this the President of the Reception Committee, Mr. M. Ghose, said,—"So far as the will is concerned, nothing is wanting." Maharaja Jagadindranath Roy Bahadur of Natore refused to accept the presidency of the conference on the ground of an ancient custom of the houses of Krishnaghur and Natore. As a descendant of

Rani Bhabani, the Maharaja of Natore cannot pay a visit to Krishnaghur without special invitation. It is an old custom that the Maharaja of Krishnaghur must invite the Maharaja of Natore three times. The first two invitations must be refused and the third accepted. The Maharaja of Natore should then come to Krishnaghur with all his retinue. The Maharaja of Krishnaghur should have also to spend a large sum of money for his guest. As the finances of the Maharaja of Krishnaghur are not in a flourishing condition, and as he has no quarters suitable for a guest of the social position of Natore, the former could not possibly invite the latter. The same rule governs the visit of the Maharaja of Krishnaghur to Natore, for the two houses are equal. The Hon'ble Guru Prasad Sen was requested to become the president of the Conference. The invitation was issued by Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee. The Ranaghat Pal Chowdhuries were represented by Babu Gyanendranath Pal Chowdhury. The Pal Chowdhuries of Latuda were represented by two horses and a carriage. Mr. Garret, the District Magistrate, being asked to attend the Conference, wrote to Mr. E. V. Westmacott, the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, for permission. The Commissioner is not in favour of the Conference. Accordingly Mr. Garret wrote to Babu Tarapada Banerjee, the Secretary, expressing regret at not being able to come, declaring, however, at the same time his fullest sympathy with the movement. Many of my brother delegates went to make their first acquaintance with the famous sweets of Krishnaghur, a surefit of which upset the "Prince of Patriots" and the emaciated gentleman of the *Patrika*. The latter, for this reason, absented himself from the meeting of the second day. So far as the personal convenience of delegates was concerned, I am bound to say that the conference was a complete success. The same cannot be said of the purpose for which we met. The subject-committee which sat three times, was "a home-made affair," as was remarked by a pleader-delegate. The "Apostle of Local Self-government," after his fashion, monopolised the whole business. Babu Surendranath was the Aaron's serpent that swallowed up the whole conference. No one of the delegates was allowed to propose and second any resolution who was not his friend or known admirer. The repeated opposition of Babu Moti Lal Ghosh of the *Patrika*, was unable to stem the tide of his eloquence. Mr. Manmohan Ghose, seeing the turn matters had taken, ceased to take any part and spoke not a word on any of the resolutions. The Chairman Babu Guru Prasad Sen systematically kept his Pythagorean silence. As monarch of all he surveys, Mr. Surrender Not, in spite of the Zoilus of the *Patrika*, received an address from the student community for the excellent service he had done in his country's cause at the Poona Congress. What a sublime example of hero-worship! India! Art thou not proud of such a son?

In arguing, too, the patriot owned his skill,
For, even tho' vanquished, he could argue still,
While words of learned length and thundering sound
Amazed the gazing students ranged around;
And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew
That one small head could carry all he knew.

There is no printing press in Krishnaghur and, hence, great inconvenience was felt by the delegates. This conference would have done a real good to the town, if it could be an occasion for establishment of such a press.

A remarkable feature of the Conference was the absence of the Brahmos. The Editor of the *Sanjivani* sent three telegrams, one to Babu Tarapada Banerjee, one to Mr. M. Ghose and another to the Hon'ble Guru Prasad Sen, on behalf of the Brahmos of Calcutta, intimating their inability to attend so long as the Secretary took any part in the proceedings. Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee sent an immediate reply, informing the gentlemen that their presence on those terms was not needed.

The change of date of the Conference was due to two causes. The first was the indirect refusal of the Maharaja to allow the use of the Rajbati Hall. Pressed by some enemies of the Congress, the Maharaja requested the Reception Committee not to preach any sedition. The Committee resenting the insinuation, refused to use the Hall, and sent a telegram to Mr. J. Ghosal at Calcutta for sending up a circus tent. But at last the Maharaja found out his mistake and sent his Dewan and other officials to Babu Tarapada Banerjee requesting him to use the Hall. The Committee replied that if Mr. Ghose agreed, they would take the Hall. The second cause had reference to Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, Mr. A. M. Bose and Babu Kali Charan Banerjee. These three gentlemen had expressed their desire to take part in the proceedings. Mr. M. Ghose, with the sanction of the committee, changed the date for suiting the convenience of the gentlemen. Mr. Bonnerjee, however, had to go to Deoghur and could not come. The other two, pressed, as is believed, by the Brahmo community, did not attend fearing, as many said, to lose

that golden key

That opens the palace of eternity.

The people of Krishnaghur lived in an atmosphere of perfect

harmony. There was none even slightly opposed to the conference. They marched shoulder to shoulder to be of service to it. The sudden appearance of Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose gave a fresh impetus to their enthusiasm. Amid deafening cheers and outbursts of acclamation he marched through the hall, and the whole assembly stood up to greet him.

The presidential address was inaudible. It may have merits, but it tormented the audience sorely. Though not a lengthy one, it took nearly one hour and a half in delivery. Full of extracts as it was, the Hon'ble Guru Prasad Sen reproduced it from memory. It had a soporific effect upon many in the audience. The speeches of the two Ghose brothers were, as might be expected, exceedingly good. They were full of rhetorical flourishes and bristled with many interesting facts.

HARI NARAYANA SARMA.

THE CONDITION OF THE MAHOMEDAN COMMUNITY AND THE MEANS OF ITS AMELIORATION.

BY KHAN BAHADUR D. H. AHMED.

I intend to close the discussion on this subject so far as I am concerned. But before I make my concluding observations, I wish to dispose of certain matters which are more or less personal to me rather than of general interest. In the first place I am sorry if I misunderstood "Khaer Khwahe Islam," and, though I must say that some of my friends were equally misled and that his language was certainly not clear, I regret if I caused him annoyance. I cannot, however, flatter him that he has refuted my arguments or that I have given up my proposition. It is the duty of a writer to point out what is right and proclaim the principles, which he desires to establish, through good and through evil times, while the practical politician has to see whether it is expedient to carry a particular measure into effect. If he finds no support, it is the duty of the practical leader to recede and wait for more opportune times. But a writer who surrenders his position at the first sight of opposition fails in his duty to the community to which he belongs.

I agreed with "Khaer Khwahe Islam" that the laws of inheritance are not the only cause that has contributed to our decline; but I declared that the other causes are circumstances over which the legislature has no control. He asks, "Has any attempt ever been made to remove the other causes which are responsible for our present condition? Surely publishing essays on the subject does not mean an experiment." Change of Government and change of the language in which education is given and in which the business of administration is conducted, are circumstances which can not be modified at all, and want of energy or perseverance and habits of indulgence or extravagance can never be modified by direct measures. So that the other causes are not susceptible of experiment. I do not claim the faculties or powers of a Syed Ahmed Khan. Once in a century a man may happen to possess both the faculty of thought and the power of action, but generally each man is assigned a sphere for which he is fit and to which he is attracted. I claim no more than to draw conclusions from the past and suggest what should be done in the future. Let nobody suppose that this is a simple and easy task. Before you attempt to do anything, you must decide what to do, and you will never be able to do anything until you are convinced of what should be done. Thought must precede action. The first step is to find what you have to do, and then and then only can you take action.

"Khaer Khwahe Islam" says that in my opinion "progress consists only in enabling men to have the courage to espouse their convictions" and in nothing more. I will not say that this is a misrepresentation, but I must say that he has ignored the laws of logical science. If I say that labour will give us food, I do not mean that it will not give us clothing or lodging. I said "high education will.....do us good by producing men with the courage to espouse their convictions." I specified this as a great want in our society. It is a perversion of the rules of logic to suppose that every other good is excluded.

"A Behari Mosalman" says that I lost my temper in the letters signed by "Not a Dost-e-Nadan." I was much surprised at the remark, as it has always been my endeavour to take a dispassionate view of affairs, and my friends have often remarked that I refuse to allow personal matters to enter into discussions of general interest. I have now gone through the letters signed by "Not a Dost-e-Nadan" and I do not find that I have used any expression which could be considered as reflecting on the character or conduct of any individual. It is the Olema or clergy that have all along opposed our progress; it was the Olema that led Aurangzeb to reject the policy of Akbar and brought about the extinction of the Mogal Empire; it is the Olema that have issued fatwas of infidelity against Syed Ahmed Khan, the greatest benefactor of the Mahomedans of India in this century. These gentlemen, if they had the power, would sacrifice him to their bigotry, and these gentlemen I consider to be fair objects of ridicule.

In the course of this discussion I remarked that property should be tied up in favour of a single heir, and I have been taken to task. I am not a lawyer and I did not take cognizance of the niceties involved in the language I used. I did not mean that property should be tied up in favour of unborn generations in the way of entail. What I meant was that property should be tied up in favour of a single heir as against contemporary heirs. I am so thoroughly convinced of the necessity of preventing the minute subdivision of property and have so great confidence in the desire of the gentry to perpetuate their family name, that I see not the slightest need for entails. I will leave every successive holder of property to make a will of his own, for I know his principal aim will be to preserve his estate intact.

Lastly, I am pained that Mr. Yakeenuddin ascribes views to me which I do not hold. He says that I blame the religion of Islam as the cause of our present condition. I have given him no occasion to make such an inference, and I indignantly repudiate the view. There is no other religion which more perfectly realizes the absolute unity of God, which insists with greater force on the equality of all men in the sight of God, or teaches a better code of morality. If Mr. Yakeenuddin considers the sale and purchase of goods to be a part of religion, I do not. If Mr. Yakeenuddin considers the permission to have four wives a part of religion, I do not agree with him, and if he considers female slavery a part of religion I am absolutely opposed to him. The religion of Islam carried the Sahraunesheens or the Dwellers of the Desert forward in the march of civilization, brought them to the forefront of nations, and led them to the furthest regions of the civilized world. The religion of Islam enabled the Arabs or Saracens to make a name which will endure to the end of time. The laws and institutions of Arabia were transplanted out of Arabia and allowed for generations to permeate all grades and classes of Moslem society and then began the decline which is visible in every Moslem country.

It is true that the religion which a community professes influences its laws and institutions. It is equally true that the laws and institutions of a people react upon their religion, and it is this reaction that has destroyed the purity and simplicity of our religion. For what is the current conception of Islam? Do the five prayers, and keep the fasts of the Ramazan, go on a pilgrimage to Ajmeer, or apprentice yourself a slave in body and soul to a presumptuous morshed and you have secured not only your future weal but also your worldly good. The only act that comes near to virtue is the zakwat that we distribute, but it is not given with the intention of doing good. It is given in the hope of procuring a place in heaven. The entire idea of virtue at the present day is a grossly selfish idea. There is a total absence of sympathy and fellow-feeling and there is absolutely no conception of active beneficence. It is the duty of every right-minded Mahomedan to diagnose this serious disease, and to do what he can to remove this canker from the constitution of our society.

Mr. Yakeenuddin says that I have vilified our ancestors and not given them credit for the large and valuable part they played in advancing civilization. I have been under the impression that he is a careful reader as well as a careful reasoner. I do not therefore understand how he blames me for what I never said. I ask him to refer to my letter of the 24th June last, extracts from which I reproduce:

"Out of Arabia the Arabs were settled in fertile countries and they had riches, they had therefore leisure to acquaint themselves with Greek, Persian and Indian literature and they were able to advance knowledge."

"As soon as the Arabs were settled at Damashk and Bagdad and in Egypt and Spain, they had wealth at their command and leisure at their disposal. They developed talents for the accumulation and advancement of knowledge and eventually produced a literature which revolutionized the history of Medieval Europe. It was.....the Arabs out of Arabia that produced the men who shed lustre on the annals of Saracenic civilization....."

I request Mr. Yakeenuddin to read these passages and say if he can justify himself when he declares that I have vilified our ancestors and denied to them the splendid part they acted in the history of human progress.

I wrote these passages to prove that wealth precedes knowledge, though knowledge subsequently reacts upon wealth. Excepting poetry, the Arabs had no literature while they were confined to Arabia.

I have now disposed of matters which concerned me personally. I am sorry I have no definite conclusions to record as the result of the discussions that we have thus far had. It is admitted by all that landed property has been gradually passing out of our hands during the last hundred years, that we have become poorer, and have, therefore, lost power and influence in the country. This, I believe, we knew already. "An Indian Mosalman," "A Behari Mosalman" and "Khaer Khwahe Islam" say that we must have high education, commercial education and religious education before we can recover our position. What is the education which we

receive in the numerous Madrasahs which flourish in Bengal but religious education? Do they produce men with greater energy or better common sense, with higher ideas of morality or higher conceptions of the duties of life? Commercial or technical education comes after general education has far advanced and has penetrated the lower strata of society and I cannot understand how a people can have high education if they do not possess the means of acquiring it. Did the Meimans have high education before they had acquired wealth or has not their education followed the acquisition of wealth?

In a normal state of things, the richer classes pay for the education of the poorer. But in our case the whole community is poor and almost all students have to be supplied with two-thirds of their fees. Character is a more important factor in the advancement of a people than knowledge obtained in schools and colleges, and free or cheap education when given to an entire community is sure to demoralize their character. Do you think that the members of such a community are not lowered in their own estimation or in the estimation of Hindu students? Do you think that this feeling does not stick to each individual through life; that it does not affect his energies and habits; or that it will not vitiate his character and eventually the character of the entire Moslem community of India? So that it is not desirable to have your education in this way. Neither is it possible. The history of every country proves that the accumulation and diffusion of knowledge follow the accumulation and diffusion of wealth. I admit that the former reacts upon the latter, but I maintain that the acquisition of wealth must precede the acquisition of knowledge. As class after class advances in wealth, it advances in knowledge; and there is no instance of a class advancing in knowledge before it has advanced in wealth.

"An Indian Mosalman" ascribes our decline to extravagance and absence of thrift. "Khaer Khwahe Islam" and "A Shamsul Olema" attribute the decay to the deterioration of our character. The "Moslem Chronicle" assigns it to the inaction which has extinguished our national spirit. Mr. Yakeenuddin traces it to indulgence and apathy, bigotry and narrow-mindedness. But none of them have suggested any means for improving the character of the people. Do they suppose that the counsels of men of piety or the counsels of men of erudition will give us habits of energy or habits of thrift? They are hopelessly wrong if they suppose that the character of a people can be remodelled in this light and offhand way. What does Mr. Yakeenuddin mean when he says that it is not the laws and institutions of our society but it is the Mahomedan people that are to blame? Are laws and institutions merely a thing of beauty to look at? Are they an inert and lifeless mass from which no influence irradiates? The character of a people is largely determined by the constitution of their society and, in the case of a people whose laws and institutions have not been modified for more than twelve hundred years, I may with justice say that the constitution of their society has powerfully moulded their character. What then does Mr. Yakeenuddin mean when he blames those who profess Islamism and holds up their laws and institutions to admiration? Moslem races are more or less only what the constitution of their society has made them. They are the product of the forces generated by the laws and institutions which govern them.

The gentleman who calls himself Azeemuddin Ishak and hails from Rungpur, says that I have rushed into print merely to see myself advertised and that my arguments are such as are commonly used by penny-a-liner reformists in England. I had expected that after such an outburst he would support his views by well considered arguments. He has only put forth a string of opinions without even the shadow or semblance of an argument to support them. I might, with greater justice, say that he has rushed into print simply to see himself in print. He would like to reintroduce slavery and seems to wish polygamy had been more prevalent. It is too late, however, to speak at all in favour of slavery or seriously to defend polygamy. Slavery can not be revived in India and the ideas of the Moslems of India have already set in against polygamy. There are people who, while saying their prayers, keeping their fasts and even claiming to be descended from the Prophet, take interest and even usurious interest on money advanced. The Mimans who are so very desirous of giving up the Hindu law of inheritance do not disdain to pursue this means of increasing wealth. Mahomedans have now come to feel the disadvantages of the law of compulsory division of property. It is the Government only that can give us the supplementary measure required to make the law of succession a complete system.

"Khaer Khwahe Islam" says "that even in Europe opinion is equally divided on the question of division of property....and that, while in America and France the property is subdivided, in other European countries it is not. Can Mr. Ahmed say that France and America are any worse off for such a practice?" I have stated it nearly half-a-dozen times that laws and institutions are only relatively good. Slavery and polygamy are useful institutions in the

beginning of civilization but they give way to more equitable domestic and social relations as civilization advances. A democratic form of Government may be suited to England and America but nobody will have the hardihood to say that Parliament is wanted in India or that it is suited to any of its provinces. The principle of equal division of property after a man's death may be suited to France and America in their present state of development, when self-restraint and self-denial, self-help and self-reliance have become organic amongst Frenchmen and Americans and are matters of hereditary descent. But the Mahomedan of India and especially of Bengal has yet to acquire these qualities and to undergo the discipline which develops them. It is absurd, therefore, to suppose that a principle of division of property must be suited to the Mahomedans of India which is suited to a people with different racial peculiarities and different historical traditions.

"Khaer Khwahe Islam" adds "man is a creature of circumstances, and people in America and France may not divide property according to circumstances, but they have the law all the same. Our law of succession is similar to this." It is not. Those Europeans who have given up the law of primogeniture for the law of equal division have also adopted the principle of testamentary disposition. A Mahomedan has no such freedom; when he dies, his property must be divided. There can be no comparison between the Mahomedan law and the law that obtains in Europe, America or Australia. I recommend the law of wills for the Mahomedan community as the only measure capable of supplementing the Mahomedan law of inheritance. No Mahomedan will be bound to adopt its provisions but some Mahomedans here and there will follow them, and we shall thus have the experiment which "Khaer Khwahe Islam" seems to demand.

(To be continued.)

AN INDESCRIBABLE SENSATION.

To be easily described a thing must have clear outlines and unmixed colours. In other words it must be simple. A rent in one's clothing, a boil on one's body, a tumble while walking, the shape of a box, &c., are easily set forth in words. On the contrary the complex and comprehensive things puzzle the mind and take the meaning from language.

It was for this reason that Miss Sabina Mitchell, alluding to an experience of illness, says: "At this time there came upon me an *indescribable* sensation. It was, as if the power of life were going to fail me, and I should sink down without help, as a stone sinks in water. Yet in saying this I convey no adequate idea of the nature of that feeling. I hope I shall never have it again."

The illness which led to it began in the spring of 1892. My health appeared to give way all at once. I found myself tired, heavy, and feeble. My appetite was poor, and after eating I had much distress at the stomach and pain at the chest and sides. My strength gradually declined and I became very low, weak, and nervous; and it was *when in this condition* that I felt the indescribable sensation I have spoken of.

"I soon became so depressed in body and mind that it was with great labour and strain that I attended to my business. I was extremely downhearted and feeble, and none of the many medicines I tried did me any real good. In December 1892, Mother Seigel's Syrup was commended to me, and I began using it with, I confess, small confidence. But after having taken it for a few days I felt wonderful relief. My appetite improved, and eating no longer gave me pain. A short time afterwards the Syrup proved its value in the matter of my disordered nerves. The nervousness disappeared with my increasing strength. Nowadays, whenever I need any medicine, a few doses of Mother Seigel's Syrup quickly set me right. Having had so convincing an experience of what it can do, I recommend it to all my friends and customers. You can make such use as you like of this letter. (Signed), (Miss) Sabina Mitchell, Marchant-le-Fen, Boston, Linco., May 17th, 1895."

"In March, 1892," writes another lady, "my health began to give way. I had lost my energy, and was languid and heavy in feeling. I had a sense of faintness and dizziness that was almost constant, and occasional spells of sinking which I cannot describe. Hot and cold flashes came over me, my mouth tasted badly, and after eating I had a feeling at the chest like the pressure of an actual load upon it. I never seemed rested, and awoke in the morning more tired than when I went to bed. I was also much troubled with wind or gas from the stomach, and raised a sour, biting fluid."

"In this manner I continued to suffer for nearly two years, no medicine that I took giving me any relief. In January, 1894, I got a small book and read in it of cases like mine having been cured by Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I immediately procured the medicine from Boots' Drug Stores, and after taking it about ten days felt much better. I could eat something nourishing without any pain following. I kept on with the Syrup and was soon in my former good health once more. You have my permission to make this statement public. (Signed) (Mrs.) Ann Shaw, 174, Barnsley Road, Ruislip, Shropshire, March 8th, 1895."

Touching the "*indescribable sensation*" alluded to by both ladies, an eminent medical author says: "It is syncope without the loss of consciousness. The sufferer has the keenest realisation of the bitterness of dissolution. I have seen stout men unnerved and shaken by such experiences till they trembled like aspen leaves."

The cause is an acid poison in the blood produced by indigestion or dyspepsia. The remedy is to purify the blood with Mother Seigel's Syrup, and to tone the stomach in the same way. Use the Syrup on the approach of the earliest signs of weakness.

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SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

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Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 748.

WEEKLYANA.

We resume work after the holidays with the proceedings of the Medical Board at a meeting held on Thursday, the 22nd October, 1896:

"The Medical Board met at the Bengal Council Chamber at 11 A.M., and sat till 1 P.M. All the members were present, except Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham, who was engaged in bacteriological researches.

The following medical officers have been deputed by the Board to make a searching inquiry into the sanitary condition and conservancy of Calcutta, and commenced their inquiries yesterday:—

In the area bounded on the west by the river, on the north and east by the Circular Canal, and on the south by Sabha Bazar and Grey Streets—Surgeon-Captain Vaughan, Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Surgeon-Lieutenant Peck, Special Sanitary Officer, and Dr. Hay Jagannadham, Deputy Sanitary Commissioner.

In the area lying south of the above and extending to Nimtolla Ghat and Beadon Streets—Surgeon-Captain Deare, Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, and Surgeon-Lieutenant Dawes, Special Sanitary Officer.

When these areas have been thoroughly inquired into, the five officers named above will take up the area between Nimtolla Ghat and Beadon Streets on the north, and Cotton Street and Machua Bazar Street on the south, and by that time it is expected that they will be joined by Surgeon-Captain Robson-Scott, Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and Secretary to the Medical Board, who is now studying the plague in Bombay. They will then examine other blocks lying further south up to the Circular Road.

Bhowanipur, Watganj, and Kidderpur are being inspected by Surgeon-Major Pilgrim, Civil Surgeon of the 24 Parganas.

The South Suburban Municipality and Munktola have already been inspected by Surgeon-Captain Deare, Deputy Sanitary Commissioner.

All of these officers have been instructed to pay special attention to the following points:—

- (1) Over-crowding of houses and bustees.
- (2) Condition of public and house-latrines, and side-drains and their connections.
- (3) Condition and cleansing of roads.
- (4) Sanitary condition of the compounds and courtyards of houses.
- (5) Storage of grain, condition of rag depots and second-hand clothes stores.
- (6) State of stables and cowsheds.
- (7) Condition of Tolly's Nullah and Circular Canal with reference to alleged pollution by sewers and private drains.
- (8) State of tanks used for washing and bathing, and adequacy of water-supply for drinking purposes.
- (9) Strength and working of conservancy establishment.
- (10) Facts indicating the necessity of a special Building Act and the opening out of new streets.

Their reports will be submitted to the Medical Board, which will then consider what further action is necessary.

Six cases of fever accompanied with swellings of lymphatic glands have been reported to the Board up to date, and they are of opinion that there are at present no grounds for believing any of these to be cases of true bubonic plague. At the same time, as the plague undoubtedly prevails in Bombay, and shows no signs of decreasing, the Board desire to impress upon the Corporation and the public the urgent necessity of taking effective measures to improve the sanitation of the city."

Dr. Simpson, the Health Officer of the Corporation, has addressed the following note to the Chairman, under date October 24:—

"I raised no protest at yesterday's meeting of the General Committee regarding the order of removal of the two patients from the Isolation Hospital, because the blood of these patients had been taken the same morning, and on careful examination had been found to be free from bacteria. The presence of bacteria in the blood shows that a patient is still subject to the disease and able to communicate it to others, and accordingly the absence of them in the two boys at the Hospital is evidence of their freedom from infection.

The distinction made by the Medical Board between the true bubonic plague and the mild cases of fever with glandular enlargement which have been reported is a perfectly fair one when the diseases are considered from the point of view of severity and of the degree of infectiousness, but from a bacteriological aspect, it is one which cannot be admitted, and from a public health standpoint the distinction is absolutely dangerous. For, by not taking precautionary measures in mild and early cases, all control and power of preventing the disease effecting a lodgment in the city is voluntarily discarded.

When an outbreak or epidemic of plague really commences in a town, vigorous sanitary measures and isolation of the sick are doubtless of great value in reducing the mortality and helping to stamp out the disease, but the only effective measure to prevent an outbreak or epidemic is the carrying out of vigorous sanitary measures beforehand, and the isolation of all mild and suspected cases, and it is this policy which I have been carrying out and which I would strongly urge on the Commissioners and on the Medical Board."

He has since found a true case of plague ending fatally. Yesterday's *Englishman* reported:—

"For the first time the records of the Health Officer's Department on Wednesday, brought to light a fatal case of what is said to be the veritable bubonic plague; the victim being a Hindu servant in the employ of a sugar candy manufacture at No. 1 Raja Rajhullub Street, Calcutta. The deceased had been attacked with fever on Sunday last, and on the following day glandular swelling with high fever appeared. The patient was treated by Dr. Chatterjee. On the news reaching the Health Officer's Department on Tuesday evening, Dr. Simpson accompanied by Dr. Mitra, the Medical Inspector, visited the patient, who after some of his blood had been extracted expired. On Wednesday the deceased's blood was subjected to analysis and Dr. Simpson pronounced the case to be the plague. The Police subsequently disinfecting the place where the deceased expired."

..

PLAGUE or no plague, the Medical Board have ready at hand for enforcement at any day the following regulations published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 4th November:—

"No. 4096 Mad.—The 3rd November 1896.—Under section 334 of the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1888, the following regulations are published for general information.

H. H. RISLEY,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

WHEREAS it is expedient to adopt special measures for preventing, checking or mitigating an outbreak of the bubonic plague in Calcutta and to pass special regulations to give effect thereto, the Commissioners in meeting, with the sanction of the Local Government, prescribe the following regulations under section 334 of the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1888:—

1. These regulations shall come into force from the date on which the plague may be declared by the Medical Board to be prevalent in Calcutta, with the exception of regulation 8, which shall come into force from the date on which it may be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*; and they shall all remain in operation until such time as they may be countermanded by a notification in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

2. Every male householder, who becomes cognizant of any case of the bubonic plague or of fever with glandular swellings in his house, shall be bound to give information of the same to the Ward Office with the least practicable delay, unless he has reason to be satisfied that information regarding the case has already reached or been communicated to the Ward Office.

3. The Commissioners may at any time, between sunrise and sunset, after giving such notice of their intention as shall, under the circumstances, appear to them to be reasonable, enter upon any premises and summarily execute any work required under section 318 of the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1888, or with a view to abate any or all of the nuisances indicated in clauses (i), (ii), (c), (l), (e), and (f) of section 385 of the said Act: provided that when an apartment is in the actual occupancy of a female who, according to the custom of the country, does not appear in public, the Commissioners shall give at least an hour's notice of their intention to enter such apartment, and

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shall afford her every reasonable facility for withdrawing from such part or portion of the apartment as they may desire to enter.

4. When a dwelling is so overcrowded as, in the opinion of the Medical Board, after personal inspection by at least two members of the Board, to make the inmates thereof specially liable to an attack of the bubonic plague, the Commissioners may, by a notice posted on some conspicuous part of the dwelling, require the owner or the occupier, if actually residing in the dwelling, or the tenants or the actual inmates thereof, to abate the overcrowding within 24 hours by reducing the number of lodgers, tenants, or other inmates of the said dwelling as prescribed in the notice; and in default of compliance with the requisition in the said notice, may summarily eject all the inmates, or reduce the number of inmates in such manner and to such extent as may appear necessary: provided that the Commissioners shall provide the inmates so ejected, when necessary, with suitable temporary lodgings in the neighbourhood as far as possible.

5. When a dwelling has, in the opinion of the Medical Board, after personal inspection by at least two members of the Board, been so infected with the plague as to render its further occupation a source of danger to the inmates thereof, the Commissioners may, after giving 24 hours' notice, summarily cause such dwelling to be vacated and thoroughly cleansed and disinfected; and the dwelling shall not be reoccupied: provided that the Commissioners shall make suitable arrangements for a thorough disinfection of the clothing, bedding and other articles removed from the dwelling, and shall provide the inmates thereof, when necessary, with suitable temporary lodgings.

6. If in the opinion of the Medical Board, after personal inspection by at least two members of the Board, the destruction of any hut or shed is necessary to prevent the spread of the disease, the Commissioners may, after giving reasonable notice, take measures for the destruction of such hut or shed and of the materials of which it is constructed.

7. No rag-picking shall be permitted in the streets or elsewhere, nor shall rags be transported except under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Medical Board, and any person picking rags in the streets or elsewhere shall be liable to be arrested by the Police, and the Commissioners may disinfect at their own cost, or, acting under the advice of the Medical Board, may destroy any collection of rags in rag-pickers' houses and rag stores.

8. It shall be lawful for the Commissioners to select a site and erect a hospital thereon, or convert any house or other building into a hospital, for the isolation of patients suffering from the plague in any locality which, in the opinion of the Medical Board, after personal inspection by at least two members of the Board, may be suitable for the purpose.

9. Any vacant house or other building not being a place of worship, which after personal inspection by at least two members of the Board, is in the opinion of the Board suitable and required for the purpose of an Isolation Hospital may be entered upon and occupied by the Commissioners without any notice whatsoever, and the owner or the lessee of such house or building shall not be entitled to claim from the Commissioners anything beyond a reasonable rent for the period during which the house or building may remain in their occupation: provided always that the Commissioners shall be bound to thoroughly cleanse, disinfect and hewwash the house or building, both internally and externally, before vacating it.

10. The Commissioners shall provide suitable conveyances painted in a conspicuous manner for the free carriage of persons suffering, or suspected to be suffering, from the plague, and for the free transport of any clothing, bedding or other articles which have been exposed to infection; and it shall be lawful for them to drive such conveyances through any public and private thoroughfare.

11. When in any dwelling there is a patient suffering, or suspected to be suffering, from the bubonic plague, the Commissioners may enter that dwelling at any time between sunrise and sunset after giving such notice of their intention as shall under the circumstances, appear to them to be reasonable, and may take measures for segregating and isolating the patient within such dwelling, so far as the circumstances of the case may admit, to the satisfaction of the Medical Board: provided that where a female is suspected to be suffering from the bubonic plague, the Commissioners shall depute a female doctor to examine her; and when the patient, being a male person, and not being below the age of twelve years, cannot be so isolated, and is certified by the Medical Board, after personal inspection by at least two members of the Board to be without proper lodging and accommodation, the Commissioners may direct his removal to hospital.

12. The Commissioners may provide and set apart special burial grounds and cremation grounds on the banks of the Hooghly and Adigunga for plague patients, and may declare it unlawful to burn or bury the corpse of a plague patient in any other cremation or burial ground.

13. The Commissioners may, from time to time, by public notice, prescribe the manner in which corpses of plague patients are to be conveyed to burning or burial grounds for disposal.

14. In cases of emergency it shall be lawful for the Chairman, with the consent of the General Committee, to sanction any or all such acts as under the ordinary provisions of the Calcutta Municipal

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noise in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster London, S. W.

Consolidation Act, 1888, would require the sanction of the Commissioners in meeting: provided that the Chairman shall always convene a special meeting of the Commissioners at the earliest possible opportunity to confirm the sanction so accorded by him; and if the Commissioners in meeting do not confirm the action of the Chairman, such steps shall be taken to carry out the orders of the Commissioners in meeting as may still be practicable.

15. The Commissioners may, in their discretion, pay compensation to any person who has sustained substantial loss or damage by reason of anything done under the powers conferred by these regulations: provided, however, that no person shall be entitled as of right to claim any compensation whatsoever.

H. C. WILLIAMS,
Chairman.

The 26th October 1896."

**

THE Paris Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* reports:—

"While the Prussians were besieging Paris people living inside the invested city were glad to eat the flesh of animals which, however agreeable to the Chinaman's palate, are justly disdained by the cooks of civilised countries. Many persons inhabiting the French capital still eat horse and mule steaks with relish, but recently there has been foisted on the non-fastidious and un-epicurean portion of the community meat rejected at the Halles Centrales as diseased. This dangerous food has been what is popularly called 'doctored' by means of spirits of turpentine or petroleum, and when all signs of putrefaction have disappeared, it is sold to unscrupulous *restaurateurs* in the Latin quarter. These caterers dressed it up for the poorer students, who, being unable to patronise not only the better-class *cafés* but even the less expensive establishments organised by the lucky Duval, are glad to lunch or dine for a franc or less. Several cases of poisoning have occurred, and the police, being put on the alert, have arrested persons who were engaged in the traffic in diseased meat. It is also affirmed that the refuse was bought for the animals in the Jardin des Plantes and the Jardin d'Acclimatation. In connection with the last-mentioned place, it may be stated that a few years since some of the employés there were found to have sold the carcasses of dead animals to provision merchants, who did a good trade by turning the stuff into potted meat. This, in all conscience, was bad enough; but it is eclipsed in heinousness by the action of the people who have been calmly poisoning the struggling scholars of the Latin quarter by giving them stews made from decomposing beef and mutton which even an ostrich or a boa-constrictor might reject."

Again:—

"Poodles are generally looked upon as the most sagacious of the canine race but one at Narbonne has just cost its master a hundred franc note by its voracious and unprincipled appetite. A gentleman was sitting one evening at dinner in a restaurant of that town and whilst his soup cooled drew forth his pocket-book and took out a bank note of 100f wherewith to pay the bill when his repast was finished. The note fell into the soup, but was removed and placed at the edge of the table to dry. A gust of wind blew it on to the ground just in front of a poodle passing at that moment, and, without more ado, the animal promptly swallowed it. Perhaps he mistook it for a wafer. Anyhow, the owner of the vanished note seized the dog, read its master's address on the collar, and, without loss of time, summoned that gentleman for the value of the bank note. After much mature deliberation the court at Narbonne decided in his favour, and the dog's owner will, therefore, have to pay over 100f."

..

THE *Manchester Courier* has the following observations on Sir Joseph Lister's address at Liverpool:—

"Sir Joseph Lister is such a believer in Pasteur that he believes in his cure for hydrophobia, which a great many people regard as dangerous. He believes that even tetanus, the cause of which is deep-seated in wounds, can be prevented, it being due to a microbe; and that a perfect security may be set up against snake-bite by a judicious inoculation with the poison. The whole address is very fascinating and convincing, but we can hardly call it soothing. As we realize what Sir Joseph Lister wishes to impress upon us, we seem to lose our own individuality. A human being is no longer himself; he is some millions of other creatures preying upon one another. He is ~~not~~ individuality, but a war. He is innumerable armies, all of which are engaged in what Captain Murray would have termed 'triangular duels.' The idealistic notion of M. in ceases to be of any effect if it be true that he is only some infinite millions of almost indistinguishable bacilli battling with one another. The worst of it is that we cannot meet the enemy in the open. We feel as impotent before Sir Joseph Lister's microbes as before—well, the Sultan of Turkey."

..

WE take the following from the *Zoophilist*:—

"The *Boston Medical Journal* says that 'doctors shon'd not wear beards. There are bacteriological reasons against it.' But the same objection applies to clothes. The *Monthly Magazine of Pharmacy*, commenting on the subject, says—

'We are not sure whether there would be any risk about gold spectacles and an umbrella, but this is as far as they should go if they conscientiously consider the duty they owe to their patients upon bacteriological grounds.'

By the way, what did microbes do for a living before they became fashionable?"

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

ADVICES from Madagascar state that the Hova Minister of the Interior and Prince Ratsimanga, uncle of the Queen, have been court-martialled and executed for complicity in the late rebellion.

CAPTAIN Marriott, of the Norfolk Regiment, captured near Smyrna by brigands, who demanded a ransom of £10,000, has been released, the Turks paying the ransom.

COLONEL Liebert and a party of German officers sail shortly for China, to reorganise the Chinese army.

IN view of the financial straits of Turkey, the Russian Government has reduced the annual payment of the Turkish war indemnity by one half.

MOST serious floods have taken place throughout France, and Lyons and other large towns are partially inundated. The height of the river Rhone is the highest on record.

THE construction of the railway from Merve to Kushk has commenced.

MR. Chamberlain has been elected Lord Rector of the Glasgow University, defeating Mr. Birrell, the Radical candidate. The students in the evening paraded with torches and tried to invade a Music Hall although it was full. They then, assisted by a mob, smashed the windows. The police dispersed them and made eight arrests.

SEVERAL important Sudan Sheikhs have submitted. A large area between Dongola, Berber and Omdurman is thus in the hands of friendlies.

THE Czar and Czarina have returned to Russia.

THE recent speeches made by Mr. Curzon and Lord Charles Beresford have excited French opinion on the Egyptian question. The Paris papers declare that the time has come for the British promises to be fulfilled, and suggest schemes to induce Germany to join in a dual alliance to force the British to evacuate Egypt.

At a meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the President stated that the condition of the cotton trade was less hopeful than it was three months ago, and the increase was gradually tapering off. A Manchester firm has signed a contract for the despatch of a thousand cotton looms to Japan.

It is believed at Vienna that the Triple Alliance will not join in the collective action advocated in the French and Russian Press against Great Britain in connection with the Egyptian question, but that, on the contrary, the Triple Alliance will probably side with Great Britain.

A TELEGRAM from Peking states that the Emperor of China was advised to deprive Li-Hung Chang of all his offices, but it was decided that he should merely lose one year's salary.

MR. McKinley has been elected President of the United States. His victory has produced the best impression on the London, New York, and Continental bourses. The newspapers of Great Britain and the Continent rejoice at the result.

IN the French Chamber of Deputies, in a debate on the Armenian

question, M. Hanotaux, Foreign Minister, said the Powers had agreed on a common action, which must not impair the integrity of Turkey. The speech is interpreted in Paris to mean that the Powers do not consider the maintenance of the present Sultan as an essential condition to the maintenance of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

The visit of the Czar, he said, had led to a clear exchange of views between the Powers, and a united Europe will prove that the Sultan must grant his subjects security and peace.

IN a despatch to the War Office, Major-General Kitchener praises the excellent conduct of the Indian contingent at Suakin through the exceptionally trying summer.

THE Powers are discussing the proposal of Great Britain that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should be empowered, in certain contingencies, to form themselves into a conference to discuss proposals to be submitted to or measures required of the Sultan.

MR. Edward Poynter has been elected President of the Royal Academy.

THE tension in Crete is increasing owing to the delay in the execution of the promised reforms, and the Christian members of the Cretan Council are greatly dissatisfied.

HER MAJESTY has telegraphed her grief to the Viceroy at the threatened famine and her hope that relief to be afforded would save suffering and life. The Secretary of State for India also deeply deplores the failure of the crops and offers his full support to the measures for relieving distress and mitigating the evil.

ACCORDING to the latest official report, 18,564 persons are on relief works in the North-West Provinces, about 6,000 in the Punjab, 3,000 in Burma, 16,000 in Central India, and 8,000 in Rajputana. Test works are opening in several districts of Madras, Bombay, the North-West, the Punjab and Rajputana. Prices are rising throughout India. Rain is generally wanted, and the distress is gradually increasing.

OWING to the threatened scarcity in the Presidency, and also to the plague in Bombay, Lord Sandhurst has abandoned his cold weather tour in Kathiawar.

IN the North-West Provinces, a crore of rupees of land revenue is to be suspended. A private letter, dated Allahabad, Nov. 5, says:

"As regards the famine, our Lieutenant-Governor has come down from Naini-Tal and is expected here in a few days. He was at Lucknow on the 2nd and had a conference with the Taluqdars to discuss the desirability of constructing irrigation canals in Oudh. He is now on his way to this, visiting Fyzabad and Benares to consult the Commissioners of those Divisions as to the nature and extent of relief works to be opened. The result will be known when he arrives here. For the present, as far as I can see, only a poor house has been opened at this town, where indigent persons are fed, and, although there are various rumours current—such as remission of octroi duty, &c.—no such relief has been ordered. Advances are, however, being freely given to agriculturists for digging *kutcha* wells, &c. Happily, the general health of the people is good, but it cannot be hoped that this will continue long, since many are passing days with insufficient food of sorts, if not in total starvation. The streets are full of half fed wretches whose cries for succour are sometimes very heart-rending. Another thing that is often seen, is large numbers of villagers carrying bundles of dried plants of paddy, &c. to the Collector of the District, to prove the state of their fields, in hopes of remission of land revenue. Poor fellows! May Heaven take compassion on them."

AS scarcity allowance, the Bengal Government has ordered an increase, from the 1st July 1896, of Re. 1-8 a month to the pay of all its whole-time menial servants (except process-serving peons attached to Civil Courts) drawing not more than Rs. 12 and permanently employed in the districts of Rangpur, Mymensingh, Backergunge and Tipperah, where the average price of rice during the quarter ending the 30th September 1896 was higher than ten seers the rupee. The increase

is only Re. 1 in the following districts where rice during the same period was dearer than one rupee for 12 seers :

Burdwan Division—Hooghly ;
 Presidency Division—24 Parganas, Calcutta, Nadia, Jessore, Khulna ;
 Rajshahi Division—Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Bogra ;
 Dacca Division—Dacca, Faridpur ;
 Chittagong Division—Noakhali, Chittagong ;
 Patna Division—Muzaffarpur ;
 Bhagalpur Division—Monghyr, Malda (English Bazar).
 Chota Nagpur Division—Hazaribagh, Palamau.

REFERRING to the Divisional Commissioner's report on the floods in Orissa, a correspondent, writing on the 19th October, says :—

"In para 12 page 1818 of the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated the 14th instant, the Commissioner of the Orissa Division reports that 'there was no distress or scarcity of food and the rayyets except in Ankoora and Bhera Parganas did not even want loans.'

The rayyets in the Ankoora Pargana do not want loans. The Sub-divisional officer of Bhadrak, the Sub-inspector of Police, Basdebpur, and the Chakla Kanungos tried their best to make *Taccavi* advances and the Manager of Srimati Adharmani Mullica, Zamindar of Ankoora, was willing to stand security for her rayyets, but they unanimously refused to take loans under the Agriculturist Loan Act. The Manager of Adharmani and the Naib of her co-sharer have advanced them *dhan* (unhusked rice) from their stock at Karanjoria. During the flood the rayyets were ordered by the Manager to sow seeds on the high *Paria* lands, and an application was made to the Sub-Divisional Officer of Bhadrak requesting him to allow the rayyets to till the *Paria* lands, so as to enable them to keep seeds for cultivation, after the flood had subsided. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Babu Sreeram Chandra Bose, not only ordered the Sub-Inspector of Police, Basdebpur, to do the needful, but also instructed him to send up the refractory rayyets.

The crop as it stands now is hopeful and there is every probability of reaping at least 12 annas, provided there is a heavy shower of rain within a week, failing which the entire crop will be lost."

He follows it up with another letter dated Ankoora, November 3 :—

"The untimely cessation of the rains at the beginning of October, has dried up the crop and there is very little expectation of an average of 8 annas during the current year. Famine is looming in the distance. The price of common rice has risen from Re. 1-4 to Rs. 3-8 per maund. The *Rabi* crop cannot be cultivated for want of rain. The river Gomai, a tributary of the Matai, is nearly dried up, and to preserve the remaining crop from entire ruin the rayyets are watering their fields from adjoining tanks. The effect would be water famine within a couple of months.

Government revenue is due. The settlement of the Balasore District is about to commence, and Babu Davendra Nath Bose, Deputy-Collector, has been deputed to commence the operations. He has fixed his camp at Erom.

The railway construction is pushing on rapidly, but the rate allowed for 1000ft. of earthwork, in some instances at the rate of Re. 1-8, is inadequate for labourers' daily bread at this time of scarcity."

THE Viceroy is on tour. Accompanied by Lady Elgin, Lord Bruce, Lady Elizabeth Bruce, the Hon. Robert Bruce, Colonel Durand, and Dr. Franklin, he left Simla at 10 in the forenoon of November 2, under the usual salute. Mr. Babington Smith, the Private Secretary, discharging the slow tonga, ran in his bicycle a distance of 58 miles. We are not told in what time he did it. We should suppose it was a record ride. Arriving at Umballa, the viceregal party immediately joined their special train and left for Delhi which was reached on the morning of the 3rd. After being received by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and the Commissioner of Delhi, Lord and Lady Elgin drove to Ludlow Castle prepared for their residence. After "doing" the imperial city,—the visit has been more or less private and informal—the Viceroy left for Ulwar on the 5th, arriving there at 2-30 P. M. The Maharaja, a boy of 14, a student at the Mayo College, Ajmere, received the Viceroy in state. There were present with him the Council of Regency and other state officials. The reception, it need hardly be said, was right royal.

SIR Alexander Mackenzie will leave Darjeeling by the mail train on Monday next and arrive here the next day. An official announcement says that the departure from Darjeeling and arrival at Calcutta will be private. We believe this will not prevent friends of Sir Alexander from meeting him at the Sealdah railway platform.

THE disposal of the lifeless body of Prince Suchait Singh of Chamba has been as shabby as his death miserable. A friend of Suchait's proposed to the India Office to have his body placed at the disposal of his relatives, but it declined and gave only £15 for his burial and a similar trifle to his widow and two small children.

THE veritable case of plague ending fatally, at No. 1 Raja Rij-bullub's Street, in the northern division, reported by the Health Officer, is no better evidence of the outbreak of the disease in Calcutta than the six previous cases which have been declared by the Medical Board to be no "cases of true bubonic plague." Other enquiries show that the man who died of alleged bubonic fever was Bepin Behary Dutt, aged 32, caste *Gandhabanik*, a workman on Rs. 18 a month in the Sugarcandy Manufactory of Babu Joygopal Pal, an inhabitant of a village in Thana Indas, in the district of Bancoora. About a week or ten days before his death, Bepin had scalded his right great toe at the factory where he used to reside. A year earlier, he had suffered from syphilis. The ulcer reappeared this time with enlargement of a gland in the right groin. The fever, which lasted six days, followed the swelling. The origin of the sensation is traceable to a movement by the neighbours to have the factory, which is considered a nuisance, removed to a different quarter. Other attempts having failed, the present activity to cleanse the town was seized upon as a good opportunity to effect the purpose, at any rate to abate the nuisance.

AN English peer, writing from London on October 12, refers to Mr. Manomohan Ghose in the following words :

"On my return to London I found the two volumes by Mr. Bhattacharya (Dr. Jogender Nath's 'Commentaries on Hindu Law' and 'Hindu Castes and Sects'), and I found the Tagore case immediately. But this book (Commentaries) is written as if the author had received the remonstrance addressed to Lord Stanley of Alderley by the Lord Chancellor, and I am left to guess where the Privy Council judgment differs from, or has over-ruled, Hindu Law. I should therefore be glad if you would get some one, say, Mr. Manomohan Ghose, to write to me and make this clear. For instance, the Tagore decision seems to make 'perpetuities' and 'bequests or gifts to unborn persons' invalid, though not so by Hindu Law. Sir Charles Elliott has written an article in this month's *Asiatic Quarterly Review* against Mr. Manomohan Ghose and the Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions. He refers to the Mymensing case and blames the official (Mr. Phillips). Sir Charles Elliott abstains from reference to the discussion in the House of Lords, May 1893, though he refers to something said more recently in the House of Commons.

"I hope Mr. M. Ghose will send an answer to Sir Charles Elliott's article to the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*. I hear the Government in India is more convinced than before of the necessity of Separation. I would write to Mr. M. Ghose, but I cannot find his last letter and direction."

Alas ! Mr. Ghose does not live to respond to the call. The day of his death he had discussed with some of his friends the article in the *Asiatic Quarterly* in view of replying to it, when he fell ill and was snatched away.

As regards the Tagore case, it finally decided that a Hindu in Bengal is competent to devise by will every kind of property, so as to exclude his sons from even the ancestral property of the family in which, according to the ancient texts, the sons have the same right as the father. Jimutavahana, the founder of the Bengal school who lived in the fourteenth century of Christ, explained away those texts in a manner that rendered it possible for the father to dispose of ancestral property *inter vivos* without reference to the sons. Mr. Colebrooke, who translated the *Dyabhaga*, failed altogether to follow the reasoning in the original, and was led to suppose that Jimutavahana had upheld the validity of sales of ancestral property by the father on the ground that when an act is done it cannot be undone. This monstrous doctrine was accepted not only by English Judges and lawyers, but even by Hindu text-writers trained under their influence. Pandit Shama Charan Sarkar, the author

of the *Vyavastha Durpan*, deplored the mischievous results of the doctrine, but, in spite of his evident solicitude to get rid of it, he saw no way out of the difficulty. Shastri Gulap Chandra Sarkar also accepted the error as good Hindu law, although he had the very best opportunity of detecting it when he translated the criticism of the *Viramitradaya* on the *Dayabhaga*. The fact is, that when the mind is once saturated with a wrong idea, it is very difficult to shake it off. The nature and origin of the error were explained for the first time by Dr. Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya, and his exposition has since been accepted though not without reluctance.

The doctrine that when an act is done it cannot be undone, being accepted as genuine Hindu law, has been taken to support not only sales and gifts of ancestral property *inter vivos* but to uphold also testamentary disposition of such property. As a matter of fact, Hindu law not only does not recognise the validity of wills, but is based on principles which are altogether inconsistent with the possibility of any disposition intended to have effect after the death of the disposer. One of the fundamental doctrines of Hindu jurisprudence is, that when a person dies, his right to his property is extinguished, and his heirs become its owners at that very moment. This view of the change of ownership, by the operation of law, at the time of a person's death, is surely not consistent with the possibility of testamentary disposition.

The Tagore case infringes the Hindu law in that it recognises the validity of wills made by Hindus, and gives them the power of excluding their sons from a share of even ancestral property. In declaring that a Hindu cannot create a perpetuity, the Privy Council does not override any rule of Hindu law. Their Lordships have very properly held that a Hindu cannot make a gift in favour of the unborn. In fact, their Lordships ought to have gone a little farther and ruled that bequests are invalid under Hindu law, whether in favour of the living or the unborn. If for the sake of consistency with previous decisions, their Lordships found it impossible to declare that wills made by Hindus were invalid altogether, then the best course was to adopt English law bodily without attempting to evolve a new law, which was neither Hindu nor English but a hybrid, the nature of which must, for a good many years to come, remain unsettled and uncertain to the great advantage of lawyers but with disastrous results to the public.

Many are the errors into which Judges have fallen in interpreting Hindu law. The mischief done by following English text writers and translators is incalculable. It may not be capable now of thorough rectification. But it is certainly desirable that our Judges and lawyers should be better trained in Hindu and Mohammedan law. In their ignorance, they may claim to be infallible. They ought, however, to know that the subjects on which they are wont to dogmatise require life-long study, and that they ought not to rush in where Pandits and Moulvis fear to tread.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 7, 1896.

THE DURGA PUJA RITUAL.

THE ritual of the Durga Puja is an invention of Bramhanical genius that surpasses everything else of the same kind, and deserves careful study. Almost every religious rite recommended or enjoined by the Shastras is cumbrous enough. But it is in the Durga Puja that we find the best specimen of the art by which the ceremonies are so multiplied and elaborated as to be in the highest degree attractive and awe-inspiring. The more arduous the priest's work, the more indispensable are his services, and the greater his claim to a high honorarium. Any Bramhan can perform the Puja of a Siva or Salgram. But the proper performance of the Durga Puja requires a kind of learning which can be attained only by careful and long study, and it therefore commands a high price.

To give a full account of the Durga Puja ritual

here is quite impossible. We purpose in this article to give only a brief summary of its principal features, so that the reader unacquainted with its details may have some idea of its nature. Foreigners are apt to fancy that at the time of the Puja every Hindu has to pass his time in self-mortification and prayers. As a matter of fact, the Durga Puja means no such thing. Generally speaking, it is a time of jubilation when an opportunity is given to the rich to spend their money in filling the purses of the priests, and in entertaining relatives and friends, not omitting the poor, with sumptuous dinners, musical performances, artistic exhibitions and costly processions. A few truly devout pass an hour or two in silently repeating the name of Durga or in some other similar avocation which keeps them occupied for the time being without causing too much strain on their exhausted faculties. To the majority a Puja is not an occasion for making them think of their past sins, or of their probable fate in the next world.

The Durga Puja strictly lasts for five days. Despite the opinion of Mahamahopadhyaya Mohes Chandra Nyaratna in support of the reduction of the holidays, it must be well-known to every Hindu in Bengal that the worship of the goddess of forts begins on the sixth day of the light half of the month of Aswin (September-October), and ends on the tenth day of the same lunar fortnight. The first day is devoted to the preliminary ceremonies and the last is taken up by the parting rites, the intermediate three days being reserved for the main rites. In some families the preliminary ceremonies commence about a fortnight before the main Pujas, on the ninth day of the dark half of Aswin. By a few others the beginning is made on the first day of the light half of the month. These are exceptions, and in the majority of cases the Puja lasts for five days. The construction of the idol and its adornment with tinsel are usually finished a few hours before the first main Puja. Even where the idol is in a condition to receive the homage of her votaries on the previous day, the preliminary ceremonies are not celebrated in front of it, but before a wood apple tree within the premises. That ceremony is called the *Bulla Briksha Amantrau* or giving of notice to the wood apple tree, and involves the worship of the tree and the goddess, with offerings to ghosts. The next ceremony, which is called the *Bohdan* or awakening, is celebrated generally at the same time and place. The theory is that the gods and goddesses remain asleep during the six months when the sun passes through the part of the ecliptic which is to the south of the equator, and a formal awakening of the goddess Durga is necessary to enable her to receive the Puja. The formula for the awakening ceremony is in part as follows:—

For the purpose of bringing about the destruction of Ravana and for doing a favour to Rama, the God Brahma himself awakened thee at an unseasonable hour. I am also awakening thee this evening the sixth day of the light half of Aswin. O! the beloved

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of Siva, I bow to thee; accept my Puja. The king of the gods gained his throne by awakening thee. I am doing the same for the sake of wealth, kingdom and renown.

The awakening ceremony is followed by the *Adhibasa* or the rites of honouring by presentation of perfumeries, garlands, &c. The articles that have to be exhibited for the purpose are twentyone in number, and as the presentation of each must be accompanied by the recitation of a Vedic formula, the whole ceremony requires a long time.

It may not be out of place to mention here that the Vedic mantras prescribed for such occasions are generally inappropriate and irrelevant. For instance, in the formula for presenting a clod of earth, there occurs the word *Mahi*, which though it ordinarily means earth, is, in that particular passage, used as an adjective equivalent to the word *Mahat* of modern Sanskrit. Again, in the formula for presenting rice there occurs the word *Dhana* which means fried barley, and not rice. In fact, in the majority of cases where Vedic mantras are used in connection with sacrificial operations, they are prescribed without the slightest regard to their true meaning. As every act involved in a religious rite must be accompanied by a Vedic formula, the authors of the ritualistic works are very often obliged to prescribe mantras that have no bearing on the subject. If a verse is found containing a single word having some resemblance to the name of any material or operation involved in a particular rite, the ritualistic author would prescribe its recitation in connection with that rite, without troubling himself in the least as to its appropriateness. Professor Wilson was somehow enabled to find out the fact that the Vedic mantras recited at the burning of a widow on the funeral pyre of her husband are not in accordance with original texts. The truth is that there is the same or even greater inappropriateness in almost all the Vedic mantras adopted for religious rites.

The ceremonies of the first day of the main Puja commence with what is called the Admission of the Nine leaves. These are of the following plants :

1. Plantain. 2. Arum. 3. Turmeric. 4. Jayanti. 5. Wood apple. 6. Pomegranate. 7. Asoka. 8. Man Kachu. 9. Rice.

All these, excepting the twig of wood apple, are procured beforehand, and kept, on the morning of the first main Puja, among the other requisites for worship, in front of the goddess. The priest commences his operations by first of all marching to the foot of a wood-apple tree. After solemnly worshipping it, he asks it for a twig with fruit which is severed from the trunk by means of a knife. Coming back to the Puja hall, he bathes each of the nine leaves reciting the while a Vedic text. That process, a very long one, over, the nine leaves are tied together, and the bundle, wrapped in a new cloth in such a manner as to look like a recently married girl, is placed to the right of the image. Popularly it is regarded as representing the wife of Ganesha, the elephant-headed son of Durga. But, according to the ritualistic authorities, it represents the goddess Durga herself.

Then follows the worship of the image which is begun by certain acts which are supposed to give eyesight and life to it. The other gods and goddesses surrounding the Durga are then treated in the same manner, and when the figures are all animated with life, then follow some operations which are meant to prevent ghosts from interfering with the worship. A dish of powered black

kidney beans soaked in sour milk is offered to the tenants of the lower regions to keep them in good humour. The next item in the morning's programme is the bathing of the goddess. The actual washing of an unbaked clay image with its colouring materials being impossible, the deity is made to perform her morning ablution in an emblematic manner. A highly polished metallic plate, called *Darpan* or mirror, is placed on a basin of hot water in front of the idol and the bathing is supposed to be caused by pouring water and other liquids on that plate. The pouring of each kind of liquid is accompanied by the recitation of some texts, and the operation takes up a considerable part of the priest's time. After some other minor ceremonies, follows the *Dharyana* or the recitation of some texts that describe the outward appearance of the deity. The following is the purport of those texts :

With braided locks, and with the moon's crescent as head ornament ; with three eyes and with face like the full moon ; her complexion being like the bud of the *Atasi* flower ; of great renown and with fine eyes ; in the first bloom of youth and decorated with every ornament, with fine teeth and heaving bosom ; killer of the monster in the shape of a buffalo ; with a trident, a sword, a discus and an arrow in the right hands ; with a club, a bow, a noose, an elephant driver's crook and an axe on her left hands ; at her foot a decapitated buffalo from which emerges a monster with sword in hand and with his breast pierced by a javelin, with fiery eyes and of truculent aspect, held as a captive by the deity by means of a noose of snakes ; the right foot of the deity on the back of a lion vomiting blood ; the toe of her left foot on the monster ; of pleasant looks and capable of conferring any favour that is asked ; destroyer of hostile troops, humiliator of the demons and fiends ; the adored of the gods.

The recitation of the above is followed by the placing of a conch shell on a tripod, and by the consecration of the water poured into it. The process is very complicated, and each step is accompanied by a mantra and some mystic signs that to persons not gifted with the powers of Mrs. Besant must appear to be quite unmeaning. When the consecration of the water in the conch shell is complete, it is sprinkled on the body of the priest and on the materials for the Puja. Then, according to the ritualistic works that are usually regarded as authoritative, follows the worship of Ganesha and of the protector of the people together with that of the nine planets, though, according to the evidence of one of the experts recently examined in a sensational defamation case, the elephant-headed son of Siva and Durga is nowhere worshiped by the people of this country. The priest then takes up a wood apple leaf and, joining the palms of his hands, proceeds to address a supplication to Durga asking her to animate the image and the nine leaves with her presence. The invitation being made and the formula for contemplation being recited again, there follows the offering of sixteen articles in gold and silver ornaments, the presentation of which forms the essential of every Puja. Then is sent up a prayer to the following effect :—

A killer of the monster buffalo, I bow to thee. Give me long life, health, victory. O terrible Goddess ! surrounded by most terrible demons, thou spreadest joy around thee. O ! give me good looks, form and good fortune. Give me male progeny, wealth and everything else that I may have a longing for, &c.

We cannot carry our analysis farther in this article. One of the prominent features of the Puja is the sacrifice of buffaloes and goats. The programme is a terrible one, and happily the practice is gradually becoming obsolete. A superstitious belief has gained ground that if the head of the animal offered in sacrifice is not severed at one stroke, then the family must be prepared for a great calamity within the year following. This

Relief has done more than anything else to soften the spirit of savage blood-thirstiness displayed by Hindu youths formerly in connection with the sacrifices offered to Durga and Kali. Instead of sacrificing any living creatures before these goddesses, many Hindus now seek to propitiate their grim deities by additional offering of fruit and sweetmeat.

The programme of the Puja on the second and the third days is, generally speaking, the same as on the first day. On the second day, there is an additional service at the moment when the moon passes from the eighth to the ninth part of her daily course in the ecliptic. The determination of this point of time gave rise to a serious controversy recently. However, as usual, nothing was concluded in the conclusion.

On the last day of the Puja, the idol is taken out of the chapel and thrown into some river or tank in the neighbourhood. From morning to evening, several auspicious omens are presented before the head of the family by his dependent. One of them is the causing of a bird called nilkantha to fly before him. In the evening there takes place a ceremony which makes life for the time being very sweet, indeed! Friends and relations meet together, and salute and embrace each other with every mark of love and affection. All strifes and animosities are forgotten, and earth seems a paradise.

THE LATE MR. MANOMOHAN GHOSE.

LITTLE did we dream that when, on the morning of the 17th of October, in our last number, we spoke of Mr. Manomohan Ghose and his two pamphlets on the separation of judicial and executive power in India, he would, the same afternoon, leave us for good, his task undone. At 10.45 in the morning, he was at his bath, where he was struck down by apoplexy and between the disease and heroic allopathic treatment, he, in 4 hours, ceased to breathe. One of the medical attendants and a friend of the deceased's who was first called in, reports:

I found him lying on a couch seizing the right hand by the left. At sight of me he exclaimed quite distinctly, "Oh! J-n, what I feared all along has come to pass. See, I am paralyzed; my life is embittered." I saw and handled his right arm and leg which were quite motionless, pinched the skin but no sensation was felt, but they possessed normal heat. There was an anxious look about his face and he frequently tried to maintain an erect posture on the couch but failed and tossed on this side and that. Presently, Dr. Girindra Nath Chatterje and then the Civil Surgeon came in. We put him flat on the bed with his head raised on pillows, and the room was darkened. A little brandy in a tumbler of soda water was given by the Civil Surgeon and the patient took about one-third of it. At this time his face became a little dusky and blank, and his words were not so distinct. The tongue was bent on the right side. He rapidly grew worse, the senses became duller, and he breathed by the mouth with a blowing sound. Afterwards spasms supervened, his jaws were clenched, he vomited 2 or 3 times, his breathing became more and more stertorous and the pulse began to fail. The spasms then extended all over the body and even the paralyzed limbs became stiff and crossed over the other side. The pupils which were contracted at the start now dilated. He was evidently dying. No medicine could be given by the mouth as the jaws were fixed. Ice-bag was constantly put on the head and latterly some mustard plasters were put on the calves, forearms and nape of the neck. Ether was injected subcutaneously but all to no effect.

Apoplexy is believed to be caused by three different conditions. 1. Sudden cerebral lesion, such as hæmorrhage or vascular obstruction, as embolism (obstruction in the minute arteries by a very small clot). 2. Influence upon the brain of

a poison circulating in the blood as in uræmia, alcohol (from drunkenness), opium, etc. 3. Sudden shock or other impression arresting the cerebral functions, but causing no visible alteration.

The symptoms in the three varieties are quite distinct to be confounded. Mr. Ghose was evidently the subject of the first kind. He had paralysis of the right side, consequently, in the present knowledge of physiology, the lesion was in the left brain. There was either a hæmorrhagic or embolic obstruction. The treatment by stimulants was, to our thinking, particularly injudicious. Taking the attack to be of the hæmorrhagic variety, the discharge of blood would be greater after stimulants. If of embolic origin, the exudation in the neighbourhood of the obstructed area would be quickened by exhilarating medicines. The rapid progress of the malady suggests the remark. When the first doctor called, the patient was able to speak. Immediately after drinking soda and brandy, he visibly declined. Stimulants intended for rousing the patient, only hastened the sleep that knows no breaking. With the spreading pressure of hæmorrhagic exudation he grew every moment worse. The treatment was apparently confined to stimulants. No anti-hæmorrhagic medicines seem to have been prescribed. The immediate evil effect of brandy on the patient should have deterred the medical attendants from pushing their favourite alcohol and its derivatives to extremes.

The late Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Benson, had a stroke of an apoplectic nature which was believed to be due to heart-failure, not to rupture of any blood-vessel of the brain. In his case, stimulants were properly administered to force the failing organ to act.

It is too late to discuss the treatment. We are left to only lament the death. When Mr. Ghose expired, the scene at the house, says a report, "was heart-rending. The old mother, the devoted wife, the loving daughters, all were loudly bewailing the terrible fate that had overtaken them. The outer apartments were crowded with people of all sorts. Unfortunately, not a single male relation was present." All the members that were present were too much occupied with fresh grief to think of the disposal of the body of the departed. One of the assembled friends now put the question—What was to be done with the corpse, was it to be buried or burnt? No such doubt would have been expressed if Mr. Ghose's wishes were known. He had wanted to make his will after the stroke, but both his physical and mental powers that he then possessed were not sufficient for the effort. It was a ticklish question and hard to answer. None would take upon himself the responsibility. There was, however, no time to lose, if the body were to be disposed of after the Hindu fashion. Evidently, none of the friends was for burial, for, when the questioner first voted for cremation, all agreed to it. The old mother who had not been to Europe, consenting and none of the family objecting, the corpse was carried on the shoulders of Brahmans and Kyasthas, who volunteered their services, to the banks of the Jalanghi, and thence despatched by boat to Navadwip to be reduced to ashes on the banks of the holy Ganges.

This is a convincing proof of the high popularity of the departed in his native town of Krishnaghur.

We have no space this week for the career of the deceased which had points of public interest. Mr.

Ghose had an uphill-work in life and he lived to make it successful. But it ended without attaining full glory.

EDUCATION OF MAHOMEDANS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I have, with an enthusiasm of a zealously patriotic mind, watched with keen interest the discussion on the subject of Mahomedan education. At last an opportunity has lent itself when I can give vent to my feelings. The time has now come when, taking up the thread of the narrative as it were, I appeal to the Mahomedan community to minutely notice the remarks I have to make, based as they are on the principles of highest morality and highly beneficent objects.

The transcendently philosophical articles on the subject have but little tendency for adoption of any practical measures for the benefit of the community. Bandyng words will not do for us. The sturdy attack of the one and unrelenting and unmerciful repulses of the other, can little help us in battling with such a formidable enemy as the retrogressive tendencies of our community. Those that have beaten the drum of inconsistency, with an underlying tendency of sinister motives of selfish interest, have done nothing but made personal attacks, while the laudable object in view is left in perfect obscurity. I shall, therefore, try to expose the fundamental defect of our community, which has kept us back from progressing favourably with the hourhand of time.

We should, first of all, leaving the more advanced question of inheritance and law with the legists, look to the scholastic education of our boys. For no law of the land can make a nation develop its educational capacities; no legal influence, however great, can force a nation to a moral sense of duty, since its effect in the former is a lefthanded one and in the latter it has a diametrically opposite tendency, inasmuch as law keeps many things out of its scope, for instance, piety to God, bounty to the poor, forgiveness of injuries, education of children and gratitude to benefactors.

I am one of those who consider government as a practical art giving rise to no question but those of means and an end. And regarding it in the words of J. S. Mill, I may say "it is wholly an affair of invention and contrivance. Being made by man it is assumed, that man has the choice" either to make it or not, and how or on what pattern make it. And law, like government, is as much under human control. Thus, we ought not to allow law to tyrannically influence our moral and intellectual career (if it does at all) but that we should prove ourselves worthy of making it. It is the law of honour, the moral sense of duty, the obedience to our parents, that constitute a happy home. It is these that aid the intellectual development of a community and not law with its brute force.

Having now disposed of the question of law, I come to a very grave point, that is the accusation made against our community for not making a headway towards intellectual progress. In my opinion, the energy of those who have been rushing to print is misdirected. They blame the youths for not being able to compete with the boys of other advanced nations. But, have they grappled with the question of primary education of these boys? Have they at all studied the real cause of their degeneracy? It is not that we are in want of money, or that our law is less binding than that of other nations; the cause is the murky education of our boys. The academical instructions which our boys receive are much inferior to the high education given at schools and colleges of other nations. And it is really a wonder that inspite of this there are men amongst us to whom we can look to for guidance. We would have been a servile nation and extinct intellectually had it not been for colleges like the Alighur. But they are so few and far between that they can hardly provide for the want of us all. It is a matter of deep regret that we find but few colles leges with the same reputation. Above all, it is a deplorable fact to note that Bengal, with all the advantages of a social, intellectual and political life, can boast of none. Those colleges that we have are but institutions to lay the foundation of basest morality, with perhaps a little better education and culture.

A college like St. Xavier's stands first in my estimation, on account of its perfect discipline and strict rules. Masters and boys are well aware of the advisability of carrying out the strict injunctions prescribed for them on entering the college. The concerns of education, the interests of youth, occupy the attention of the tutors who are assiduous and vigilant in their duties. Now none of our schools or colleges, either private or under the control of Government, is worthy of being mentioned here.

It is only those who have seen actual life at our schools and colleges, that can judge of the disobedience of our boys, the lifeless interest of the tutors and absence of proper supervision. However, the real cause of the decadence of Islamic civilization is to be

ascribed not to want of wealth or any defect in the social laws, but the want of good and sound education of our boys, and partially to the canker, as the "Moslem Chronicle" tersely said, of the lifelessness and inaction that is crushing the life blood out of our society.

A word or two with regard to the poor condemned Maulvis, Olemas and their *Futwas*.

The demoralizing effect of civilization has slowly but surely been casting such an ill-fated effect on us that we might easily have been convicted as the citizens of Sabaris or Daphne, had it not been for the unbending piety and persevering opposition of our strictly religious Maulvis. It is the binding laws of our religion that have kept us afloat with tolerable integrity within such a treacherous sphere.

Having once referred to the moral education of our boys, I believe the following will not be out of place. That all the Mahomedan schools and colleges should, like St. Xavier's, enforce the teaching of our scriptures. By scriptures I mean the principles taught by our Al-koran, the rules laid down of piety, justice, benevolence and purity, &c. This should not be looked upon as secondary education, but that it should be regarded as the basis of all education and culture. Examinations, monthly, fortnightly or even weekly, should be made to ascertain the progress of the boys.

The principle of religious education is in conformity with the principles of all noteworthy schools, colleges and universities, either here or abroad.

S. A. A. ASGHUR.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

October 2.

Great Britain. The Royal and Imperial party at Balmoral breaks up tomorrow. A European interest has been excited in the family gathering of the two greatest potentates in the world. Its influence on great current questions can be only of an indirect character, as our constitutional monarch can act through only her responsible ministers. The Emperor has apparently enjoyed his stay at Queen Victoria's Highland home. The night of his arrival the scene must have been very grand, with numerous bonfires on the surrounding hills, while Her Majesty's Highland retainers met the Czar and Czarina at the entrance to the avenue of Balmoral and escorted the Imperial pair with lighted torches. The Czar appears to have thoroughly appreciated the sport provided for him in the shape of deer-drives in the surrounding forests. Last Sunday the little parish church of Crathie witnessed the unique spectacle of the Head of the Greek Church worshipping with the Head of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The very simplicity of the somewhat austere service and ritual of the Church of Scotland must have been in striking contrast to the gorgeous ceremonial of the Greek Church. To-morrow evening, after dinner, the Czar and Czarina take leave of their illustrious relatives, and, travelling all night, are timed to reach Portsmouth on Sunday evening, where they will be received by the Prince of Wales, and early on Monday morning they sail in their yacht for Cherbourg, where they will be met by the President of the French Republic and escorted by him and his ministers to Paris. The marked change in the tone of the Russian press towards this country is no doubt one result of the visit to Balmoral. 5 p. m. The following startling telegram appeared in this morning's "Daily Mail" from its Vienna Correspondent:

"I am glad to be able to announce that the Powers have agreed upon a pacific settlement of the Eastern Question."

It would be premature, and perhaps unwise, to state the details, but it is permissible to say that the settlement is honourable to all parties, and that ample guarantees have been taken for the future security of the Sultan's Armenian subjects."

Up to this hour I have failed to have it verified. It does not appear in any other paper of authority, but the fifth edition of the "St. James's Gazette" contains the following:

"This statement (of the *Daily Mail*) is confirmed by *England*, which says it has good reason for believing that a very important agreement has been arrived at between the Great Powers, and that all danger of a European war has, for the present, passed away. The interviews between the Czar and Lord Salisbury at Balmoral have borne good fruit, and all outstanding questions between England and Russia have been peacefully adjusted."

Rome, Oct. 2.—According to the *Italia*, General Ferrero, Italian Ambassador to Great Britain, who is at present in Rome, will be charged with a mission to the British Government regarding the Eastern Question.—*Reuter*."

If eventually confirmed it may be no ordinary triumph for Lord Salisbury's diplomacy and a striking answer to the agitators whom I have not spared.

A denial has been received at the India Office of the statement of the "Times" Bombay correspondent relative to the outbreak of bubonic fever.

The Prince of Wales had yesterday the pleasure of seeing his horse Persimmon win its third great race, the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket, carrying with them a purse of 10,000 sovereigns. Lord Salisbury on leaving Balmoral paid a brief visit to his nephew Mr. Arthur Balfour at his ancestral home in Haddingtonshire, and is, I believe, to-day, settled for the winter at Hatfield. Mr. Chamberlain is, according to rumour, within a few hours of Liverpool on board the "Germanic," his departure from New York having been concealed on account of the discovery of a Fenian plot to assassinate him. The First Lord of the Admiralty is hurrying home from Biarritz and soon the members of the inner Cabinet will be in earnest conclave.

Yesterday all interested in India must have read with painful anxiety the "Times" telegram from Simla dated Wednesday, stating that there is no doubt that widespread scarcity is probable in the Punjab and certain districts of the North-West Provinces. Then there is the startling news of an outbreak of bubonic fever in Bombay, the details of which are looked for with anxiety by the medical schools here.

Prince Ranjitsinghji. The Cambridge dinner to this celebrated cricketer was a great success. The Prince's health was proposed by Dr. Butler, the eminent master of Trinity, and I think the response made by the Prince will be hailed with no ordinary satisfaction by the natives of every province in India.

Armenian Agitation. This is still being carried on by the screeching and bellowing clerics the Emperor William has described as "monstrosities." It was initiated, as I told you some weeks ago, by the congregational clergyman Dr. Rogers. Not to be outdone, another clergyman of the same denomination—Dr. Horton—gave utterance to some columns of declamatory trash, and next week we are promised a further explosion of the "Nonconformist conscience," when those notorious windbags, Dr. Parker and Price Hughes, are to see who can screech the loudest. In my last letter I had time to refer briefly to Mr. Gladstone's speech at Liverpool on Thursday of last week. As a piece of rhetoric it was a marvellous effort for the aged politician, but the proportion of statesmanship was about one grain to the ton of wordy eloquence. The two Gladstonian morning papers that act as his hacks and henchmen, went wild over it, reminding one of the historic occasion when the populace cried out "'tis the voice of a god and not of a man." The bulk of the continental press has condemned the speech with almost brutal animosity. The "Daily Chronicle" has, however, met with one sympathiser who has the insolent temerity to pat Mr. Gladstone on the back. I refer to the notorious *Rocheport*.

France. M. Hanotaux, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, will have his hands full immediately after the visit of the Czar. It is rumoured that the work at Madagascar has to be all done over again and that an expeditionary force of some 12,000 men will have to be sent to endeavour to restore order out of the present chaos. Meanwhile, M. Méline's government has to place to its credit the settlement with Italy of the vexed Tunis question. It is too early to judge what the Italian people will think of what they call the Marquis Rudini's "surrender." Opinion here seems to be that the settlement, while undoubtedly a triumph to France, may prove at the same time of ultimate benefit to Italy.

Egypt. You will see it has been determined, for the present at all events, to make Dongola our farthest point. The forward movement to Kartoum has to be kept in abeyance for financial and other reasons. Meanwhile, the Sirdar is taking every care to make his present position unassailable.

Books, etc. Mrs. Humphrey Ward's new novel, "Sir George Treesady," has, to judge from Mudie's requirements, already secured a position for itself. Two thousand five hundred copies are subscribed for, but the demand is so great that a further 500 or 1,000 have to be secured. Mr. J. M. Barrie is about to leave for America, and, after having arranged for the production of his new comedy-drama, the "Marriage Feast," intends going on to Canada. Many will be sorry to hear that Mr. George du Maurier * is seriously ill and his life hangs by a thread. Messrs. Blackwood and Sons have just brought out Sir Theodore Martin's translation in blank verse of the first six books of Virgil's "Æneid." I notice too, your countryman Mr. Rama Krishna is about to bring out a new volume entitled "Tales from Ind." Lady Henry Somerset and Mrs. Ormiston Chant are about to start an institution for giving oratorical instruction on the following lines:

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* There is a sad story told of Mr. du Maurier: The other day in conversation with a friend, he said, "I cannot cheer up, I have been too successful. Success has ruined me at last."

October 9.

Great Britain. The news in the morning papers yesterday conveying the intelligence of Lord Rosebery's resignation of the leadership of the Radical party, was of a very startling character, and eclipsed, for the time, the marvellous doings in Paris over the visit of the Emperor of Russia.

However much one may differ from Lord Rosebery politically, he is essentially a gentleman, a much higher title to respect than that of being a nobleman. I use the term in the sense you will find given to it by the American Webster in his celebrated dictionary: "A man of good breeding, politeness, and civil manners as distinguished from the vulgar and clownish." That is all true of Lord Rosebery. How can such a man lead a section of the party headed by Labouchere, Dilke and Dalziel? Poor Lord Rosebery has from the first been in a false position. During the life of our gracious and beloved Sovereign lady, the truth will not be known, as to Lord Rosebery's succession to the premiership vacated by Mr. Gladstone. No doubt, he had won the Derby and was determined to be, for a longer or shorter period, Prime Minister of England. No man knows his Shakespeare better than Lord Rosebery. He should have remembered what our great immortal said of "vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself," and better would it have been to-day had he acted on the grand advice given in Scene II of Act III, in *King Henry VIII* :—

"Fling away ambition :

By that sin fell the angels."

Lord Rosebery's resignation means the annihilation of the Radical party. Hence its profound importance. The heir of the Plantagenets, as Sir W. Harcourt proudly calls himself, may be the nominal leader, but, as a party, it is now defunct. Since 1886, when Mr. Gladstone, at the instigation of his son Herbert, went in for Irish Home Rule, without consulting his colleagues, the doom of the Radical party was sealed. Poor wretched "tersec flies," like the Editors of the "Chronicle," "Star" and "Sun," have, for the moment, triumphed. No man with any self-respect cares for a moment for the judgment of the first, the Cambridge professor and Irish adventurer, who manipulates the other two. I say nothing of the Editor of "Truth." Every one who is behind the scenes, knows how contemptible his action, as against Lord Rosebery, has been. Henry Labouchere has a very high opinion of himself, but if you wish to know his real character, you have only to go into the city. He and Dilke, with Phillip Stanhope thrown in, will make, with the assistance of Welsh and Scotch bores, a most contemptible party below the gangway on the Opposition side of the House of Commons. The great Plantagenet may be able to control them, but it must not be forgotten that the quondam "Historicus" of the "Times" has no political ballast. Speaking for myself, I may say this, that some ten years ago, I wrote to one of our leading papers, I would never accept Sir W. Harcourt as a leader. I am old enough to remember how he flirted with Mr. Disraeli, and how he insulted Mr. Gladstone in the famous session of 1874. I myself was a member of the Liberal party down to 1886. Mr. Gladstone expelled all those who in that year—so disastrous of the fortunes of the party—preferred to follow the illustrious John Bright. Lord Palmerston had always predicted that Mr. Gladstone would ruin the Liberal party, and to-day he must be a proud man. His sycophancy to the "Chronicle," "Star" and "Sun" has made an end of the party he once had led to such immemorial issues. But the plain common sense of the working classes of England treat with scorn the teaching of your Massinghams, Sturats and O'Connors. Yet, all the while, they think that they are guiding public opinion!

I notice in the "Times" an account of what is impudently termed the "great national" meeting at Dr. Parker's conventicle, the City Temple. Price Hughes was in the chair, and surpassed his usual flow of truculent insolence. Dr. Parker and Dr. Clifford followed suit. But what astonishes me, I will not say pains me, is the appearance on the same platform of a man of very different calibre, Principal Dykes of the English Presbyterian College. It is not because of his position as the Head of the College, Principal Dykes holds a high and distinctive position, because I understand the students at this great college number the colossal number of sixteen, the Principal's share of earnest students being something like 6 decimal. But Dr. Dykes is a man in an entirely different category from Hughes, Parker and Clifford. These three last are the gods of the counter jumpers and servant girls of London. Dr. Dykes was assistant in Edinburgh to the celebrated Dr. Candlish, I believe he might have been the senior Minister of Free St. George's Edinburgh, the proudest living in the Free Church of Scotland. Why he surrendered it, I do not know. He is the equal, if not the superior, of the present incumbent, a wonderful combination, the friend of John Bunyan and Cardinal Newman. However, there it is. Dr. Dykes appeared on the platform with these loud voiced "sons of thunder" and, having consented to lower himself to their level, he must accept the criticism passed upon them. I know nothing in our recent history to compare with the cruelty the "Nonconformist conscience" has

poured upon Lord Salisbury. As Mr. Richards says in the letter I quote above, "it is criminal."

It is worthy of note that Dr. Rogers was not at the "national" demonstration. It is understood he and Dr. Parker have not been on speaking terms since the celebrated controversy in the Congregational Union, on *plagiarism*—Rogers condemning it, and insolently attacking Dr. Dykes as a plagiarist, in which there was not a word of truth. Dr. Parker much to his honour, condemned plagiarism and the plagiarist, but the "Nonconformist conscience" was against him, Rogers triumphed and the plagiarist obtained the post of honour and, no doubt, what he prized much more, the best paid office in the body that has the honour to claim him. I wonder what these clerical demagogues would say to Lord Salisbury if he proposed to dictate to them how they should construct their weekly sermons. No doubt, Lord Salisbury could, if he pleased, produce a far better sermon than any one of them, or all of them put together. But for myself I ask a practical question. As a young man I would have held my own with any one of them in Latin or Greek. Hebrew I never knew and never want to know, so I give them a present of that, and therefore in these archaic languages I give them the pas, but who are they to dictate to me in questions of secular politics? I am not only their equal but better equipped to form a judgment on purely secular questions than they are. But because they are called "reverend" they arrogate to themselves the right to dictate to the illiterate laity, how they shall deal with social and secular questions. I envy your countrymen who think for themselves, and I, asking no more than the privileges enjoyed by the Hindu and Mahomedan subjects of our gracious sovereign, claim the right to judge for myself on this question of the Armenians and to hold in contempt those windbag clerics who are far less competent to form a judgment.

The Lord Chief Justice of England and his visit to America. I have purposely refrained from saying anything about this. There is no doubt, to himself personally, it has been a great triumph. From the date of his first appearance in his famous lecture on arbitration, down to his visit as a guest of the Governor-General of Canada, and his final reception at the Roman Catholic conversation at New York, the visit has been one of great personal distinction, barring the unfortunate experience at Mr. Bryan's meeting at Tammany Hall. I do not lay any particular value on the hospitality shown him by Lord Aberdeen. This very weak grandson of the unfortunate Premier whose hesitancy and vacillation led us into the Crimean War, always reminds me of Thomas Carlyle's caustic remark about his friend the late Lord Houghton. The *Chelmsford* said, "My friend Monckton Milnes would ask the Lord Jesus Christ to breakfast were He to appear in London." So Lord and Lady Aberdeen one day entertain a gaseous Professor of a Free Church College, on another an eminent Roman Catholic lawyer whose tastes and sympathies are not with the narrow, hide-bound ideas of Haddo House but rather with Newmarket and the tables devoted to whist and picquet. I cannot say the present Lord Chief Justice of England commands my respect any more than his maudlin predecessor. He was at the bar, in spite of his intellectual superiority which every one allows, pre-eminently a "bully," and it did not matter to him, I am sorry to say, whether his victim was a man or a woman, and his peculiar style of terrorizing witnesses was painfully manifest in his treatment of the jury in the historic trial of Jameson and his comrades. Never again will English gentlemen serving as special jurors, allow themselves to be browbeaten as they were on that occasion. Your older readers will understand me when I say, with far greater ability he is singularly cast in the mould of Sir Mordaunt Wells, so well known to Calcutta society as the "Mordaunt Lawson Swell Well" of the late W. H. Abbot's incisive verse. Lord Russell of Killowen is too old to conquer habits formed in a far different school than that in which he now occupies a foremost position, but his legal attainments no one will call in question.

Books. The "Clarendon Press" has brought out the first series of his studies in *Dante*, by Dr. Moore, Principal of St. Edmund Hall, Oxford. It is very highly reviewed. Dr. Moore writes:

"One advantage may perhaps be anticipated from the materials or statistics now for the first time collected and tabulated. They will, I hope, enable students to form a more complete idea than was before possible of the encyclopædic character of Dante's learning and studies, and of the full extent and variety of the literary equipment which enabled him to compose works covering a wider range of subjects than perhaps any other writer, certainly any other very great writer, ever attempted. Our admiration is indefinitely increased when we remember the difficulties under which this surprising amount of learning was amassed; when we reflect that it was in the days before the invention of printing, when books existed only in manuscript, and were consequently very rare and precious, and difficult of access; when there were no helps for study in the way of notes and dictionaries, no conveniences for reference, such as divisions of chapters, sections, paragraphs; above all, no indexes or concordances to help the fallible memory (though, happily, no doubt less fallible than in proportion to the reliance placed upon

it); when, finally, we add to all this the consideration of the circumstances of Dante's own life, a turbulent, wandering, unsettled life, one of which we may truly say "without were fightings, within were fears," one intensely preoccupied with fierce political struggles and anxieties, when 'politics' (if we may use so misleading a term) were a question of life and death to those who engaged in them, and defeat meant, as in Dante's own case, exile, confiscation, ruin. The varied and extensive reading of which Dante's works give evidence would be admirable if it had been exhibited under the most favourable conditions of what we call 'learned leisure' and with the help of modern appliances, but under the circumstances in which Dante accomplished it it is nothing less than amazing. Nor are these considerations materially affected even when all allowance has been made for the occurrence of second-hand references and the occasional use of hand-books of extracts and quotations, or 'Florilegia,' on both of which matters we shall have a few words to say presently.

As Mr. Eliot Norton has truly said, 'Dante was born a student, as he was born a poet, and had he never written a single poem, he would still have been famous as the most profound scholar of his times. Far as he surpassed his contemporaries in poetry, he was no less their superior in the depth and extent of his knowledge.' Dante is a striking example of what Mr. A. J. Butler has well termed the 'incredible diligence' of the Middle Ages. We marvel at this in our life of feverish haste, as we do at the infinite patience and leisure of Indian and Chinese craftsmen. The learning of Petrarch is also very remarkable, but the circumstances of his life were much more favourable for its acquisition than those in which Dante lived."

STRONG ENGLISH WORDS.

WHEN a person says "I suffered excruciating pain," he expresses a fact in the strongest words afforded by the English language. The word "excruciating" comes from *cruz*, a cross, and signifies an intensity of agony comparable only to that endured by one who undergoes the barbarous punishment of crucifixion. There are some diseases which, for a time, cause pain of this acute and formidable nature. To find a relief for it, when possible, is at once the impulse of humanity and the studious desire of science. Two brief examples may indicate what success is attending the effort to both comfort and cure cases of this kind.

"Nearly all my life," writes an intelligent woman, "I have borne the burden of what appeared to be incurable illness. I always felt heavy, weary, and tired. My appetite was poor, and after eating I had a *cruel pain* at my chest and between the shoulders. Frequently the pain was so intense that I was impelled to loose my clothing and walk about the room. My nerves were disordered and impressible, and I was, consequently, easily disquieted and upset. My sleep was habitually bad, and I seemed none the better for spending a night in bed. Eating but little my strength waned of necessity, and I came to be very weak. For a long time I got about feebly and with difficulty.

"In August, 1887, I had an attack of rheumatic gout, which gave me the most harrowing experience of my life. The complaint took its usual course and refused to yield to the ordinary treatment. Through the partial failure of the liver and kidneys dropsy set in and my legs and feet became puffed and swollen. I suffered *excruciating pain* and was confined to my bed for *thirteen weeks*. Remedies of every description were tried but to little purpose."

"My brother, visiting me one day, said he had been cured of an attack of dropsy by a medicine called Mother Seigel's Syrup. I got a bottle from Mr. Hewett, the chemist, in Seven Sisters' Road, and after taking it felt a trifle easier. I continued taking it, and soon the pain and swelling abated. I could eat without pain or inconvenience, and by a few weeks' further use of the Syrup I was not only free from my local ailment, but felt better than I ever did in my life before. Since then I have enjoyed continuous good health, taking a dose of Mother Seigel's Syrup occasionally for some transient indisposition. You are at liberty to publish my letter. (Signed) (Mrs.) Elizabeth Rogers, 42, Plevna Road, South Tottenham, London, September 13th, 1895."

"In January, 1892," writes another, "I had an attack of influenza, and was confined to my bed for *eighteen weeks* thereafter. Subsequently I was very weak, and could get up no strength. What little food I forced down (having no appetite) gave me *excruciating pain*, so that I was afraid to eat. I came to be exceedingly weak and had frequent attacks of dizziness. I was worn almost to a skeleton, and none thought I would recover.

"In June, 1892, Mr. Smith, a friend of ours, recommended me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup, which I at once procured of Mr. George Coombs, the chemist in Hucknall. After taking it for only one week I felt greatly benefited. I could eat better, and food agreed with me. Continuing with the Syrup I grew stronger and stronger, and soon felt even better than before I was attacked by the influenza. You are free to print this statement if you wish to do so. (Signed) (Mrs.) Ruth Halliday, 44, High Street, Hucknall Torkard, Nottingham, March 19th, 1895."

Intense pain may or may not indicate urgent danger to life, but it is hard to bear, and very exhausting just the same. In cases of rheumatic gout (Mrs. Rogers) the pain is caused by a poisonous acid in the tissues, originally produced by the decomposition of food in the stomach—indigestion or dyspepsia. The same poison acting on the liver and kidneys creates the other symptoms mentioned. In the case of Mrs. Halliday the ailment was dyspepsia, which in the first place invited influenza, and then remained to torment her.

It is best and easiest to *prevent* pain by using Mother Seigel's Syrup *immediately* when the slightest illness appears.

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Memorial**TO THE LATE****SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.**

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lonsdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

Subscriptions will be received by Lieutenant-General McLeod Innes, 9, Lexham Gardens, Cromwell Road, London, W.

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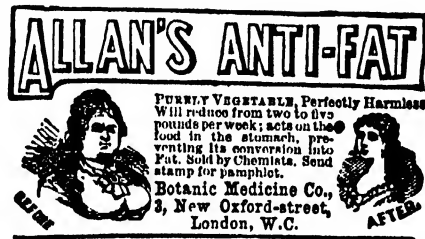
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to Atkinson the late Mr. E.F.T., C.S.
to Banerjee, Babu Jyotish Chunder.
from Banerjee, the late Revd. Dr. K. M.
to Banerjee, Babu Sarodaprasad.
from Bell, the late Major Evans.
from Bhaddaur, Chief of.
to Binaya Krishna, Raja.
to Chelu, R. Bahadur Ananda.
to Chatterjee, Mr. K. M.
from Clarke, Mr. S.E.J.
from, to Colvin, Sir Auckland.
to, from Duffern and Ava, the Marquis of.
from Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Griffith H.P.
to Ganguli, Babu Kisari Mohan.
to Ghose, Babu Naba Kissen.
to Ghosh, Babu Kili Prasanna.
to Graham, Mr. W.
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to Mallik, Mr. H. C.
to Munton, Miss Ann.
from Mehta, Mr. R. D.
to Mitra, the late Raja Dr. Rajendralala.
to Mookerjee, late Raja Dakhnaranjan.
from Mookerjee, Mr. J. C.
from M'Neil, Professor H. (San Francisco).
to, from Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.
from Nayaratra, Mahamahopadhyaya M. C.
from Osborn, the late Colonel Robert D.
to Rao, Mr. G. Venkata Appa.
to Rao, the late Sir T. Mohiva.
to Rattigan, Sir William H.
from Rosebery, Earl of.
to, from Routledge, Mr. James.
from Russell, Sir W. H.
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to Sastri, the Hon'ble A. Sashiah.
to Simha, Babu Brahmananda.
from Sircar, Dr. Mahendralal.
from Stanley, Lord of Alderley.
from, to Townsend, Mr. Meredith.
to Underwood, Captain T. O.
to, from Vambéry, Professor Arminius.

to Vencataramaniah, Mr. G.
to Vizianagram, Maharaja of.
to, from Wallace, Sir Donald Mackenzie.
to Wood-Mason, the late Professor J.

LETTERS(& TELEGRAMS) OF CONDOLENCE, from

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Lambert, Sir John.
Mahomed, Moulvi Syed.
Mitra, Mr. B. C.
Mitter, Babu Sidheshur.
Mookerjee, Raja Peary Mohan.
Mookerjee, Babu Surendra Nath.
Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of.
Routledge, Mr. James.
Roy, Babu E. C.
Roy, Babu Sarat Chunder.
Sanyal, Babu Dinabundho.
Savitri Library.
Tippera, the Bara Thakur of.
Vambéry, Professor Arminius.
Vizianagram, the Maharaja of.
POSTSCRIPT.

After paying the expenses of the publication, the surplus will be placed wholly at the disposal of the family of the deceased man of letters.

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OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record on the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Babington Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindu Patriot*, in its pioneer days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

It is rarely that the life of an Indian journalist becomes worthy of publication; it is more rarely still that such a life comes to be written by an Anglo-Indian and a member of the Indian Civil Service. But, it has come to pass that in the land of the Bengali Babus, the life of at least one man among Indian journalists has been considered worthy of being written by an Englishman.—*The Madras Standard*, (Madras) September 30, 1895.

The work leaves nothing to be desired either in the way of completeness, impartiality, or lifelike portrayal of character.

Mr. Skrine deals with his interesting subject with the unflinching instinct of the biographer. Every side of Dr. Mookerjee's complex character is treated with sympathy tempered by discrimination.

Mr. Skrine's narrative certainly impresses one with the individuality of a remarkable man.

Mookerjee's own letters show that he had not only acquired a command of clear and flexible English but that he had also assimilated that sturdy independence of thought and character which is supposed to be a peculiar possession of natives of Great Britain. His reading and the stores of his general information appear to have been, considering his opportunities, little less than marvellous.

One of the first to express his condolence with the family of the deceased writer was the present Viceroy, Lord Elgin. Mookerjee appears to have won the affection not only of the dignitaries with whom he came in contact, but also of those in low estate.

The impression left upon the mind upon laying down the book is that of a good and able man whose career has been graphically portrayed.—*The Englishman*, (Calcutta) October 15, 1895.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 749.

NAPOLEON.

(From the French of Victor Hugo.)

ANGEL or demon I thou,—whether of light
The minister, or darkness—still dost sway
This age of ours; thine eagle's soaring flight
Bears us, all breathless, after it away.
The eye that from thy presence fain would stray,
Shuns thee in vain; thy mighty shadow thrown
Rests on all pictures of the living day,
And on the threshold of our time alone,
Dazzling, yet sombre, stands thy form, Napoleon I

Thus, when the admiring stranger's steps explore
The subject-lands that 'neath Vesuvius be,
Whether he wind along the enchanting shore
To Portici from fair Parthenope,
Or, lingering long in dreamy reverie,
O'er loveliest Ischia's od'rous isle he stray,
Wooded by whose breath the soft and am'rous sea
Seems like some languishing sultana's lay,
A voice for very sweets that scarce can win its way.

Him, whether Pæstum's solemn fane detain,
Shrouding his soul with meditation's power;
Or at Pozzuoli, to the sprightly strain
Of tarantella danced 'neath Tuscan tower,
Listening, he while away the evening hour;
Or wake the echoes, mournful, lone and deep,
Of that sad city, in its dreaming bower
By the volcano seized, where mansions keep
The likeness which they wore at that last fatal sleep;

Or be his bark at Posillippo laid,
While as the swarthy boatman at his side
Chants Tasso's lays to Virgil's pleased shade,
Ever he sees, throughout that circuit wide,
From shady nook or sunny lawn espied,
From rocky headland viewed, or flow'ry shore,
From sea, and spreading mead alike descried,
The Giant Mount, tow'ring all objects o'er,
And black'ning with its breath th' horizon evermore!

—Fraser's Magazine.

WEEKLYANA.

SPEAKING at Ulwar city, Lord Elgin justified his tour in the face of the impending general famine in these words:—

"I have seen suggestions that at this moment I ought to be elsewhere. I do not take any exception to these suggestions. I do not resent them in any way. I regard them indeed as not altogether unfriendly, and I can safely say that I have carefully weighed them and considered the arguments they contain, but what I should like to point out is that it is not a light matter to set aside a tour of this description. A tour of the Governor-General has been one of his regular functions for a very long time, since the days when, if he left Calcutta on a journey of this description, he probably had to be absent for a year or so and was accompanied by an escort of several regiments. We are able now owing to the universal peace which prevails throughout the

Empire of India, and owing to the greater facilities of travel, we are able to accommodate our retinue in a few railway carriages, and to pass very rapidly from one place to another, but I venture to say that it is of no less importance now than it was then, that the representatives of the Supreme Government should be known to some extent in all parts of the country. No doubt, as I have said, we can pass through the country more rapidly, but on the other hand there are ever increasing demands of administrative work which tie my colleagues and myself to our office tables and to the Council Chamber for at least ten months out of twelve, and therefore it comes to this that if we do not carry out a tour at the time at which we have arranged to carry it out, that tour must be definitely set aside because, as you are aware, the period of office of a Viceroy is five years, and such is the extent to which the dominions of the Queen-Empress have now reached in India that it takes a very carefully pre-arranged plan to enable him to visit each part or most of the important places in Her Majesty's dominions during his term of office. Therefore, I venture to say that, if a tour is abandoned, it comes to the putting aside of a definite duty which Her Majesty has entrusted to him (applause). I say then that this going on tour is no whim to be undertaken and put down at pleasure."

His words on the famine are:—

"It is a definite duty to be performed and not to be put aside except for good reasons; and therefore the question arises, Are there any reasons at the present moment why it should be set aside? Well, I had an opportunity, a short time ago, of expressing an opinion on the situation and on the apprehensions of disaster which are entertained, to some extent with reason, with regard to a great part of India. What I ventured to impress upon those who heard me upon that occasion was that it was necessary to be exceedingly cool and deliberate, and not to be hasty in our judgment. At the present moment I see nothing yet to alter my opinion, and what I preach that I wish to practise. (Applause). Nay, more. The reports which have reached me since that time have not been altogether unfavourable. I parted only yesterday (Nov. 6) from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, and I cannot ascertain from him that as yet any real necessity for relief works has arisen in his province, and that means that no acute distress prevails there at the present moment. In the same way I am in constant communication with the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces, who stands in the fore front of this battle, and only yesterday I received from him a telegram which was of a distinctly reassuring character. (Applause.) There can be no doubt that the advances which we have made for the sinking of kutchia wells, and the suspension of revenue to which we have agreed, have put heart into the people, and that they are facing the position in a manner that deserves the greatest credit and gratitude from us. (Applause). They are industriously preparing the land for the crop which ought to be sown at this moment, and we have every reason to hope and believe that if rain should be vouchsafed to us during the next few weeks the area that will be seriously affected by distress in the North-West Provinces will be very much more restricted than is commonly supposed, and in any case the Lieutenant-Governor informs me that no less than forty per cent. of the area of the Rabi crop will be sown and will yield something, he cannot say exactly how much in all cases, but will yield something throughout his Province. And then comes in his telegram, a very significant addition, for he says in the other alternative our arrangements are complete (applause). Now ladies and gentlemen, that is the justification for my going on tour (applause). I remember well a long time ago receiving a bit of advice from a relative of mine, one of the best men of business I ever knew; and he said 'If ever you are put in a position to carry on a big work if you have good and capable lieutenants, do not try to do their work as well as your own, for you may rely upon it, that if you attempt to do both, you will fail in both.' Now I venture to say that at the present moment the provinces likely to be affected by distress and the provinces of India generally, are in the hands of men as capable as any that ever administered those provinces, and I think I am better not interfering with their work (Applause). But I have one thing also to add and that is that everyone of the friends of mine, for I think I can claim all as my friends, and they know what I mean, are aware that if the time should ever come, when my aid, sympathy and personal presence will be useful to them they have only to let me know, and I shall be there. (Applause). Now ladies and gentlemen, I have perhaps to apologize for speaking what are rather

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matters of business on an occasion of this kind, but they are matters of such engrossing interest that I felt sure you would not object."

AT Ajmere, Lord Elgin, in replying to the Municipal Commissioners' address, said :—

"I have to express to you my warm thanks for the welcome which you have extended to me to your ancient and historic city, and I am glad to acknowledge your expressions of loyalty and of devotion to the person of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress in whose name I come. I thank you especially for three remarks which you have placed in the forefront of your address. In the first place you have reminded me of a fact of which I cannot be proud, that I come in succession to a line of distinguished men, whom as my predecessors, you have welcomed here. In the second place you have shown me that you have not forgotten the services of my father, and no son can hear a reference of that kind unmoved; and in the third place you have been good enough to express approval of the work or part of the work in which I have engaged. I do not think that words are necessary to recommend public works to anyone who is interested in India. It is true here, if it is true anywhere, that a blessing rests on him who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, but it has been held, and I think rightly, that alongside these great works which we class under the head of irrigation there may be ranked those improvements in the means of communication which the inventions of the last 50 years have put within our reach, and which enable us to penetrate to and deal with the remotest parts of the country."

In the course of the reply, he gave out the famine policy of the Government of India :—

"I am one of those who think that if we have to face the stress of famine we shall look to our railways as our first line of defence; nor is that all, for they will enable us to call to our assistance the services of our best ally. It is the settled policy of the Government of India to do nothing that can amount to an interference with the ordinary course of trade, and it was laid down by one of the most acute of my predecessors who himself had to deal with famine, that though it might be possible to do more than one bunnia no Government could do so much as all the bunnias together. All the stronger therefore is our disposition to follow out the policy thus defined, when we know that the means of communication with all parts of the country have been so greatly improved since his day, and I hope and believe that we shall not look in vain to the private enterprise which we know exists in India if the occasion should arise."

THE general summary of the latest official weather and crop report in Bengal is :—

"With the exception of showers at Bashirhat (24-Parganas), Magura (Jessore), Khulna, Dacca, Faridpur, and Puri, there was no rain in the Province during the week (ending 9th Nov.) The general agricultural prospects continue unfavourable. The winter rice, except in low or irrigated tracts, is withering. In some districts, it is reported, cattle are being turned into the drying rice-plants to graze. The *rabi* sowings are generally retarded for want of moisture; but where irrigation is available, the sowings are progressing and are so far doing well. In Cuttack the insects which had been infesting the rice-plants are gradually disappearing. Locusts have appeared in places in the 24-Parganas and Patna, but have done little or no damage. No cattle-disease is reported except from a few places in Bankura, Midnapore, Backergunge, Saran, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, and Maubhum. Prices are abnormally high and are still rising in many districts, but at Patna the price of common rice is reported to have fallen from 9 to 10½ seers a rupee."

THE Bengal Government has issued the following circular letter to Commissioners of Divisions :—

"Darjiling, the 3rd November 1896.

Sir,—I am directed to forward, for your information, the accompanying copies of a note prepared in the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, under the instructions of the Lieutenant-Governor, giving comparative statements of rainfall month by month, estimated outturn of crops, prices of food-grains, number of persons who came on to relief works or who received gratuitous charitable relief, in the principal districts of these Provinces in which distress prevailed in the different years of scarcity from 1873-74 to the present time. A similar note for other districts is under preparation.

The facts shown in the note and in the half monthly tables of prices in the *Calcutta Gazette* indicate the necessity for very narrowly watching the symptoms of approaching scarcity. Prices are higher now than they ever were in Bengal at this time of the year, although the rise is not perhaps so marked, compared with normal prices at present, as it was on former occasions, while the likelihood of food coming in from provinces other than Burma to supply any deficit there may be in local supplies is greatly diminished by the scarcity that exists throughout the greater part of India. It will be noticed also that the estimated outturn of the winter rice crop is not in some districts less than 8 annas, while owing to the want of rain in the latter part of September and the whole of October, the prospects of the *rabi* crops must necessarily be poor. According to the Famine Commission's report, paragraph 77, Part I, relief will not ordinarily be required where the outturn of a year's crop is above 8 annas, but where it is less, as it is reported likely to be in some districts, there is cause for vigilance.

I am, for these reasons, to request that you will instruct all District Officers of your division to institute systematic enquiries as to the stocks in hand, to watch carefully and report on the prospects of the crops, to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with, and conform to,

the provisions of the Famine Code, and while avoiding, on the one hand, unnecessary expenditure and the creation of unfounded alarm, on the other to be vigilant, and to endeavour to forecast the possibility of the occurrence and effect of a rise in prices or depletion of food supplies, and to have prepared at once estimates of the stocks of food-grain in hand, and of the probable yield of the winter rice and coming *rabi* crops.

Any estimate of the food-supply which does not take into account the stocks in hand must necessarily be defective. In order to ascertain what these stocks are, all District Officers should have enquiries made at once from grain merchants, traders, zamindars and rayyets; they should examine the statistics of exports and imports obtainable from railway authorities and all other sources, and compare them with those of past years; they should also endeavour to form an accurate estimate of the aggregate outturn of the lately harvested *bhadai*, the standing winter rice, and coming *rabi* crops (a) in case rain falls soon, (b) in case there is no rain, and should make an estimate for each district of the requirements for local consumption up to the reaping of next year's *bhadai* harvest, and of the deficit or surplus, as the case may be, of stocks, plus probable outturn of crops, under or over the requirements for local consumption.

For the purpose of making these enquiries and estimates, the services of Subdivisional Officers, Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors, Kanungos, Survey and Settlement Officers, Officers of the Opium Department (where there are any) and of the Police should be utilized to the fullest possible extent. Assistance should also be sought from such non-official sources as may be available, the co-operation of leading zamindars, indigo and tea planters and local bodies being invited.

Mr. (now Sir) A. P. MacDonnell estimated in 1875 the stocks in hand at the beginning of the famine of 1873-74, the aggregate yield of crops of that year, and the requirements for local consumption, and thus worked out the deficit in the food-supply which had to be imported into districts where scarcity prevailed. You will observe from a perusal of Sir Antony MacDonnell's report on 'The Food-grains and Food-supply of Behar and Bengal' and of the Famine Commission's report that the quantity of grain imported by Government in that year was about 480,000 tons, or more than one crore and 30 lakhs of maunds. It is no doubt a fact that the importations of that year were far in excess of the actual needs of the time; but though the deficit of the present year in these provinces will probably be nothing like that quantity, the question becomes one of serious importance where and how such amount of grain as may be required is to be procured. In order to throw light on this question, District Officers should now, by a similar method to that adopted by Sir Antony MacDonnell, endeavour to work out the probable amount of the deficit, if any, or surplus food-supply, as the case may be, of the present year in their several districts, so as to assist the mercantile community in forecasting approximately the extent to which it may be profitable for them to import grains from Burma, California or other foreign countries. Sir Antony MacDonnell's estimates of stocks in hand were based on *a priori* considerations, but the estimates of stocks now called for should, so far as possible, be based on the actual facts so far as they can be ascertained.

Government, in accordance with the policy recommended by the Famine Commission, does not now intend under any circumstances to import grain as it did in 1873-74, or otherwise to interfere with private trade, but adheres fully to the policy of saving life by opening relief works and giving a sufficient wage to enable labourers to purchase food in the local markets, and also by giving gratuitous charitable relief to those who are unable to work. It becomes, therefore, a matter of importance that the public should have placed before it, as soon as possible, the best available information regarding the probable requirements of the country in the matter of food-supply from the present, till such time as the wants of the people are again likely to be supplied from ordinary sources in August or September next. It is believed that the coming rice crop in Burma is likely to be a good one. In ordinary years about a million and four hundred thousand tons of rice are available for export from that province, and it may be expected that the same quantity will be available this year, so that there ought to be no difficulty in supplying such deficit as there may be in Bengal by the operations of private trade.

I am therefore to request that you will give your early attention to the matter, and that you will furnish Government on the earliest possible date with a report, based on the enquiries now to be made, showing for each district or your division, as far as possible—

1st.—The amount of stocks of food-grains believed to be in hand.

2nd.—The aggregate outturn of food-supply expected from the coming winter rice and *rabi* crops, (a) in case there should be rain in November, and (b) in case there is none.

3rd.—The total requirements for the consumption of the entire population for the coming year (*i.e.*, till August or September next.)

4th.—The probable deficit in each district to be imported, or surplus, as the case may be, available for export.

As the Famine Commission remarked in Part III of their Report (to pages 104 to 161 and to the whole of Part I of which I am to invite your special attention), one of the most serious lessons learnt from the experience of the famine of 1873-74, besides the importance of agricultural knowledge, was the danger of erroneous forecasts which, if they err, as they did in 1873-74, on the side of exaggerating probable distress, may cause the State enormous loss, while, on the other hand, they may, if they err by being too sanguine, result in avoidable loss of human life. In making the forecast and estimates now called for, it should be partially remembered that personal impressions or beliefs are of little value, and explicit reasons should, therefore, be given for the figures which may be furnished. The statistics published by the Imperial Provincial Departments of Land Records and Agriculture, which have been circulated and will be found in all Collectors' offices, give the areas under each crop; the normal outturn per acre is given in Sir Antony MacDonnell's report. The requirements for consumption of the total population can be calculated with tolerable

accuracy. With these data and the careful estimate of the stocks in hand and the outturn of the winter rice and *rahi* crops, though accurate estimates of the food deficit or surplus of each district are not possible, there ought to be no great difficulty in preparing approximate estimates of the requirements of the province if proper care is exercised in the preparation of them.

To save time copies of this circular have been sent to all District Officers direct. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, M. Finucane, Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal."

WE give an abstract of the statements annexed to the Bengal letter :

PATNA.—Normal rainfall 42.86 inches. In 1896-97 30.70 from April to September.

Common rice at 10 seers per rupee. Normal price at 17 seers.

GYA.—Normal rainfall 43.20 inches. In 1896-97 from April to September 33.89.

Common rice at 9 seers. Normal price at 15 seers. Famine in 1873-74 and scarcity in 1891-92.

SHAHABAD.—Normal rainfall 41.91 inches. In 1896-97, 29.56.

Common rice at 10 seers. Normal price 14 seers.

Famine in 1873-74 and scarcity in 1888-89 and 1891-92.

SARAN.—Normal rainfall 42.56 inches. In 1896-97, 22.32.

Common rice at 10 seers. Normal price at 15 seers.

Famine in 1873-74.

CHAMPARAN.—Normal rainfall 49.55 inches. In 1896-97, 27.94.

Rice at 11 seers. Normal price 17.

Famine in 1873-74 and scarcity in 1891-92.

MUZUFERPUR.—Normal rainfall 45.98. In 1896-97, 34.26 inches.

Rice 9 seers. Normal price 14.

Famine in 1873-74 and scarcity in 1895-96 and 1891-92.

DARBHANGA.—Normal rainfall 47.37. In 1896-97, 37.91.

Rice 9½ seers. Normal price 15½.

Famine in 1873-74 and scarcity in 1875-76, 1888-89 and 1892.

MONGHYR.—Normal rainfall 45.31. In 1896-97, 40.79.

Rice 9½ seers. Normal price 14½ seers.

Famine in 1873-74 and scarcity in 1888-89 and 1892.

BHAGALPUR.—Normal rainfall 48.91. In 1896-97, 34.98.

Rice 11½. Normal price 15½.

Famine in 1873-74 and scarcity in 1889 and 1892.

PURNA.—Normal rainfall 71.95. In 1896-97, 47.63.

Rice 10. Normal price 17.

Famine in 1873-74 and scarcity in 1892.

DINAJPUR.—Normal rainfall 62.73. In 1896-97, 44.02.

Rice 10½ seers. Normal price 13½.

Famine in 1873-74 and scarcity in 1892.

No rain in October in any of these districts.

A PRIVATE letter says :

"In East Bengal, everywhere there is a cry of famine. All the crops have withered. How we shall preserve our lives, God alone knows!"

THE stock of rice in and around Calcutta, in the 1st week of November was about 12½ lakh maunds. In the 1st week of November 1895, it was 17-1/7 lakhs.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* devotes a leader to Dr. Jogendra-nath Bhattacharya's last book "Hindu Castes and Sects." It is headed "A Hindu Iconoclast" and opens with the words—

"Apart from its importance, upon which opinions will vary, as a contribution to the philosophy of religion—in which relation the volume demands a more detailed review than can be given in this column—a work which has just been published in Calcutta on 'Hindu Castes and Sects' certainly deserves to be ranked as one of the most remarkable and original books ever penned by a native of India. The author is Mr. Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya, a high caste Brahman, President of the College of Pandits at Nadiya in Eastern Bengal, and already known as an acute and learned commentator on Hindu law."

In the course of the article, it remarks :—

"But even if his philosophical theories regarding the nature and origin of religion in general be held to be mistaken, his evidence re-

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garding the character and practice of Hindu sects must either be proved to be false or be given its due weight."

"The perusal of such a book as Mr. Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya has written, ought to make Oriental enthusiasts like Professor Max Müller and Sir Edwin Arnold careful how they express themselves."

"It may safely be said that a more extraordinary revelation of craft, charlatanry, immorality, credulity and superstition than is here made in connection with many of the Hindu sects which flourish at the present day, could scarcely be conceived."

The concluding sentences are :—

"In a word, no more scathing exposure of any system masquerading under the name of religion has ever been given than this work of Mr. Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya affords. It is no doubt a work of pure demolition: but it is none the less welcome as a sign of a healthy reaction against the worst features of Hinduism; and even where we may differ from his philosophy, it is impossible to withhold admiration for the moral courage, learning and superiority to mere tradition displayed by the author."

AT the George Hotel, Crawley, on August 10, an inquest on the body of Annie Brockbank, a domestic servant at Buchan Hill, the residence of Mr. Philip Maitland brought to light that a number of servants including her had fallen sick after supper. The illness was attributed to the rabbit pie taken by them. Dr. Thomas Stevenson, analyst to the Home Office, stated that he had received from the police 4½oz of cooked rabbit which was in a highly putrid state, and similar to that found in the deceased's stomach. There was no sign of corrosive or irritant poisoning and, in his opinion, death was due to micro-organisms, or bacteria which were present to a very large extent in the rabbits used for the pie. He had administered portions of the poison found in the stomach of the deceased to several animals, but had found that it had not had any injurious effect upon their constitutions. The result of his examinations opened up a very important enquiry as to how far rabbits were healthy and fit for food. In the course of his experience he had found large numbers of live rabbits affected with bacteria to such an alarming extent that they frequently died in consequence. The organisms were generally killed by cooking, but this could not always be taken as a safeguard. He had not the least hesitation in saying that the death of Brockbank was caused by the affected rabbits.

The foreman: Do you think any importance can be attributed to the fact that the crust of a pie was not perforated.

The coroner: The crust was perforated. The idea that the crust of a pie should be perforated is an absurd one, and has long been exploded.

The jury found that death was due to unwholesome food—*vis.*, rabbit pie affected with bacteria.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

AN officer, formerly in the Austrian service, has been arrested at Suakin disguised as a Dervish attempting to make his way to the Soudan.

A REVIVAL has taken place in business in America consequent upon the presidential election. The revival is remarkably wide-spread. Idle mills and factories are being re-opened. Many factories are working over-time, and mills employing 100,000 men have re-opened. There is a marked increase in the demand for wool and cotton.

FOLLOWING up the Armenian debate in the French Chamber of Deputies, the Sultan sent his Secretary to M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, who urged the necessity for measures which would reassure Europe.

The Turkish Ambassador in Paris has now informed M. Hanatoux that the Sultan has agreed to eight reforms, including the release of innocent prisoners, the protection of peaceable Armenians, the prevention of acts of violence, granting relief to the chief sufferers, and reparation to the damaged Catholic convents.

M. HAHNTOUX expressed his thanks, and said M. Cambon would be instructed to watch the application of these reforms.

IN his speech at Edinburgh, Lord Selborne said there was no possible excuse for Great Britain shirking her engagement to evacuate Egypt, but when the time came and Great Britain's work was done, Europe, and particularly France, would be bound to recognise that Great Britain had a superior interest with which no other nation could possibly compete. It was, he continued, preposterous to suppose that France could hold the same position towards Egypt as Great Britain that had expended blood and money in regenerating Egypt. The object of the Dongola Expedition was to make that province a fresh base for operations and let disintegrating forces among Dervishes go on. Then, when the time was ripe, and everything ready, to make a final advance on Khartoum. The British policy in Egypt would be neither scuttle nor repudiation, but doing duty in common good faith.

LORD Salisbury, in his speech at the Guildhall banquet, on Nov. 9, said :

We have had many advisers as to the method whereby we should induce the great Powers to adopt our policy. The favourite advice, wherein Mr. Courtney and Mr. Morley both join, is that we should address ourselves to convince those Powers of our absolute virtue, and for that purpose begin by an action of splendid renunciation, and abandon the territory we now occupy. They seem to think that when we have done that then the Powers and the world will be forced by sympathy and influenced by their desire to recognise the merit of such a self-denying principle, and will at once adopt the course we desire them to follow. That is a pretty, almost an idyllic, conception of the conditions of international policy, but I confess I do not believe it. At all events, I may say we do not see in the present problem in the East any cause for abandoning the policy we have hitherto pursued, or relinquishing a single acre of the land which we at present occupy. Lord Wolseley has referred in eloquent and sympathetic words to the campaign recently conducted in Egypt by Major-General Kitchener. In the language of eulogy he has employed we heartily concur. Undoubtedly it was not on a large scale, and the military danger incurred turned out in the end less than was expected, but for judgment in conception, for elaborate, careful and judicious arrangement, for tenacious adherence, notwithstanding every discouragement and every obstacle to the plan originally laid down, and for a brilliant achievement of the practical object in view, General Kitchener's performance will challenge comparison with any in our annals. Allow me to say one word on behalf of another great officer. It is no derogation of the very great merits of General Kitchener that I claim part of the praise for this successful campaign for Lord Cromer, by whom he was ably seconded.

Continuing his speech, Lord Salisbury said he was glad that the nation now understood that isolated action in regard to Turkey was impossible. The European concert seems at the present time better fitted than ever before to achieve the desired purposes. He concurred in the views of M. Hahnoux, and hoped to continue to co-operate cordially with the Triple Alliance with which he was always in sympathy.

Lord Salisbury strongly protested against the idea held by Prince Bismarck that there existed a necessary and permanent antagonism between Russia and Great Britain, as he had good reason to believe that Russia had the same objects in view as ourselves regarding the events in Turkey. Lord Salisbury further said that while he foresaw no difficulty in the Powers' exercising force, it is through the Sultanate alone that they can ameliorate the lot of Christians and Mussulmans in Turkey.

Lord Salisbury announced that the Venezuela dispute has been settled in conformity with the suggestions made by the United States Government, namely, to apply the principle of civil law whereby the validity of title is admitted after a certain lapse of time.

It has been agreed that each country will appoint two delegates to arbitrate in the Venezuelan dispute. These four will select a fifth, who

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will probably be the king of Sweden. The treaty defines sixty years' undisputed occupancy as validating ownership. It also comprises an agreement to arbitrate in future disputes between America and Great Britain.

SIR Charles Dilke, speaking at Enfield, deprecated a general partition of Turkey, but if it became necessary to exercise pressure on Turks, he advocated the ceding to Greece of first Cyprus and then one other island in the Levant. Sir Charles insisted that Great Britain was pledged to evacuate Egypt, her occupation of which would always hinder concerted action on the part of Russia, France and Britain.

THE Porte has officially published a scheme of reforms for the entire Turkish Empire, and also orders the Vali to execute the same immediately.

THE *Novosti* reports that during the war China offered Formosa to England, but Lord Rosebery declined to accept it.

It is reported that the Transvaal has decided to claim one million sterling from the Chartered Company as an indemnity for the Jameson raid.

SEVERAL Russian papers warmly appeal to public charity on behalf of the famine in India.

LORD George Hamilton, speaking at Acton, said that he felt confident that the Indian Government was able to cope with the famine of whatever magnitude.

PRINCE Obolensky, an expert in agriculture, proposes to export cheap Russian wheat and rye, abounding in Russia this year with prices extremely low, to India.

THE Viceroy left Ulwar on Monday night and arrived at Ajmere on the morning of Tuesday. There was a gathering of native chiefs and British officials at the railway station to receive Lord Elgin. The Municipality presented him an address. After replying to it and inspecting the Merwara battalion drawn up outside the station, he drove to the Residency overlooking the Anasagar Lake. During the day he received and returned visits from the Chiefs of Bundi, Kisengarh, Tonk and Shahpura. The lake and the surrounding heights were illuminated at night. It was a brilliant scene. Next morning, Lord Elgin walked up to the top of Taragarh, 1,200 feet above the city, from which he took a view of the surrounding country. On his return, he visited the place sacred to both Hindus and Mahomedans. On the 11th, Lord Elgin was at the Mayo College to distribute prizes to the students. From Ajmere to Udaipur. The Maharana was all hospitality.

OUR correspondent in the Balasore district writes under date the 11th November :

"In my last I wrote to you that *rabi* crop could not be cultivated for want of rain. Since then, by order of Mr. B. De, the District Magistrate, all temporary *bunds* constructed by the neighbouring *Z-mindars* across the river Gomai on the north-east of Ancoora, have been removed ; and rayyets have plenty of water for cultivation of *Rabi* as well as for preserving *Aman* crop. But it is too late. Nearly 2/3rd of the crop has already dried up. The crop in Pergana Verah, 20 miles south of Ancoora, has suffered much, and the probable outturn is not expected to exceed an average of 2 annas. The rayyets are already forsaking their homes and going to Balasore, Calcutta and other places in search of employment.

Below is an instance of magistral vagary.

A gentleman went to Puri to draw Rs. 3,056 and odd which had been in deposit in the Collectorate. The Collector had passed orders for payment and the cheque had been presented to the Treasury, but up to 6 in the evening no payment was made, and when the gentleman asked the Treasurer for money he was insulted. A notice under Section 424 of the Civil Procedure Code was served on the Treasury Officer but without any effect. The matter being represented to the Collector, he, I hear, admonished the Treasury

Officer, who has now thought fit to apologize for his rude behaviour. I enclose the letter :

'Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter complaining of having been insulted by me when in September last you came to the Puri Treasury to take payment of some money which was in deposit in the Collectorate.

In reply I am to say that I am very sorry that I used the expressions of which you complain and that I retract them, as you desire.

I remain yours truly,

NAYANANJAN BHATTACHARJIA.'

This Deputy had been at Nilphamari, whence he was transferred for insulting the Pleaders."

A PROPOSAL of the General Committee of the Calcutta Corporation to compel vendors of sweetmeats to keep their goods in glass-cases to preserve them from dust and other contamination, has been negatived by the Bye-laws Committee to which it was referred. That Committee came to the conclusion that there was no provision of the law under which a byelaw of the kind could be passed. Are the Committee sure that the byelaws in force are all according to the Municipal Act?

ONE of the earliest cold weather visitors to Calcutta is the Maharaja of Hill Tipperah. He has grown very fond of it. He has been absent from his territory since his last visit to this city, passing the hot months at Kurseong. Will he go back to Agartala again?

MR. Henry Luttmann-Johnson, the Commissioner of the Dacca Division goes home on 18 months' leave. It is believed that he will not return to India. He is very popular at Dacca, and his absence will be felt greatly. Like Mr. Skrine, he has been more than an energetic official wherever he has been. Like Mr. Skrine too he enters into the feelings of the people, sympathises with their sorrows and promotes their happiness by private good offices. The Dacca Division is grateful to him for his many kindnesses, and for his efforts, through parties at his house, to unite the two races—the governing and the governed—into closer bonds of fellowship. Babus Ruplal and Raghu Nath Das of the Dacca city ought to be specially grateful to him for being saved from ruinous litigation. Mr. Luttmann-Johnson interposed in their quarrel and, without coming out of it with a bloody nose, rescued them from the clutches of law and lawyers.

Mr. Luttmann-Johnson joined the Indian Civil Service on the 5th August 1867, arriving at India on the following 4th December. Having been Assistant Magistrate in Bengal and Behar, in April 1872, he was appointed Private Secretary to Sir George Campbell. From October 1873 to February 1874, he performed the duties of Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Department of Scarcity and Relief. His services were then transferred to Assam. He was brought back to Bengal by Sir Charles Elliott and appointed Commissioner of the Dacca Division in November 1892. Dissatisfaction, due to disappointment, was expressed at that appointment and Sir Charles Elliott taken to task. But Mr. Luttmann-Johnson has justified the selection and there is general regret at his retirement.

To mark the sympathetic administration of the Division by Mr. Luttmann-Johnson, the liberal Raja Rajendra Naryan Roy, of Bhowal, has subscribed Rs. 5,000 for a special ward in the Mitford Hall compound to be called after the Commissioner. The Raja has also offered to the Dacca Northbrook Hall Library a portrait in oil of Mr. Luttmann-Johnson.

THE morning papers report that Mr. Skrine, Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, has taken two months' leave. The fact is, that he has rejoined his post after 7 weeks' stay at Simla. In August last, after his return from Fort Lungleh, in Lushai land, he caught jungle fever and took leave. He arrived at Chittagong from Simla on the morning of the 11th.

MR. Skrine has written a pamphlet on the Roman Catholic Mission to the degraded Feringis of Chittagong. It is entitled "The Monastery of S. Scholastica being a brief account of the educational work carried on at Chittagong by the Sisters of our Lady of the Mission." Be-

longing to a different creed, the pamphlet is another evidence that Mr. Skrine recognizes and admires intellect and goodness of heart wherever they are found.

MR. Cotton, the Chief Commissioner elect of Assam and the probable next Lord of Belvedere, may be said to have opened the Calcutta season. A deputation headed and tailed by Maharaja Gobindalal Roy, the representative, according to Mr. Cotton, of Mofussil Zemindars, waited on him at Simla to bring him down and to apprise him of the preparations making at Calcutta at the instance of his admirers for benefits past and prospective, and escorted him down to Benares, where the two friends parted company to meet again at Calcutta. Invitations have been issued for an Evening Party, at the Dalhousie Institute, for Monday next, to meet Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, C.S.I. There will be a performance by Father Lafont on X rays.

For the pains taken by the Raja, he was rewarded with an interview with the Viceroy.

MR. Mackworth Young, late Secretary to the Punjab Government, at present Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg, is spoken of as the next Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab. He kept Sir Lepel Griffin out of a post to which he himself is now on the way. He, however, goes home to come out as the Lieutenant Governor. He will be no unworthy successor of Sir Denis Fitzpatrick.

UNDER the orders of the Government of India, a Committee will, early in December, assemble at Lungleh, to consider various matters connected with the administration of the Lushai country. The Bengal, Burma and Assam Local Governments interested in Lushai affairs will be represented on that Committee.

MR. A. H. S. Reid, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed to succeed the late Mr. H. T. Rivaz as Judge of the Chief Court, Punjab.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 14, 1896.

THE PLAGUE—IS IT CONTAGIOUS?

WITHOUT taking into account the Simpsonian plague in Calcutta, let us examine the report on the bubonic plague which occurred at Hongkong in 1894. A report by Surgeon-Major H. E. R. James, F.R.C.S., is published in the "Calcutta Gazette" of October 14. It is an authoritative, because official, statement. Without entering into historical details, we will take up the practical solutions arrived at in the document. We read:—

It (the plague) shows a tendency to recur in places where it has been once rife, and to be carried by trade routes from these centres. The considerable communication of crusades and pilgrimages between Christian Europe and Palestine on the one hand, and Mahomedan Asia and Arabia on the other, the former during the Middle Ages and the latter later, have probably served to convey the germs to the homes of pilgrims, as is the case with cholera. A careful consideration of the events of the various epochs would, I think, trace its carriage in every case to the affected district from one or two spots where it is, or has been, endemic, e. g., the Euphrates Valley and Southern China. It appears to be confined to the northern hemisphere and only to flourish between 20° and 40° north of the equator, and not to have existed in the new world at all hitherto.

The writer is not exhaustive and is not always definite in his conclusions. His assertion about plague revisiting its old haunts, is not justified by the experience of Europe where it has ceased to recur since 1841. The crusades being a thing of the past Dr. James falls back upon the pilgrimage of Mahomedans to Arabia. Trade has also been added to as a means of spreading the disease. It is unfortunate that Dr. James follows the footprints of Mr. Ernest

Hart in his uncorroborated theory of the march of cholera from Asia to Europe. Instances after instances have happened in England, France and Germany, where searching enquires failed to trace transmission from infected places. In many outbreaks, the cases were believed to be new ones, though the theory of spontaneous generation does not gain favour and is dying out. The present visitation of plague in Bombay, is not traced to China or Persia. For, the Euphrates Valley and Southern China are taken to be the centres for spreading contagion of bubonic plague, in the same way as India and Egypt are taken to be the home of cholera.

From A.D. 98, the date of bubonic plague in Libya and subsequently in China, to 1878, most countries of the world had it, but not India. The plague in Gour and the devastation of Barendra Bhumi in Northern Bengal, were probably due either to malaria or cholera and not to the disease whose characteristic symptoms are glandular enlargements. "Black Death" seems to be the "Kalaazar" of Assam. Great difficulty is still found in distinguishing these two diseases, because no definite symptoms are available in ancient records. It would not, therefore, be safe to describe all plagues as bubonic. In Charak-Samhita, the oldest medical literature, of about 4,000 years, the chapter on destruction of inhabited localities points to scourges other than bubonic fever.

It is impossible to find any explanation why India was not so long attacked, when it was connected by trade with all Asia and Europe, both by sea and land.

It is said that in 1876-77, in the mountain villages of Kumaon, in northern India, plague occurred among people occupying houses in which cattle, grain and human beings were packed in as in Kurdistan. But no authentic record describing the symptoms can be found. Therefore, there is no knowing what plague that was.

Bubonic plague has ceased to be endemic in Europe and Egypt. Excluding the Euphrates valley and Southern China, the disease appears to have been local, produced by unknown conditions. Writing about the Lower Euphrates epidemic of 1874-77, W. H. Colvill says that the affected huts

are on ground which is a foot or two lower than the ground than the surface of the water in spring; and the ground is so saturated with water, that the refuse of the village is neither absorbed nor can it be evaporated, for it acquires fresh moisture from the ground, and this refuse acquires the form of a bluish-black oily fluid which surrounds the huts and covers the paths, and stains the walls two feet from the ground, and, in fact, the village is in such a state of filth that it requires to be seen to be believed.

According to Castaldi,

Whatever is most afflicting in poverty, whatever is most revolting in filthiness, is accumulated, as if designedly, around these infected dens, in the interior of which live, or rather vegetate, from fifty to sixty men, women, and children. The cultivation of some plots of ground in the neighbourhood furnishes these unfortunates with insufficient nourishment.

In Southern China, principally in Yunan, the same filthy habit has been observed. Dr. Janson, of Tokio, in a recent number of *Archiv fur Wissenschaft und Thierheilkunde* writes about the cause of the outbreak. He finds that the disease always breaks out among lower animals. Rats, mice and swine are especially susceptible to it. The diseased animals are often consumed by the Chinese as food, and so they are attacked. A decree has been published prohibiting the use of swine meat. In the last epidemic in Yunan, it first attacked the rats, then fowls, swine and goats, and lastly horses and cattle.

The Chinese are so filthy that swine can be found everywhere in their houses. The lower classes seldom wash their clothes.

Dr. James lays stress on the following facts to prove the contagious character of the disease. 1. The disease is endemic in the province of Yunan, South China, where generally all cases recover. It becomes virulent after a prolonged drought. People residing in the same house with the victims very generally contract the disease. 2. Places having no communication but similarly situated as regards atmosphere and geological formation, do not suffer. 3. The communicability of the disease was proved by the attack on Honkong from Canton, and from Hongkong on the surrounding dependencies. 4. The communicability of the disease by human intercourse is proof against any atmospheric or telluric theory. 5. At the commencement of an epidemic, the cases were, almost without exception, fatal. 6. The bacillus discovered by Dr. Kitasato has been found in 25 out of 30 cases. The inoculation of a pure cultivation of the bacillus proved fatal to all animals. The symptoms and pathological appearances were identical in all cases.

There are facts, however, which prove the contrary.

It has been seen why the disease prevails in an endemic form in the Euphrates valley and in Yunan. It is the filthy home and surroundings of the inhabitants which keep up the life of the plague. With this fact in view, it can also be determined why the disease has been exterminated from Europe and Egypt. Plague has causes, and with their discontinuance it disappears.

The most important question connected with bubonic plague is, whether it is a contagious disease? Most writers, without sufficiently examining the facts, follow each other in declaring that it is so. Among actual observers there are not wanting men who deny its contagiousness, such as Dr. M. H. Burrell, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals in Malta, Dr. Murray of the Indian Medical Service, Dr. Aubert Roche, a Medical Officer of Egypt, Dr. Cloti Bey, W. H. Colvill, Giovanni Cabiadis and others. Cabiadis called the disease *miserie morbus*. The experience of Dr. M. L. Jelovitz, a homœopath, a man of wide experience, gathered in

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Monday, the 16th November, at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Occurrence, Sources, and Preparation of Hydrogen.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Tuesday the 17th Inst. at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Physical and Chemical properties of Hydrogen.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Wednesday, the 18th Inst. at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Preparation and properties of Oxygen.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A. Wednesday, the 18th Inst. at 7 P.M. *Subject*: Force and Motion.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Thursday, the 19th Inst. at 4-15 P.M. *Subject*: Consideration of the Oxides—Ozone.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Saturday, the 21st Inst. at 3 P.M. *Subject*: Preparation and properties of Hydrogen Monoxide.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
Honorary Secretary.

Nov. 3, 1896.

many countries, who has just come to Calcutta to practise, and to whom we give a hearty welcome, and who resided in Mesopotamia, during the epidemic of 1876, and was the first to detect the Bombay plague, is to the same effect. The plague of London in 1865 was called by many the *Poor man's Plague*.

The word "contagion" is derived from the Latin *con* and *tagio* to touch. It is defined to be the communication of a disease by contact with a person labouring under it, as distinguished from infection, which last word is used to signify transmission through the medium of air without actual personal contact with a diseased person. Sometimes the word contagion is used without this distinctive signification. Contagion, again, is of two kinds—*immediate* or *contactical* contagion, the first being produced by actual contact, and the other, *mediate* or *remote*, being communicated by the air. Infection is sometimes used in a more extensive sense, to include miasmata or other causes of diseases not coming from human beings, but rising from marshes or from any other source. Some use the two words contagion and infection as synonyms. Crabb thus discriminates between them:

Some things act more properly by *contagion*, others by *infection*: the more powerful diseases, as the plague or yellow fever, are communicated by *contagion*: they are, therefore, denominated *contagious*: the less virulent disorders, as fevers, consumptions, and the like, are termed *infectious*, as they are communicated by the less rapid process of *infection*: the air is *contagious* or *infectious* according to the same rule of distinction: when heavily overcharged with noxious vapours and deadly disease it is justly entitled *contagious*, but in ordinary cases *infectious*.

A distinction is also made between *contagious*, *epidemic* and *pestilential*:

• The *contagious* applies to that which is capable of being caught, and ought not, therefore, to be touched: the *epidemic* to that which is already caught and circulated, and requires, therefore, to be stopped; the *pestilential* to that which may breed an evil and is, therefore, to be removed: diseases are *contagious* or *epidemic*; the air or breath is *pestilential*.

In Dr. Quain's *Dictionary of Medicine*, we find:—

The word *contagion* is applied in pathology to the property and the process by which, in certain sorts of disease, the affected body or part causes a disease like its own to arise in other bodies or other parts; and the Latin word *contagium* is conveniently used to denote in each such case the specific material, shown or presumed, in which the infective power ultimately resides.

According to this authority,

The rationale of the word *contagion*, as now used, is that the property is understood to attach itself essentially to a material contact; not necessarily that, when infection is spread from individual to individual, the contact of the individuals must have been immediate; but that in all cases there must have been such passage of material from the one to the other, as was in itself at least a mediate contact between them. And similarly, in those very instructive illustrations of the process of contagion which are furnished within limits of a single diseased body by the propagation of disease from part to part of it, we can in general easily see that infection advances from part to part, either in proportion as part touches part, or in proportion as the one receives from the other the outflow of lymph or blood or secretion.

But these definitions are untenable in the present advanced stage of bacteriology and the phagocytic (bacteria-destroying) power of blood. Since the discovery, by Pasteur, of the process of fermentation, caused by *torula*, the modern evolution of bacteriology commenced. It has been strengthened by the enunciation of the principle of immunity of persons from diseases. Metchnikoff found the white cells of the blood capable of devouring the diseased organisms. Buchner contends that that power resides more in the liquid serum than in the white cells. To this self-purification of blood is attributed immunity from disease. The predisposition to be attacked by any

malady becomes possible when a person loses this purifying property of the blood. Then he is liable to be the victim of any disease by contact. Therefore, every disease is contagious, more or less. It has not been proved that a person is susceptible to any particular disease while impenetrable by others. It seems, however, possible, that in a particular state of health one may be liable to be attacked by a disease if placed in a locality where it is prevailing or when coming in contact with diseased persons.

The theory of immunity does not necessarily rest on the genesis of bacteria. It is believed in where there is no such discovery. And it still applies to diseases not yet found due to bacteria, as hydrophobia, small-pox, &c.

Recurrence of a disease proves that one has not only lost one's immunity but has made oneself liable to it by the bad state of any of the organs. Persons simultaneously exposed to cold will not suffer from the same disease. Some will get catarrh, others cough, a few bronchitis, pneumonia or pleurisy, the rest may suffer from dysentery or rheumatism. A particular disease chooses a particular organ.

The immunity supposed to be secured by injection of certain virus or bacteria, seems to be of little value, for it cannot be general. Consequently, if there be any safety, it must be of short duration.

The theory of mediate or immediate contact of poison to differentiate contagion from infection, is losing favour. That of air-borne germs is also losing ground. Cholera was once thought to be an air-conveyed disease, but recent observations attribute the scourge more to drinking water and food than to any other mode of communication. So with small-pox. The more ventilated a hospital, the greater the chance of recovery from any disease. Our lungs are a natural protection against micro-organisms. The lungs supply no direct channels. Whereas the stomach and intestines have many. The air may be full of poisonous particles, still we do not imbibe them. As a general rule, they act through the stomach by means of food and drink. The bacteria of tuberculosis (consumption) may act on the lungs directly, as it is a disease peculiar to them.

The communicability of plague poison is possible through food or drink. Dr. James speaks of three modes of access: (a) by respiration, (b) inoculation, (c) by food or drink. The easiest way to introduce a poison is through a cut. He says:

It has also been noticed that the site of the bubo seems to be determined by the existence of a scratch or cut of the area from which the affected glands absorb. The Chinese coolies always go barefoot or with grass shoes, and abrasions or cuts are very common on their feet. The vast majority of buboes were in the femoral region. It is possible that these or some of them, got their attack by inoculation.

The cases that he has cited do not establish his point, *viz.*, access through the air. The plague germ might have been introduced through food as well. He took no particular care to ascertain the origin. He laid stress on inhalation of germs without mentioning how or where the food was cooked, and what was the drink.

It is too early, perhaps, to accept the bacillus of Kitasato as the *causa causans* of the disease. He must be confirmed by researches of other bacteriologists in subsequent plagues. Already, information reaches us of diplococci other than those found by Kitasato and Yersin, discovered by Haffkine and Hankin in the Bombay plague.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

October 16.

Great Britain. The tragic death of the Archbishop of Canterbury when on a visit to Mr. Gladstone at Hawarden; the great speech of Lord Rosebery at Edinburgh; the refusal of the French Government to surrender Tynan, the infamous No. 1 of the Phoenix Park murder, have rendered the past week one of great excitement. The circumstances attending the death of the Primate of all England were sufficiently tragical. To-day, in the glorious ranc of Canterbury Cathedral, he is to be buried, the first prelate of the Church of England who has found his final resting-place in that consecrated spot since the Reformation. As an interesting historical fact, it may be noted that the last Archbishop of Canterbury so buried was the celebrated Cardinal Pole, and now the quidnuncs are busy speculating as to who will be the next Primate. It appears to be thought that had Dr. Davidson, the Bishop of Winchester and son-in-law of the late Archbishop Tait, been in a condition of health to accept the heavy responsibility, he would have been the Queen's favourite in the running. He is pre-eminently a favourite with the Queen and the Court, but his state of health is very precarious. After him, Dr. Creighton, the Bishop of Peterborough, is the favourite. You will remember he represented the Church of England at the recent coronation of the Czar, when his dignified bearing and lofty character made him a general favourite. Another solution is that Dr. MacLagan, the Archbishop of York, may be transferred to Canterbury, but this, I think, is extremely doubtful. With many excellent qualifications, he is not just exactly the man to rule the Church of England in these trying times.

Lord Rosebery's speech was a very masterly one and has met with almost universal commendation on the part of the press, excepting the "Chronicle," whose Editor appears to have lost his head over the Armenian question. It is well-known Lord Rosebery as Prime Minister never enjoyed the loyal support of Sir William Harcourt, but, as he said himself, the last straw that determined his resignation of the leadership of the Liberal party was Mr. Gladstone's recent appearance at Liverpool. Speaking of his personal relations as those of affectionate and reverential regard for his old master, duty compelled him to point out that Mr. Gladstone's views on this Armenian agitation are opposed to all ideas of high statesmanship. Lord Rosebery made mince meat of all Mr. Gladstone's suggestions, and plainly said it was impossible for him (Lord Rosebery) to lead the party, while at any moment Mr. Gladstone, without consulting its leaders, should come forward to stimulate the rabid fanaticism of the "Nonconformist conscience."

I am glad to see that Sir Edward Clarke, the future Unionist Attorney-General, when speaking at York last night, had the courage and manliness to use these words: "But there was another matter which was also a matter of amusement. It was really amusing to see that Lord Rosebery, a tried, experienced student and administrator of foreign affairs, had had the *coup de grâce*, as he himself had said, given to his public career as leader of the Liberal party by the man who, of all others, had least claim to the consideration or regard of Englishmen upon any sort of question connected with foreign policy. There was no politician of our time who had been so conspicuous and consistent and disastrous a failure in foreign affairs as Mr. Gladstone ('Hear, hear,' and cheers), and for Mr. Gladstone, whose blunders we were now endeavouring to correct by great effort and great expenditure—for Mr. Gladstone, whose name would always be associated in the memories of our people with the disgraces of Majuba Hill and Khartum (hear, hear)—to be able to dismiss from the leadership of the Liberal party Lord Rosebery upon a question of foreign policy seemed so grotesque that one would have almost thought it an impossibility if it had not actually happened."

That I have not exaggerated the general feeling as to the impolicy of this agitation, could be proved by a mass of evidence. But I restrict myself to a few indications.

Mr. H. C. Richards, the apostle of peace, has been attending the "inter-Parliamentary Conference on Arbitration" recently held at Budapest. From there he writes to the *Times*. After referring to the "advice of irresponsible public speakers," he goes on: "only those who have journeyed through European capitals know the difficulties which environ our Prime Minister, and the criminal folly of endeavouring to force his hand." In the "Daily Mail," I read: "Protests are appearing in the American papers regarding the proposal to ship Armenian refugees to the United States. Several thousand Armenians who are now living in New York have the reputation of being even more sordid, greedy, dirty and unscrupulous than Russian Jews. It is suggested that England would give a proof of the sympathy she professes by offering Armenians asylum." There is something thoroughly practical in the suggestion. Noisy gatherings at St. James's Hall, Exeter Hall and the City Temple only give opportunity for ranting windbags to perorate amidst the applause of excited crowds, the great mass of whom do not know the geo-

graphy and history of Armenia. They form magnificent conduit pipes for the garrulity of Canons Maccoll, Scott Holland and Wilberforce, as also for the claptrap mouthings of such Nonconformists as Rogers, Parker, Hughes and Haston.

But the American suggestion of "settlements" tickles my fancy. Let each of these clerics take into his house half a dozen of the "sordid, greedy, dirty and unscrupulous" refugees. Then the Duke of Westminster, on his magnificent domain of Eaton Hall, could run up shanties for a thousand of them. The G. O. M. might provide for five hundred at Hawarden. The Duke of Argyll for a thousand on the everlasting hills around Mocracy Castle. Your Armenian merchant princes might do the same in Calcutta. They have always been examples of lavish and generous hospitality. The Bar too, through the Advocate-General, might assist the movement. There is a capital joke in the papers about the Sultan. He is going to bring an action for damages against Mr. Gladstone for calling him an "assassin."

That reminds me by the way that a leading French journal, criticising the Hawarden vocabulary, writes: "The Sultan may retaliate by calling Mr. Gladstone 'the great assassin of the Sudan,' as it is due to his blundering and cowardice when Prime Minister in 1884, the Sudan is now a pandemonium of slavery and cruelty." So you see there is nothing to be gained by calling names, even when the vituperator is of the advanced age of 86, and one whom all would desire to hold in esteem, as a man now retired from the field of party politics.

To show that I have no antagonism to the Nonconformist clergy as such, I may mention that I read with great amusement the following paragraph in an evening paper:

"The Bishop of London does not often preach at a harvest festival, but last night he occupied the pulpit at St. Columba's, Haggerston, and the attendance showed that Haggerston folk appreciated the exceptional favour conferred on them by the Diocesan."

When one reads a paragraph like the above, we suppose we are living in Spain or Italy, where the people are priest-ridden. But the "Westminster Gazette" is the organ of the extreme Gladstonian party, and here we are asked, we laity, to fall down on bended knees and worship Bishop Temple! A man who, if he still adheres to the views expressed in the first of the Essays "Septem ad Christum," has no more right to be the Bishop of a Christian Church than I have, although I quite allow I would be glad to have his town Palace in St. James's square and his Fulham Palace on the banks of the Thames. And then these autocrats of the Episcopal Bench—and no one is more autocratic than the Bishop of London, with all his temperance fads—ask us laity to believe in the Church of England. It is impossible. A distinguished Father of the Roman Church said to me the other day, "There is nothing between Rome and infidelity." With that opinion, I quite sympathize. What are the Bishops of the Church of England? Successful schoolmasters. In the Archbishop of York you have an exception. He was, I believe, an officer in the Indian army, but ecclesiastical promotion was more to his taste, and, though a born Presbyterian and of an average middle class Edinburgh family, he succeeded in an aristocratic marriage, and finds himself, no doubt to his own wonderment, Archbishop of York.

Tynan. It is to be regretted that the French Executive refused to extradite this abominable villain. French procedure is different from ours. Here when the French Government set our law in motion as recently in the case of Arton, the prisoner is brought up before the Senior Magistrate of London, and with the Magistrate rests the decision as to whether the petition for the extradition of the criminal is to be granted. In France, it would appear, the decision rests with the Government of the day as represented by the Minister of Justice. The one point to be said in favour of the French Government is that, under the Code Napoléon, Tynan had a right to claim "prescription." "After the lapse of ten years every criminal according to French law can mock at the most conclusive proofs of his guilt and seeing that the Phoenix Park assassinations were perpetrated in 1882, Tynan is therefore completely covered by prescription." This will doubtless lead to the liberation of the accomplice Bell, who was arrested in Glasgow. Now that our Government have failed to secure the surrender of Kearney, Haines and Tynan, the charge of conspiracy as against Bell cannot be maintained.

Spain and Cuba. The state of affairs regarding Cuba is complicated by the approaching Presidential Election in the United States. Should Mr. McKinley be successful in defeating Mr. Bryan, it is felt Spain will have to abandon Cuba. The Spaniards, it is said, have now 200,000 troops in the island, but are no nearer the suppression of the rebellion. Should Spain have to abandon Cuba, it will lead to a frightful financial catastrophe, as the Cuban debt is to amount to 500,000,000 dollars which would fall wholly on the mother country. Regarding the Presidential Election I need say nothing, as in three weeks' time we

should know the result. In the meantime, we are having daily cablegrams vouching, from figures, that McKinley is certain of election, while the other side produces figures that prove that Bryan will be the next occupant of the White House, and each side flings at the other "the lie circumstantial and the lie direct."

Books. The book of the week is the "Life of John Gibson Lockhart" by Andrew Lang. From the review I enclose if you have space for it in an abridged form, you will see that Mr. Lang has made the best of his implements, but he has been severely handicapped by not having had access to the marvellously interesting personal papers that are supposed to be safe-guarded in the archives of the famous publishing house of John Murray. They must have a wonderful piquancy as they would throw light on the most interesting part of his career when acting as Editor of the "Quarterly Review." Holding an influential position he was brought into daily contact with all that was most distinguished in political and literary life. Mr. Murray has doubtless good and sufficient reasons for declining to let them see the light. But, some day they may be looked for and whoever lives to read them will have matter of extraordinary interest.

Sir Richard Temple's autobiography is out. Of course, I have not yet seen it, but I have read the reviews of it in the "Daily News" and "Daily Chronicle," with amused interest. In the former paper the wielder of the pen beslobbers him with fulsome praise, in the latter, (and from my personal knowledge of Sir R. Temple, as an Indian administrator, I should think by far the true criticism) he is told, with almost insolent bluntness, he might have buried his autobiography in the archives of his ancestral home, The Nash, Worcestershire. I annex the whole criticism:—

"Sir Richard Temple's adventures do not make the blood course swiftly through our veins. You might think that a man who had spent more than thirty years of his life in India, who had governed 115,000,000 of Asiatics, and whose administrative gifts had raised him with almost unprecedented rapidity to the post of Finance Minister of the Indian Empire, would write an autobiography full of interesting matter. Candour compels us to say that there is not a single page of these two volumes which communicates an original idea or vivid impression. Of literary skill Sir Richard has not a particle. Many people of consequence, European and native, flit through his Indian record, but they are like the figures in a sum in addition. The writer owed a great deal to Lord Lawrence, but gives us no inkling of that striking personality. He was in England during the chief events of the Mutiny, but returned in time for the closing episodes, of which we find not a trace. He had an interview with the ex-king of Delhi, and informed the captive that judicial proceedings would be taken against him. The story reads like an official telegram. Sir Richard had an interesting experience at Hyderabad, where he conducted some delicate negotiations with the Nizam's chief adviser, Salar Jung. It was one of those situations in which a British official, dealing with a native prince, has to employ the greatest tact. The Nizam was most suspicious; his Minister was in constant personal danger; and Sir Richard had to use all the wariness of the official adept. We have not the smallest doubt that he played his part with distinguished ability; yet his readers have to put up with this bald narration:—

'The Minister used to send me confidential reports in English—through his English secretary—and my answers, also in English, were so guardedly worded that, if by any chance they fell into the wrong hands, little could be made of them. But the locked dispatch-boxes passing to and fro excited the jealousy of the Nizam, and caused interpellations to be addressed to the Minister. A provoking procedure on the part of his Highness would be in this wise. He would sometimes of an evening hold small and informal receptions in his own apartments. Then he would utter sarcastic remarks regarding his Minister. These winged words would fly from mouth to mouth all over the city, and would damage Salar Jung's influence. For me, one mode of encouraging Salar Jung would have been speaking to him verbally. Knowing this, however, the Nizam forbade him to call on me, to dine with me, to ride with me, to meet me in any way without permission previously obtained. Sooner or later the Minister did, indeed, all these things with me, but the obtaining permission was always troublesome, and sometimes even the asking for it gave offence.'

This is positively the only passage in the whole book which makes any approach to graphic portraiture, and it reads like a dry précis of a formal dispatch. Sir Richard has no eye for the picturesque. He notes a torrent in a mountain pass as if it were engaged in some praiseworthy routine at the bidding of the Indian Government. When he offers rewards to the natives for the slaughter of man-eating tigers, he has 'a qualm of compunction at the inroads made upon the animal kingdom.' When engaged upon a survey, he wishes to make a sketch, and chronicles this exciting incident: 'I found my fingers too benumbed for me to hold my horse's reins, so I was obliged to halt for a while in order that Sir Robert Sandeman might kindly rub my hands and restore their power.' We wonder whether Sir Robert cherished this tremendous reminiscence with equal tenacity. The comments on the

native character are equally brilliant. Sir Richard Temple thinks that Shakespeare would have drawn Iago even better if he had lived in India. There are some sensible remarks about education, to which Sir Richard rendered practical service in Bengal, the vernacular Press, and the extension of administrative duties amongst competent natives; but they are brief and perfunctory, and might have been made by any decently informed tourist. Of any original insight into the social condition of India there is not a suggestion though an official of Sir Richard Temple's experience must have had the best opportunities of observation. We can only assume that the knowledge is there, but cannot grope its way through the thick-set hedge of the author's purely statistical mind."

For my own part, speaking from an intimate acquaintance with the finances of India from the date of the appointment in 1858 of the ever-to-be lamented Mr. James Wilson, down to the present occupant of the Chancellorship of the Indian Exchequer, Sir Richard Temple was without exception the most incompetent man that ever filled the office. But how could it be otherwise? Trained as the Secretary of Sir John Lawrence he never had any practical experience of how to deal with the finances of an empire. At the same time it is difficult to explain how two such distinguished men, with the same training, should have proved themselves such masters of finance, as Sir David Barbour and Sir James Westland. Temple's dealings with the working of the income-tax proved him not only thoroughly incompetent, but, like so many of the old Haileybury civilians, offensively arrogant. In the "Chronicle's" review the writer remarks, "of literary skill Sir Richard has not a particle." In Sir William Hunter's admirable series of "Indian Rulers," Sir Richard Temple compiled the life of the distinguished Mr. Thornton, Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces. It is unfortunate that the task was assigned to Temple. His work stands out in flagrant contrast to the bulk of the other volumes, and one can only wonder that so accomplished a collaborateur as Sir William Hunter should have allowed it to form one of the series. The explanation, I fancy, is Sir William had not the courage to sit in judgment on his old master. Let us hope the autobiography now published is the last literary performance that Temple will inflict on the reading public. To no man has India done more. I do not suppose any member of the civil service ever left India with a better filled purse, the savings of high and lucrative offices held for nearly 20 years. And if you ask me what he has done for India since the year 1880, the date of his final retirement, truth will compel the answer, absolutely nothing. Without any disguise he has thought of no one but himself, and a Baronetcy and Privy Councillorship have been his reward. But what a contrast to Henry Lawrence, Henry Montgomery, H. M. Durand, Donald McLeod and Charles Aitchison among the dead, and Sir William Muir among the living!

October 23.

Great Britain. The event of the past week has been the great Trafalgar Demonstration on Wednesday, the 21st. On that day, ninety-one years ago, the immortal Nelson crushed the combined fleets of France and Spain, off Trafalgar, which henceforth gave its name to the greatest naval victory this country ever achieved. There was a strong feeling abroad, that our great naval hero was neglected. Government very properly held aloof. It had no wish to exacerbate the national feeling of our neighbours across the Channel, and Lord Salisbury had no desire to emulate the fantasticities of the German Emperor, who makes himself the scoff and scorn of all Europe by the ostentatious way in which, year after year, he celebrates Sedan. But the popular feeling here was that our national glory, Nelson, was neglected. So the Navy League took on itself the duty of focussing the public sentiment by an elaborate decoration of the Nelson monument, Trafalgar Square. A wreath 300 feet in length, weighing about seven tons, was worked round the monument, and vast crowds paraded all day to see that wonderful show, as well as the magnificent wreaths sent by Canada and other colonies. But the main fruit of such a revival of homage to the greatest naval hero England ever produced, has been to direct attention to the man as distinguished from the admiral. A brilliant writer has drawn the contrast between Nelson and Wellington. The former all heart, glorying in his officers and men, sacrificing himself in every way to further their careers, whether at sea or on land. The latter, cold and repellent, looking on his soldiers as so many nine pins, to be shot down by the enemy without one qualm of pity. Neither Nelson nor Wellington was a statesman. The former never aspired to the character, his golden motto being "Duty and Country." The latter, bad for his fame, aspired to be a statesman. And the record is one of dismal failure. But for his singularly maladroit speech in the House of Lords, the Reform Bill of 1832 would never have appeared in the revolutionary character it did. The same writer contrasts Nelson with Napoleon the Great. But beyond a hearty sympathy with the men under their command, and the grand quality in a great commander of drawing out the devotion, nay, almost the love of subordinates, the parallel does not go. Napoleon, as Victor Hugo says of him, is the greatest

historical name in Europe. To that proud pre-eminence Nelson laid no claim. But the demonstration of the 21st had more in it than any mere idol worship of an illustrious name. It typifies the spirit of the time. If Nelson gave us at Trafalgar the command of the seas, we are determined to hold it. In the absence of conscription, we make no pretence to any comparison with any of the great Powers of Europe, but the sea we claim as our own, and intend to hold it, cost us what it may.

Armenian agitation. I hope this is the last time I shall have to refer to it, as we are promised the St. James's Hall demonstration of the 19th is the final outburst of frenzied Gladstonian worship. For, in spite of all declaimers, it was really nothing more. The chairman, Dr. Talbot, Bishop of Rochester, if not through the Lyttleton connection a relative, is a close personal friend of Mr. Gladstone. We were assured the meeting was non-political. In the sense that John Burns and his confrere Price Hughes were not in it, it was so. But Sir—Phillimore took the opportunity of making a brutal attack on Lord Beaconsfield, and he is one of Mr. Gladstone's most pronounced devotees, not to say obsequious flunkies. Did Dr. Talbot call him to order? Not at all. It was left to some indignant members of the audience to cry out "no politics," which covered the pusillanimous Baronet, and made him call a halt. Then Dr. Percival, Bishop of Hereford, the only Radical on the Episcopal Bench, was very much in evidence. He ranted and canted in a way that would do credit to a Methodist parson. The Gladstonian journals are loud in their praise of what they call the "pathos" with which the Bishop brought his son to the front. It seems he is in the army, and the Bishop, in true melodramatic style, spoke of his willingness to follow the example of old Abraham, and sacrifice this son's life, if need be, in driving the Sultan out of Europe. As if he alone was in a position to sacrifice the son's life. What countless fathers and mothers of the middle classes are prepared, as a mere matter of duty, to do the same! But a Radical Bishop's pathetic reference to his boy has driven Gladstonian journalists perfectly wild. The inevitable Dr. Clifford was there, and we are told he weighs well his words. This of the man who denounced the Government Education Bill as "infamous and damnable." The climax of absurdity was reached when the name of Lord Salisbury was received with cheers, while that of Lord Rosebery was hissed. As Lord Rosebery said at Colchester, it was a matter of supreme indifference to him whether the mob cheered or hissed him. But it said little for the intelligence of the audience to differentiate between Lord Salisbury and him, seeing they are both pursuing the same policy. The explanation is to be found in the letter of Mr. Gladstone read to the meeting. Without any name being mentioned, it was a veiled attack on Lord Rosebery. Lord Rosebery has committed the unpardonable sin of daring to differ with the Lord of Hawarden. And so, he, who forty years ago, was not ashamed to attack anonymously, in the "Quarterly Review," the chief under whom he was serving as Chancellor of the Exchequer, is not ashamed, in his old age, to attack with vehemence the man but for whom he would never have been the member for Midlothian. This, however, quite satisfies the "Nonconformist conscience"!

Mr. Leonard Courtney has joined in the fray and no one suffers from his indiscretion but himself. Mr. Courtney's letter appeared in the "Times" of the 19th instant in all the glory of leaded type. The gist of it is, Lord Beaconsfield, Lord Salisbury, Lord Rosebery, Mr. Gladstone are no statesmen. The only heaven-born statesman now in England, is Mr. Leonard Courtney, and if his arrogant assumption is correct, all one can say is, Save us from heaven-born statesmen! The letter is an extremely silly one, worthy of Sir H. Howorth. Mr. Courtney's panacea for all our Eastern difficulties is the abandonment of Cyprus and Egypt. In the former case we are to find a foreign Prince—after the example of Greece—and guarantee him a civil list. As to Egypt, the "Times" remarks:

"If renunciation is to be a preliminary condition of trust, why should this country be the only one called upon, in this sanctimonious style, to buy confidence by surrenders? The position of France in Tunis has a considerable similarity to that of England in Egypt. Moreover, if Mr. Courtney is right, the Austrians must be called upon to give up Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Germans Alsace and Lorraine, the French Savoy and Nice, the Russians all that they have obtained in Europe and Asia during the past twenty years, and to make them over, 'as a guarantee of good faith,' to some ostensible form of independent government. The demand for 'princes,' if this policy were to prevail, would become exceedingly keen, and the supply of 'civil lists' on the generous system contemplated by Mr. Courtney would tax the resources of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and of the Finance Ministers of other States. But these considerations will hardly trouble Mr. Courtney, who looks upon England as 'humiliated' because her statesmen admit that she is incapable of facing all the Powers of Europe in war."

Again: "Mr. Courtney's abilities are great and his good intentions are undeniable, yet he seems frequently to have a knack

of putting his case so as to alienate the natural and healthy sympathies of his countrymen". All which goes to prove a man may be a Cambridge second wrangler, and first Smith's prizeman, and sit in the House of Commons for twenty years, without having been able to master the primary elements of practical statesmanship.

I have left myself no time to write to-day on the excitement produced in Scotland by the leader of the revolutionary party in the Free Church, throwing over the "shorter catechism." Your countrymen cannot understand all that is implied in the above statement. But to the dead Chalmers, Cunningham, Candlish, Duff and Guthrie, if they know in their present hallowed state what is going on in our humble planetary system, it must seem the beginning of the end. And now that we have it on high authority that Cardinal Manning was at heart an atheist, like his distinguished brother in Paris who was murdered under the Commune, the question will soon come home, what do these marvellously clever fellows in the Free Church of Scotland really believe? Marcus Dodds, Bruce, Gas Smith, Lindsay and others, do they know themselves what their belief really is? Or, knowing it, will they make it public? Canny Scots as they are, with a splendid income of £500 a year for four months' work, they will wisely for themselves maintain an attitude of reticence. Looking at the Established Church of Scotland, what sympathy can there be between alphabetical Boyd and Professor Charteris? Or, between Dr. Marshall Lang and Dr. Rankine. None whatever. I am not a betting man, were I, I would lay heavy odds, twenty years hence no intelligent lay man will contribute a penny to the support of the clergy, while the Churches by law established, in England and Scotland, will be made over to the old women of both sexes.

STRONG ENGLISH WORDS.

WHEN a person says "I suffered excruciating pain," he expresses a fact in the strongest words afforded by the English language. The word "excruciating" comes from *crux*, a cross, and signifies an intensity of agony comparable only to that endured by one who undergoes the barbarous punishment of crucifixion. There are some diseases which, for a time, cause pain of this acute and formidable nature. To find a relief for it, when possible, is at once the impulse of humanity and the studious desire of science. Two brief examples may indicate what success is attending the effort to both comfort and cure cases of this kind.

"Nearly all my life," writes an intelligent woman, "I have borne the burden of what appeared to be incurable illness. I always felt heavy, weary, and tired. My appetite was poor, and after eating I had a *cruel pain* at my chest and between the shoulders. Frequently the pain was so intense that I was impelled to loose my clothing and walk about the room. My nerves were disordered and irritable, and I was, consequently, easily disquieted and upset. My sleep was habitually bad, and I seemed none the better for spending a night in bed. Eating but little my strength waned of necessity, and I came to be very weak. For a long time I got about feebly and with difficulty.

"In August, 1887, I had an attack of rheumatic gout, which gave me the most harrowing experience of my life. The complaint took its usual course and refused to yield to the ordinary treatment. Through the partial failure of the liver and kidneys dropsy set in and my legs and feet became puffied and swollen. I suffered *excruciating pain* and was confined to my bed for *thirteen weeks*. Remedies of every description were tried but to little purpose."

"My brother, visiting me one day, said he had been cured of an attack of dropsy by a medicine called Mother Seigel's Syrup. I got a bottle from Mr. H. W. H. the chemist, in Seven Sisters' Road, and after taking it felt a trifle easier. I continued taking it, and soon the pain and swelling abated. I could eat without pain or inconvenience, and by a few weeks' further use of the Syrup I was not only free from any local ailment, but felt better than I ever did in my life before. Since then I have enjoyed continuous good health, taking a dose of Mother Seigel's Syrup occasionally for some transient indisposition. You are at liberty to publish my letter. (Signed) (Mrs.) Elizabeth Rogers, 42, Plevna Road, South Tottenham, London, September 13th, 1895."

"In January, 1892," writes another, "I had an attack of influenza, and was confined to my bed for *eighteen weeks* thereafter. Subsequently I was very weak, and could get up no strength. What little food I forced down (having no appetite) gave me *excruciating pain*, so that I was afraid to eat. I came to be exceedingly weak and had frequent attacks of dizziness. I was worn almost to a skeleton, and none thought I would recover.

"In June, 1892, Mr. Smith, a friend of ours, recommended me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup, which I at once procured of Mr. George Coombs, the chemist in Hucknall. After taking it for only one week I felt greatly benefited. I could eat better, and food agreed with me. Continuing with the Syrup I grew stronger and stronger, and soon felt even better than before I was attacked by the influenza. You are free to print this statement if you wish to do so. (Signed) (Mrs.) Ruth Halliday, 44, High Street, Hucknall Torkard, Nottingham, March 19th, 1895."

Intense pain may or may not indicate urgent danger in life, but it is hard to bear, and very exhausting just the same. In cases of rheumatic gout (Mrs. Rogers) the pain is caused by a poisonous acid in the tissues, originally produced by the decomposition of food in the stomach—indigestion or dyspepsia. The same poison acting on the liver and kidneys creates the other symptoms mentioned. In the case of Mrs. Halliday the ailment was dyspepsia, which in the first place invited influenza, and then remained to torment her.

It is best and easiest to *prevent* pain by using Mother Seigel's Syrup *immediately* when the slightest illness appears.

Sir George Chesney Memorial Committee.**CHAIRMAN:****General Sir Henry W. Norman.****MEMBERS:**

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Memorial**TO THE LATE****SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.**

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

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By order of the Committee,
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Simla, 18th July, 1896.

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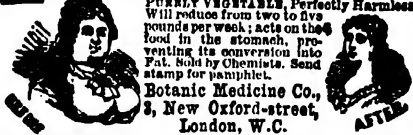
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OPINION ON THE BOOK.

It is a most interesting record of the life of a remarkable man.—Mr. H. Bingham Smith, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, 5th October 1895.

Dr. Mookerjee was a famous letter-writer, and there is a breezy freshness and originality about his correspondence which make it very interesting reading.—Sir Alfred W. Corfi, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, 26th September, 1895.

It is not that amid the pressure of harassing official duties an English Civilian can find either time or opportunity to pay so graceful a tribute to the memory of a native personality as F. H. Skrine has done in his biography of the late Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee, the well-known Bengal journalist (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co.); nor are there many who are more worthy of being thus honoured than the late Editor of *Reis and Rayyet*.

We may at any rate cordially agree with Mr. Skrine that the story of Mookerjee's life, with all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with lessons for those who desire to know the real India.

No weekly paper, Mr. Skrine tells us, not even the *Hindoo Patriot*, in its palmiest days under Kristodas Pal, enjoyed a degree of influence in any way approaching that which was soon attained by *Reis and Rayyet*.

A man of large heart and great qualities, his death from pneumonia in the early spring in the last year was a distinct and heavy loss to Indian journalism, and it was an admirable idea on Mr. Skrine's part to put his Life and Letters upon record.—*The Times of India*, (Bombay) September 30, 1895.

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REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 750.

ROSY'S STORY.

A DONEGAL BALLAD.

WITH the lark up above, the Lent lilies below,
Young Owen came courtin'—I could not say "No!"
But because I was poor and of humble degree,
His proud parents parted my Owen and me.

Had he only stood firm I'd have waited for years;
But Owen gave way, so I forced back my tears,
And wed Hugh O'Donnell, long hopeless of me,
For I had a spirit above my degree.

Yet the songs we so loved, evermore, evermore,
Owen whistled and sung as he went by our door;
But not once I looked out my old sweetheart to see,
For I had a spirit above my degree.

For comfort, for comfort I cried and I prayed,
Even when my first babe in my bosom was laid;
But when in my face he laughed up from my knee,
Sweet comfort, sweet comfort it came back to me.

Then Owen he matched with an heiress at last;
But only on folly her thoughts they were cast,
Till her carryings-on so disgraced their degree,
Owen's parents repented their treatment of me.

Till one day to a knock as I pushed back the pin,
All dressed in his best my poor Owen ran in;
And "Rosy, make haste, dear, make haste, dear," cried he,
"For the chapel's full up our fine weddin' to see."

I looked in his eyes, and I saw they were wild—
With the old sweet croonings his mood I beguiled,
Till his heart-broken father came over the lea
With the keepers and took him, still crying for me.

Now my good man is gone, but God has been kind,
My sons they are steady, my girls to my mind;
My prayers for my lost ones rise fervent and free,
And between their two graves there's one waiting for me.

ALFRED PERCEVAL GRAVES.

—The Athenæum.

WEEKLYANA.

ACCORDING to the *Turkestan Gazette*, M. Sven Hedin, the Swedish traveller, has discovered, to the East of the Yarkand Tarim, at 40½ deg. of latitude, a group of lakes.

INDIA pays an annual subsidy of £1,000 to the Indian Section of the Imperial Institute. A request for a supplementary grant of £800 has not been complied with, on the ground that India "has so far

derived no advantages from its connection with the Imperial Institute that are in any way commensurate with what the Institute has received and is receiving from India." Evidently, the Secretary of State for India was not for it, or else the Government of India could not exercise its own discretion, and refuse the grant. The Government of India is not so free as this incident may shew. Its independence is at its lowest ebb. The direct management of the English Sovereign and the telegraph have played havoc with that power and the Viceroy is reduced to carrying out orders from home. He is no better than the Agent of an Indian Taluqdar, perhaps worse.

THE *Imperial and Asiatic Quarterly Review* for October summarizes the objections of the natives of India to the Arms Act in these words: "The National Congress leaders complain of the operation of the Arms Act, their argument being that the population is loyal and law-abiding and that it is a hardship on the people who cannot protect themselves against wild animals." Is that the whole reason? It is a wild legislation and is no evidence of wise statesmanship and confidence in the people. This and the Vernacular Press Gaggling Act were passed simultaneously as a very emergent measure on the eve of Lord Lytton's Afghan war, against the Amir not his country. The retirement of Lord Lytton saw the end of the other law, but the Arms Act still disfigures the Indian Statute book. Lord Ripon, without repealing it as was expected, had allowed a liberal working of the Act. It is, however, being stringently enforced since his return to England. The operation of the law, aided by the Courts, has been so absurd that it is time that, if not repealed, it should be reconstructed.

IN noticing Dr. Jogender Nath Bhattacharya's "Hindu Castes and Sects," the *Home News* remarks:

"To those who are interested in the history and philosophy of religions, and especially to those who are making a study of the religious customs of the East, this work will prove both welcome and useful; not, perhaps, for its own sake alone, but also for its suggestiveness. It is the development of the chapter on the Hindu Caste System in the same author's 'Commentaries on Hindu Law.' It is very learned; and, to the English reader unacquainted with the literature of the subject, will prove somewhat involved. The section devoted to caste contains what is to all intents and purposes a defence of the system, the origin of which is traced to Brahminical legislation. Caste, rightly considered, is, we have been told by Risley, whose verdict is endorsed by Mr. Bhattacharya, a matter mainly relating to marriage. There is no ground whatever, we are assured, for the statement that caste is the outcome of the policy embodied in the Machiavellian maxim, 'Divide and Rule.'"

In the second section of his book Mr. Bhattacharya says many things about various Hindu sects which their adherents will scarcely peruse with much pleasure. Nothing can, in his opinion, be more sinful than to speak respectfully of persons who are enemies of mankind, and to whitewash rotten institutions by esoteric explanations and fine phrases. Here our author has especially in view the worshippers of Siva, the Sakta (or devotees of energy), and the disciples of Radha. At the same time, he has evidently done his best to render reverence where reverence is due. We shall look forward to the publication of Mr. Bhattacharya's work on the 'Philosophy of Religion,' with great expectations. If it fulfils the promise of the volume now before us—the value of which is much enhanced by its admirably arranged index and glossary—it should command the serious and thoughtful attention of scholars and thinkers in both hemispheres."

THE following is from the *American Sentinel*:

"A new crusade is being preached against the Turk. We have no

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

'Peter the Hermit' in these days, but we have men who come not far behind that old-time leader in zeal and fiery eloquence against Islam. These men have left nothing undone to move the nations of Christendom to invade the Turk's domain, and either exterminate him or drive him 'bag and baggage' away from the confines of civilization.

As with those anti-Islam crusades of which history speaks, the animus of the movement is religious more than secular. It has its strongest advocates among the leaders in religious enterprise. It is urged upon religious grounds. It is said that the Turkish Mahomedans are slaughtering the Armenian Christians. Therefore let Christendom arise and, sword in hand, put a sudden and effectual stop to Islam's red-handed propaganda.

We referred not long since to the inflammatory speech of Evangelist B. Fay Mills along this line before a large Christian audience at Washington. That meeting and that speech constituted one of the most noteworthy features of the convention, and attracted widespread attention. While it evoked some criticism as an arraignment of the United States Government, it was in harmony with the general tone of newspaper comment, both secular and religious, upon the Armenian situation. The general sentiment evidently is that the 'Christian nations,' our own included, ought to muster their armies and navies upon the shores of the Levant and put down the Turk with a strong hand. The great obstacle that stands in the way of this is the (in the language of Evangelist Mills) 'unpatriotic, uncivil, undemocratic, un-republican, un-American, un-Christian, selfish, weak, wicked, barbaric and criminal' policy by which these 'Christian nations' are controlled.

The alleged Turkish massacres in Bulgaria a few years since, which led to the last Russo-Turkish war, drew forth the same sentiment from 'Christian' sources. At that time the late Bishop A. Cleveland Cox gave utterance to this sentiment in the following lines:—

Trump of the Lord ! I hear it blow !
Forward, the Cross ; the world shall know
Jehovah's arm's against the foe ;
Down shall the cursed Crescent go !
To arms ! To arms !
God wills it so.

God help the Russ ! God help the Czar !
Shame on the swords that trade can mar !
Shame on the laggards, faint and far,
That rise not to the Holy War !
To arms ! To arms !
The Cross our star !

How long, O Lord ! for Thou art just ;
Vengeance is Thine ; in Thee we trust ;
Wake ! arm of God ! and dash to dust
Those hordes of rapine and of lust.
To arms ! To arms !
Wake, swords shall rust !

Forward, the Cross ! Break, clouds of ire !
Break with the thunder and the fire !
To new crusades let faith inspire ;
Down with the Crescent to the mire !
To arms ! To arms !
To vengeance dire !

To high Stamboul that Cross restore,
Glitter its glories as of yore.
Down with the Turk ! From Europe's shore
Drive back the Paynim, drunk with gore
To arms ! To arms !
To arms once more !

The New York journal then asks the question, "Where did the Turk first get this fierce and inextinguishable hatred of the 'Christians'?" and replies:—

"Was it not very largely the result of those first crusades which, in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, carried fire and sword into the midst of the Turkish domain, spreading death and ruin in their track, and wresting from the Turk for a time an important portion of his territory? Certainly the character and result of those undertakings were well calculated to kindle an undying hatred of their perpetrators in the Moslem breast. Consider the following pen picture of the historian relative to the Crusaders' storming of Jerusalem:—

'The Saracens gave way before them. They retreated through the streets, fighting at intervals, until they were driven into the precincts of the Mosque of Omar. Blood flowed in the gutters, and horrid heaps of the dead lay piled at every corner. None were spared by the frenzied Christians, who saw in the gore of the infidels the white way of redemption. Ten thousand dead scattered through the city gave token of the merciless spirit of the men of the West. Another ten thousand were heaped in the reeking courts of the great Mosque on Mount Moriah. "God wills it," said the pilgrims.

The indiscriminate butchery of the Saracens was carried out by the rank and file of the Crusading army. In this bloody work they needed no incentive—no commander. Each sword flamed with hatred until it was cooled in the dripping life-blood of the enemies of Christ.

"The spirit of the massacre," the historian adds, "is well illustrated in the letter which the Christian princes sent to his Holiness the Pope." The devout writers say: "If you wish to know what we did to the enemies we found in the city, learn that in the porfiro of Solomon and in the temple our horses walked up to their knees in the impure blood of the Saracens."

It continues:—

"The instructions given by Abn Bekr, the successor of Mahomed, to his military commander, and which, says the historian, 'may well be repeated as illustrative of the spirit of young Islam going forth to conquest,' ran thus:—

'Treat your soldiers with kindness and consideration. Be just in all your dealings with them, and consult their feelings and opinions. Fight valiantly and never turn your back upon a foe. When victorious, harm not the aged and protect women and children. Destroy not the palm tree or fruit trees of any kind; waste not the corn field with fire; nor kill any cattle excepting for food. Stand faithfully to every covenant and promise; respect all religious persons who live in hermitages or convents and spare their edifices. But should you meet with a class of unbelievers of different kind, who go about with shaven crowns and belong to the synagogue of Satan, be sure you cleave their skulls unless they embrace the true faith or render tribute.'

The victorious Moslems overran northern Africa, conquered Spain and pushed on toward the interior of Europe, to meet the resistless 'hammer' of Charles Martel at Tours. The advancing wave of Mahomedanism was rolled back across the Pyrenees and finally out of Spain and back into Africa. But a deep-seated resentment against the Moslems remained throughout 'Christian' Europe; and it was a feeling of revenge against the Turk, more than any other motive, which actuated the 'Christians' in their crusades for the recovery of the 'holy sepulchre.' These crusades have been the battles of contending rival religions, and it was that fierceness which religious animosity always lends to carnal strife that gave the contest its vindictive character and left in the breast of the Turk that hatred of what he deems Christianity which he has manifested in so sanguine a manner since that time."

It concludes:—

"During all this time, and for centuries afterwards, true Christians were suffering a hundred-fold more at the hands of the 'Christian' rulers of Europe, led by the Papacy, than at the hands of the Turks. Then was the time when the true church—the 'woman'—had 'fled into the wilderness' to escape the persecution of the Papal dragon (Rev. xii. 4-6, 14), there to be nourished by God for the space of twelve hundred and sixty years, until the Papal power should be broken. The true Christians were persecuted in Europe, but not in the domains of Islam. There it was that some of them found a refuge from the rage which burned against them in 'Christian' lands. But for the wickedly-false conception of Christianity which the crusades gave to Islam, there is no evidence that true Christians would ever have suffered from Turkish wrath. There is no evidence that true Christianity would be suffering in Armenia to-day but for the wicked work of those who were Christians only in name.

What, then, do we want to-day? A new crusade, which will again bear the sword against the Turk in the name of Christ? A new wickedness to right the consequences of the old? Verily, no. Christianity cannot bear the sword. We make no attempt to define duty for the civil Powers. But we would record our most emphatic protest against a repetition, in the name of the 'Prince of Peace,' of that most 'un-Christian, selfish, wicked, barbaric and criminal' folly which gave the lie to Christianity before all the world and perpetrated the colossal sin of the ages in the so-called 'Christian' Crusades."

THE High Court resumed work, after the Long Vacation, on Thursday. The closing of the Court saw the retirement of Sir Comer Petheram. With the re-opening, Sir Francis Maclean is the Chief Justice.

The new Chief Justice, with Justices Macpherson and Trevelyan, is engaged in hearing appeals from the Original Side. Before the business of the day commenced, the Advocate-General, surrounded by a large number of barristers, pleaders and attorneys, addressed the Chief Justice regretting the death of Mr. Manmohan Ghose, the well-known Bengali criminal lawyer. Sir Charles Paul's words were:

"I desire merely to mention the fact that lately we have lost one of our most intelligent, most distinguished and leading members of the Bar, Mr. Manmohan Ghose, and I wish to express my regret at the misfortune of having lost so public-spirited an individual and so affable and courteous a gentleman, who in taking part in Indian politics, did so in a modified and very gentlemanly way. We desire to express our deep regret at his death, which took place a few days ago."

The Chief Justice replied:

"Of course, Mr. Advocate-General, I have not had the advantage of personally knowing the distinguished gentleman whom you mention, but I may say this, that I have heard from my brother Judges of the high position and great esteem in which he was held, not only by the members of the Bar, but I believe by every one whom he came in contact with. I feel that under the circumstances, having no personal knowledge of him myself, it would be quite out of place for me personally to say more."

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MR. Brojendra Coomarr Seal has been confirmed as District and Sessions Judge of Birbhum, and Mr. Umesh Chunder Batavyal as Magistrate and Collector, Bogra.

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MR. A. Pedler has been made permanent Principal of the Presidency College. He will also act as Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi and

Burdwan Circle, while Dr. C. A. Martin officiates as Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE dynamiter Bell has been committed to take his trial. The police agent Jones has testified that he wormed himself into a secret Irish Revolutionary Society in New York, with which Tynan and Bell were connected.

THE Austrian lately arrested at Snakim in Dervish disguise, and seeking to penetrate the Soudan, turns out to be one Inger, who was possessed of passports and elaborate Dervish drill-books, and also papers showing him to be connected with several French journals.

LORD LANSDOWNE, speaking at the Colston banquet at Bristol, protested against the apathy of the public in military matters, and urged the need of a thoroughly efficient army.

IT is officially stated in Italy that peace with Abyssinia was signed on the 26th October, as also a convention to release the Italian prisoners. Italy recognises the absolute independence of Ethiopia. The delimitation of frontiers is postponed for a year. King Menelik has wired to King Humbert that he hopes henceforth they will always be friends.

THE first portion of the Niger Company's expedition sailed from Liverpool on November 15. Captain Arnold commands the expedition, which will consist of 700 men. Plenty of fighting is expected—and barbarity too.

The mystery attaching to the object of the expedition is irritating the French.

MR. CURZON, replying to a deputation of the Society of Friends, repeated his promise for the abolition of the legal status of slavery at Zanzibar and Pemba, but said it must not be too abrupt for fear of economic and political troubles.

ALTHOUGH America has virtually concluded with Great Britain an agreement on behalf of Venezuela, the latter has still to conclude a treaty with Great Britain on the same lines as the Anglo-American agreement.

IN the Reichstag, on November 16, Prince Hohenlohe made a speech in which he said he was still bound to secrecy, and could not therefore discuss Prince Bismarck's revelations regarding the secret treaty with Russia. The assertion, however, that British influences, either then or now, were operative was without any foundation. The distrust at first provoked among the Powers forming the Triple Alliance by the revelations had been completely dispelled. Germany's relations with Russia had never ceased to be good and friendly.

Baron Marschall Von Bieberstein, Foreign Minister, also spoke, and, while eulogising Prince Bismarck, strongly defended the policy of the Government since 1890. No treaty, he said, was required to maintain friendship between Russia and Germany, and no wish of the Government was aimed at the sundering of Russia and France. Germany adhered to the Triple Alliance, and her relations with other Powers were based upon respecting their rights as they respected those of Germany.

A DEBATE took place in the Reichstag on the subject of duelling in the German Army. Prince Hohenlohe promised to take measures to restrict the practice to the utmost. The Minister for War, amidst the protests of the Deputies, defending it, said the honour of officers demanded the right of self-defence, and especially against the insults of civilians.

THE Powers are now discussing means of helping Turkey financially to enable her to introduce reforms, but Great Britain first desires the Powers to agree to measures to secure good government.

THE *Metropolitan* of Moscow and the principal Russian papers have opened Indian famine funds. Wheat is rising largely in the south of Russia and also freights. It is announced that agents from Bombay are coming to conclude contracts.

THE *Times* Singapore Correspondent states that Li Hung Chang is retiring disgusted with the treatment experienced since his return.

THE friendly tribes southward of Dongola are being organized to patrol the roads, guard the wells, and signal the movements of the Dervishes.

THE *Novoe Vremya* urges the settlement of the Eastern question through an *entente* between Turkey and Russia. The latter Power must use its authority in the East to secure supremacy and maintain peace. Russia adheres resolutely to the treaty clauses of the Black Sea, preventing the egress of Russian warships but equally preventing the ingress of foreign warships, thereby protecting the Russian fleet.

THE Bombay Government have, in reply to the enquiry of the Bombay Presidency Association, informed the President of the society that "the reasonable expenses of the witness to be nominated by the Bombay Presidency Association for the purpose of giving evidence before the Royal Commission on the Administration of the Expenditure in India will be paid either by the Government of India or by orders of the Royal Commission. The expenses of his passage to England will be advanced to him under the orders of this Government, and he will get further instructions at the India Office."

THE Council of the Bombay Presidency Association has formed a Committee to raise subscriptions in aid of famine relief. This fund will be independent of any others for the same purpose. Among the steps taken to relieve distress, is the formation of a company for importation of food grain from foreign ports. The capital is Rs. 1,500,000 divided into 15,000 shares of Rs. 100 each. The prospectus says: "The main effort must be in the direction of providing a sufficient supply of food grain at rates which, though high, may not be abnormal. It is expected that by buying in all desirable quarters, and importing suitable descriptions of food grains in sufficient quantities, the Company will be able to make the effects of its operations feel in the grain markets of the Presidency and counteract the forces now at work, and which tend to put up prices abnormally." It goes on: "A high commercial profit is not the object of this Company which is started more from motives of philanthropy than with a view to the possession of gain." Orders have already been given for 4,000 tons of maize from America, 500 tons of barley, and 500 tons of wheat. The Company is styled the Grain Trading Company of Bombay, and is intended to last no more than 2 years. At least, such is the open declaration.

We take the formation of the Company as a practical protest against the refusal of Government to enter the market—to interfere, in the language of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, with the movements of grain through the country or to fix prices authoritatively.

The Lieutenant-Governor has, at a meeting held at Delhi to discuss measures for relief of the impending distress in or near Delhi, explained:—"We take the course we do simply because we think it is absolutely clear that if we were to attempt to prevent the export of grain or to fix prices, though it might afford passing relief for a few weeks, it would in the long run immensely aggravate the difficulties of the position." This policy was laid down by Lord Northbrook. Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick gave an instance to prove what he said. "The other day a Magistrate of a district in another Province prohibited the exportation of grain from a certain large town, and laid down certain prices at which he ordered grain dealers to sell, and what followed was this. Large stocks of grain that were on their way to that town by railway were at once turned back, and even grain that was at the railway station awaiting delivery to the importer was re-booked out of the place to some distance." He had also a word for the grain

dealers. "There is one thing, however, that has been much dwelt on, and which I thoroughly agree is matter for very deep regret, and that is that grain dealers, by indulging in their propensity for gambling, are in some places running up prices of corn to a point beyond that which the circumstances of the case would naturally call for." But grain dealers can be generous. It is reported that the Lahore Relief Fund Committee which have collected Rs. 25,000 will hand over all available cash to a local *bunnis* who has agreed to import grain to the value of the advance made without profit to himself. At a meeting in the People's Hall, Secunderabad, a number of grain merchants made a solemn pledge to sell grain at cost price to the poor during the famine and not to sell large quantities to wholesale merchants.

THE latest weather report dated Simla, November 20, is:—

"The barometer has fallen almost everywhere. The cyclonic storm which has been traced northward up the Arabian Sea and which proves to be a very small disturbance, is apparently approaching the coast near Surat, where pressure is largely below the normal. Winds exhibit cyclonic indraught towards the storm, and gales have been experienced in Kathiawar. Light rainfall has occurred at North Bombay Coast stations and heavier rainfall in Bombay and the Deccan, where Sholapur reports five inches of rain, and Poona, Bijapur and Ahmednagar about one inch. Weather remains, and is likely to continue unsettled in Madras, where Tinnevely reports two and three-quarters inches of rain, and Nellore, Cuddalore and Wellington over one inch. The weather is cloudy except in Burma, Assam, and Bengal, and rain appears likely to extend to the central parts of India. The mean temperature is excessive except in North-East India."

The weekly report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops for Bengal, for the week ending 16th November, is as follows:—

"There was some rain in Northern Bengal and in parts of Orissa, and also in the Brahmanbaria sub-division of Tippera. It is said to have been insufficient to benefit the rice crop, and prospects remain generally unaltered. In Ringpur and Bogra the rain was accompanied by hail which did some damage to the crops, but in these two districts the prospects of the winter rice crop are reported to be fair. In Saran locusts have done considerable damage. The spring crops are reported to be germinating well in Northern Bengal and in Patna, Gaya and Saran; elsewhere the prospects of these crops are unfavourable. Prices continue very high, but, except in Patna and Champaran, there has been no material rise since last week. In Patna, Champaran and the Bhabua sub-division of Shahabad test works have been opened, but in Patna they have not been largely attended. In Champaran and Shahabad the numbers employed on the 14th were:—Champaran—men 705, women 444, and children 268; Shahabad—men 387, women 305, and children 138."

The number of the relieved in the Madras Presidency was 9,740; in the Bombay, 1,400; in the N-W. Provinces and Oudh, 99,008; in the Punjab, 7,139; Burma, 8,519; Central India, 4,116; Rajputana, 8,206. These numbers are the aggregate of those on relief works and on gratuitous relief.

Last week, 1,80,974 maunds of rice and 2,07,825 maunds of other food grains were exported from Calcutta to foreign and Indian ports.

WE have now in our midst a homœopathic doctor from the West, a recent arrival—Dr. M. L. Jelovitz, with experience of plague. He is perhaps the only doctor in Calcutta who can speak from personal knowledge of a disease to which a medical board has been specially appointed. It is to be hoped that the Board or the Government will utilize him. His being a homœopath need not stand in the way of his recognition, for we have already on the Board a homœopath. By that appointment the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie has proved itself superior to the narrowness of the professors of the orthodox school of medicine. In a matter of this kind, in an hour of public danger, it may well be expected that the Bengal Government will forgive the sin of not being an Englishman.

Dr. Jelovitz took his degree of Doctor of Medicine at Philadelphia, in the University of Pennsylvania, where he won the first prize, in 1885, by his essay on bubonic plague. Previous to the date of the essay, in 1876, when he was living in Bagdad, an epidemic of plague visited some districts of the Province of Mesopotamia. He studied the disease there, examining over 3,000 cases and attending 300 patients. His treatment of the disease was allopathic. He was associated in the work with Dr. A. Jelovitz, of the Medical College in Buda Pesth. The result was little or nothing. The mortality among the patients was as great as among those who had had no treatment. He then tried hydropathy—cold or hot water douches or steam baths. The diet allowed was milk, alcohol and coffee would be given as stimulants. The results were much better, the deaths being reduced from 80 to 70 per cent. It was still a high percentage. Homœopathy, then practised by Dr. M. L. Jelovitz under

great disadvantages, reduced the rate much lower, to 49. His old associate, Dr. J. A. Jelovitz and other practitioners of the old system, were disposed to attribute the fall to the diminution of the virulence of the disease. This could not be. For the deaths under allopathic treatment numbered as high as before. Dr. M. L. Jelovitz found homœopathy as efficacious in other diseases. In inguinal hernia of an infant of 4 months, he caused the rupture to disappear in 4 days. This almost miraculous cure converted Father Damien, a monk of the Carmelite Order and a qualified physician from the Medical College of Montpellier, to homœopathy. Dr. Jelovitz's successful treatment of diseases at Bombay, where he had established himself in 1879 and again in 1889, was equally marked. There he won over to homœopathy Drs. Thakurdas Kikabhai Dalal, Jannadas Premchand, Vithaldas and others. His experience at Colon, where he was Surgeon of the Hospital of the Panama Canal Company and city physician of the Prefecture, is again in favour of homœopathy. As servant of the State and of the Company, he was not allowed to prescribe other than allopathic medicines, but he was not debarred from administering homœopathic tinctures and globules in private practice. In yellow fever, he found the difference between the two systems of cure. The superiority of the new over the old was great. While almost every case under allopathic treatment ended fatally, all his 19 private patients recovered under the new system. In malarial intermittent fever, however, the sovereign remedy was quinine in large doses. For a time, Dr. Jelovitz practised at Jamaica, in the West Indies, where he had been for the benefit of his health. Just now he comes to us from Bombay, where he was perhaps the first to popularize homœopathy but where he could not find enough room for his energy and activity. Let us hope Calcutta will reap the full benefit of his varied experience in different countries.

WE have said (*R. & R.*, November 7) that the case of "veritable" plague in Calcutta resulting in death, is as real as the previous six cases in which the patients recovered, and that the disease of which Bepin Behary Dutt died was taken advantage of by the neighbours to denounce the factory in which he resided and worked as a nuisance and to have it removed. In confirmation, we append four statements made by two medical practitioners who were called to treat Bepin, by the Manager of the factory and by a neighbour.

Babu Gopal Chandra Bose: I am the manager of the factory where Bepin Behary Dutt, our workman, died on the evening of Tuesday, the 3rd November. Bepin's age was 32 years. The factory is owned by Joygopal Pal, a nephew of Sristidhar Conch, a sugar merchant. Bepin used to draw rupees eighteen per month. Having been a man of inferior position, he could not tell me of his ludo, out of shame. I knew of it afterwards. The workman had scalded his right great toe five or six days before the fever. Attention was drawn to this circumstance at the very time of the scalding. Some of the workmen had applied ink and afterwards salt water. Nothing particularly noticeable happened to Bepin before Sunday when he was evidently suffering from fever. I did not know whether there was any fever before this, or whether it was a continuation of the previous attack. He wished to go home, to his native village, in the thana Indas, district Bankura. This led me to think that he was suffering from some disease. The fever was high on Sunday evening. It was attended by headache. He was under the treatment of Babu Chundy Chatterjee, of Nundorain Sen's Lane, for two days. He was then vomiting bile. On Monday evening, his case becoming serious, he was advised to place himself under the treatment of Babu Kissory Mohun Mookerjee, a homœopathic practitioner, who usually treats our workmen. Babu Kissory was immediately called and gave some medicine which was taken. On the doctor's saying that the case was of a serious nature, Dr. Kali Kristo Chatterjee, of Ramkanto Bose's Street, was sent for. He came after dusk, prescribed some mixture and ordered ice on the head and blister on the nape of the neck. Death took place on the evening of Tuesday. Drs. Simpson and Cobb came that very evening. Bepin had then a little difficulty of breathing and occasional hiccough. The doctors ordered the patient to be taken out of the room, to the open courtyard. They punctured the tip of one of the fingers, and incised an arm near the elbow joint. Then a crucial incision was made in the swollen right groin and a finger inserted into it. Immediately after, Bepin died. It was possible that he could have lived another two hours.

Bepin never regained consciousness since Monday evening. Blood was taken from all the incisions. The doctors wanted the body for *post mortem* examination, but as Hindus we would not agree. A medical inspector went with us to the burning ghat. When the incisions were made none of the medical attendants was present.

Babu Kissory Mohun Mookerji, the homoeopathic practitioner :—

I attended the patient on the evening of Monday, the 2nd November. There was a plaster on the right groin, which could be seen for the patient's half naked state. I saw the man in a state of coma with congested eyes. I pronounced the case hopeless. The temperature was 104. I gave a medicine of which perhaps a dose or two were taken. Then Dr. Kali Kristo Chatterji was called. I did not notice any eruption on the body. He had fever about a month before this attack. I did not know at first that there was a scald in the right great toe, but was informed of it afterwards. The bubo was small and I did not notice any other swelling. I sent information to the Health Officer as I was bound by his circular to report every case of fever attended with glandular enlargement. I do not think it was a case of bubonic plague.

Babu Preonath Mookerji, a neighbour residing opposite the factory :—

I requested Babu Kissory Mohun Mookerji to write the letter, simply because I consider the factory a nuisance. I did not think that so much fuss would be made. About a year since, the neighbours had complained of the unclean state of the factory to the Municipality.

Dr. Kali Kristo Chatterji :—

I saw the patient at about 9 P. M. on Monday and found him unconscious with congested eyes. The temperature was 104, pulse 130, and respiration 48. I was informed that Bepin had syphilis about a year since. Monday was the fifth day of his fever. I had ordered ice on the head and blisters on the nape of the neck and calves. A stimulant mixture was also administered. The patient had tympanites. The scald was on the right great toe. The enlarged femoral gland was on the right side also, but it was a small one. On the morning of Tuesday I found him worse. I am of opinion that it is not a case of bubonic plague. I was not present when Drs. Simpson and Cobb came. I did not notice any eruption on the man's body.

We will quote now the letter of the Health Officer addressed to the Medical Board :—

"I have the honour to report a death from plague which took place at 6-30 P.M. on November 3rd. The information was given to me at 4 P.M. on November 3rd, and the case was visited by Dr. Cobb and myself at 5-30 P.M. The patient died in our presence at 6-30 P.M. and as the friends would not give permission for post-mortem examination I ordered the medical Inspector to accompany the body to the Burning Ghat and to see personally that it was burnt along with the infected clothing. It was impossible to inform the Medical Board in time, in order that the medical members should see the case, owing to the man's

rapid death. An attack of illness prevented me from reporting the case the next day, but I verbally told Dr. Dyson about it in the morning and he expressed his intention of making a local enquiry.

The details are as follows :—

History.—Bepin Behary Dutt, aged 32 years, a sugarcandy maker, residing at No. 1 Raja Rajbullah's Street, is stated to have been seized with a sudden attack of headache, fever, pain and enlargement of the glands of the right groin on November 1st. The pain in the groin became so severe that he was confined to bed and could not straighten his leg. The symptoms increased in severity and on November 2nd about 3 P.M. the headache became intense and abdomen swollen. At 8 P.M. he became insensible. Dr. K. N. Mookerjee states that he was called in at 10 P.M. on November 2nd and found the patient in a comatose condition picking at the bed clothes, and also in high fever with congested eyes. The glands in the right groin were enlarged. He informed the friends that the case was hopeless and the next morning sent a post card to the Health Office, reporting the case. Another medical man, Dr. Chatterjee, was called in later and it is stated, found the temperature to be 104. The patient is said to have scalded his sole more than a fortnight ago, but we found no marks on the foot.

Condition on examination by Dr. Cobb, Dr. Mittra and myself.—The patient was lying insensible, breathing with a sighing and moaning noise. The eyes were sunken and the conjunctiva very much congested. The direction of the eyes was upwards and to the right. Pupils were contracted and insensible to light. The tongue was furred in centre and red at tip and edges. The pulse was 160 and respiration 32 per minute. The body, especially the head, face and legs was covered with a profuse perspiration. Petechiæ in large numbers were to be seen on the chest and abdomen, and a few on the back, arms and legs. They varied in size from 1-10th to a quarter of an inch in diameter and did not disappear on pressure. Both the inguinal and femoral chains of lymphatic glands in the right groin were enlarged, two of the former and three of the latter were felt to be swollen. In the inguinal region the largest was the size of a boy's marble and in the femoral that of an almond. Blood was taken from the enlarged femoral gland and from the median basilic vein. Microscopic examination showed diplobacteria."

Our remarks will be found in the leader.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 21, 1896.

PLAGUE AND HAFKINISM.

THE meeting of the Calcutta Corporation on the 12th November, was signalized by an acrimonious controversy over two debatable subjects—the bubonic plague at Calcutta and the Hafkine cholera inoculation. The first arose out of the refusal of the Health Officer to answer questions that struck at the root of the case reported by him as one of veritable plague. In reply to one of the questions, Dr. Simpson said through the Chairman :—

So long as he holds the appointment of Health Officer to the Corporation he will decline to answer any question relating, as this question does, purely to medical details of a nature which should not, in his opinion, form the subject of questions at a Commissioners' meeting. Apart from this, the fact that the present question contains gross insinuations against Drs. Cobb and Simpson, affords, in the Health Officer's opinion, a complete reason for his declining to notice the question beyond mentioning that the man was in a condition of profound insensibility, and could not possibly have felt the three trifling punctures made, and stating emphatically, once and for all, that for these insinuations there is absolutely no foundation whatsoever.

The municipality is a miscellaneous body of professionals and non-professionals. The professions are many, though lawyers number the largest. Medical and engineering branches are not absent. There are about a half dozen medical men. Dr. Sanders holds a position which cannot fail to command a hearing, if not implicit acquiescence, when he speaks. It might be that Babu Nolin Behary Sircar, who put the questions, was the mouthpiece

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Monday, the 23rd November, at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Properties of Water concluded. Hydroxyl and Nitrogen.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Tuesday the 24th Inst. at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Atmospheric air.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Wednesday, the 25th Inst. at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Ammonia.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 25th Inst. at 7 P.M. Subject: Force and Motion.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Thursday, the 26th Inst. at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Nitric acid.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 26th Inst., at 5 P.M. Subject: Circulation.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Saturday, the 28th Inst. at 3 P.M. Subject: Oxides and Oxy-acids of Nitrogen.

Lecture by Babu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 28th Inst., at 4-30 P.M. Subject: Morphology—Symmetry of Flowers, Floral Diagrams and Formulæ.

Lecture by Dr. Nilratan Sircar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 28th Inst., at 6 P.M. Subject: Histology—Bone, Muscle.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 Annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,
Honorary Secretary.

Nov. 21, 1896.

of others—medical Commissioners who do not sail with Dr. Simpson. The open affront, by no means the first of its kind, given to the Commissioners, could not be lightly passed over, and the matter will be discussed at a future meeting. The medical details of the case could not be so abstruse as to be utterly beyond the comprehension of educated laymen. Dr. Simpson did not explain why, in his opinion, the subject should not be discussed at a meeting of the Commissioners. He might have avoided technical phrases and stated in ordinary language his views and doings. That would not have been inconsistent with the professional dignity or character of the Health Officer of a town threatened with plague. However regularly acquired, medical knowledge can by no means be a monopoly. Jurors, taken from the sensible part of the population, have frequently to decide the most complicated questions bearing upon the abstrusest branches of medical science. In the Gardiner peerage case, lay men laid down the law, rejecting a vast mass of medical testimony coming from experts of admitted reputation. The jealousy which medical men feel for even persons of liberal culture when honestly striving to obtain detailed information, is frequently insane. In view of a public calamity, the medical man that refuses to lay bare the secrets of his science from a conviction that those secrets will be unintelligible or that his professional dignity will suffer, courts nothing but contempt. Then professional dignity degenerates into pure folly. In this age of general inquisitiveness, the child of Galen that expects his *fulwas* unsupported by reasons to be accepted as oracles, cannot but be brushed aside by society as an intolerable nuisance or a strange anachronism.

The questions put to the Health Officer were, indeed, searching, and possibly intended to expose a conceived wrong. It was believed that Dr. Simpson had greatly exceeded his authority, to the serious injury of others, in pursuit of a policy of his own, though in the interest of the town. The neighbours of Bepin cried that the municipality had killed him; the workmen of the factory in which he was employed were loud in their condemnation of the action of the medical officers of the Corporation. Under the circumstance, an enquiry into the conduct of the municipal officers was called for, and the questions were framed to elicit the truth. If Dr. Simpson's *ipse dixit* were to be accepted, it might as well be said that a diploma of medical knowledge raises the holder above the law; that, in fact, it covers a multitude of sins. May not one fitly declare—Vanity thy name is Simpson?

The statements published in another part of this number shew that incisions were made by Dr. Simpson or his friend in the right median basilic vein (the vein in the right arm on the flexor side of the elbow joint) and in the right groin. The man was insensible and, therefore, according to the Health Officer, the punctures were harmless. The word puncture excludes the questions whether they were large openings by the lancet and whether there was any flow of blood from the cut surfaces? It must be supposed that blood was taken in sufficient quantity for bacteriological investigation. There was nothing to restrict the flow of blood to the exact quantity required for scientific purposes. The last moments and the unconscious condition of the helpless and unfriended patient might not be any protection against the reckless plunge of the knife by the operating surgeon bent

upon proving a theory. But is it too much to suppose that this abstraction lessened the duration of life, which it should always be the aim of the doctor to prolong? There are doctors and doctors. An Indian student studying in England, attacked by influenza, was given up by his attending physician. On enquiry by the father who happened to be there, the medical attendant quietly informed him that there was no hope of recovery and that medicines had been administered for making the patient die as quietly as possible. The horror-stricken father ran to another physician, who thought and treated differently, and the boy recovered. Was it not a reckless act of inhumanity to take blood out of a man that died immediately after the operation? There would be a justification for the bloody deed, if it was believed to offer a chance of saving the life of the victim himself. Is it open to a medical man to work on a patient for hastening his death, or inflict on him wounds, for other purposes than the benefit of the poor fellow himself, because he was supposed to be insensible to pain? No measure of advantage, immediate or remote, to even princes and crowned heads, or, for that matter, to the entire body of the greatest benefactors of mankind, can possibly excuse the extraction of even a drop of blood from the meanest wretch lying on a sick-bed, if such extraction hastens death by a minute. The criminal code of every civilised State has clearly defined the character of such an act. Science would be an intolerable nuisance,—a veritable crime against laws, both human and divine,—if her progress were to be achieved by such means. The zeal for extending the bounds of science ought to be restricted by considerations of reason.

Then, again, there was breach of medical etiquette and violation of the law. The Municipal doctors were not empowered by law to make the punctures. The attending physicians were not consulted and the punctures were made in their absence and without their knowledge, and without permission of the friends and relatives of the punctured. Himself blind to medical decorum, Dr. Simpson hesitates not to take shelter behind the fancied rights of a medical man. If it cannot be denied that injury, which hastened the death, was inflicted on a dying man, the Corporation cannot avoid a suit for damages, and its servants, a criminal prosecution. For the rashness of their servants or agents, the Commissioners are liable under the law, and those servants cannot escape the criminal consequences of their own acts. The refusal of Dr. Simpson to submit to a fair and open enquiry, is more reprehensible than his perpetrated act. For his conduct, his masters will suffer. Yet he thinks it his privilege to refuse them information to enable them to judge of his act. Brought before a Court of Justice, will he be allowed to hold the same language, to speak in the same autocratic tone?

The enquiry made shows that Bepin Behary Dutt had bubo before fever. The headache might be caused by the intense heat of the furnace and the sugar pan. The first medical attendant, Babu Chundy Charan Chatterjee, confident that the glandular enlargement was syphilitic, had ordered mercury plaster. It is a significant fact that inguinal gland appeared on the side of the scalded toe. Bepin could not work from Sunday, the 1st November. There is no knowing when the fever shewed itself, for no one had taken care to ascertain the fact. The disease assumed a severe form on the

evening of Monday, the 2nd November. Bepin had been complaining of severe headache from that day. In the evening, he became unconscious, when the medical attendant of the factory, Babu Kissory Mohun Mookerji, was called in. On his pronouncing the case hopeless, Dr. Kill Kristo Chatterjee was sent for at 9 P.M. None of them believes Bepin had bubonic fever.

It is possible that the man had fever for five or six days before he became unconscious. He died on the evening of Tuesday, the 3rd November, in the presence of Dr. Simpson. The dissolution was rapid but not sudden. In low remittent fevers, such rapid termination is not unknown. Patients have died in forty-eight hours. The suddenness of death is not a peculiarity of bubonic fever. It has been observed in almost all kinds of virulent fevers. From the 3rd to the 18th November, a second case has not occurred in the same house, viz., 1 Raja Rajbullab's Street. This is contrary to the known character of bubonic fever. If Dr. Simpson could come upon a real case of plague, he would have recovered his lost reputation. The hasty steps he took in spreading a false alarm, have damaged his character as a medical man. He acted more like an old hysterical woman than the observant Health Officer of a municipal corporation, and seems yet not convinced of his error. He rather sticks to it and nurses it as a fondling, and will go to any length than abandon it and save himself from a very untenable position.

The passages-at-arms between Dr. Sanders and Mr. Stevens over the Haffkine business were a fight between a medical man and a lay man. Had Dr. Sanders been of the same metal with Dr. Simpson, he would have declined to enter the lists.

Mr. Stevens' reference to Sir Joseph Lister's address was unfortunate. If Mr. Stevens had been a medical man he would have refrained from making the allusion, for then his reputation would have been at stake. But not being of the profession, he has hardly anything to lose, though it cannot be said that he loses absolutely nothing. We wonder there was no one to point out the mistake. Sir Joseph Lister's antiseptic surgery for incised surfaces has no relation with Haffkine's method. Bacteriology is the fashion of the hour, and there are good and evil bacteria. If the one species destroy, another kill the destroyers. Openings made by the lancet may give free entrance to the evil-doers. Dr. Haffkine's way is not strictly Pasteur's. Pasteur's inoculation in hydrophobia is not of any cultivation of bacilli because there is no specific bacillus to be found. In Koch's comma bacillus we have not the real cause of cholera. Dr. Klein, medical officer of the Local Government Board of London, is against that theory. There are many German and French bacteriologists who do not recognize Koch's cholera bacillus, though his tubercle bacillus has been accepted as the cause of consumption. Koch was hasty in his conclusion about the cholera bacillus. The other theory was the result of patient research for many years. Having won one laurel, he was ambitious of gaining another. That ambition stood in the way of diligent and due enquiry in the last instance. Before accepting the theory of Haffkine, we must be sure that the comma bacillus of Koch is the real cause of cholera.

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There are competent persons who do not believe in Haffkinism and who even go so far as to say that it has been a failure. Officers are not wanting in the Calcutta Health Officer's department who privately hold a different opinion from their chiefs. In the present state of scientific advancement, nothing can be taken on trust. In the institutions for practical investigations, the workers take up a possible theory either to prove or disprove it. If there be a consensus of opinion in favour of one, then only can it be accepted. Take, for example, photography by X rays. A practical fact has been discovered. The physicists took up the method for research and have invariably succeeded. Haffkine's cure or security remains to be proved.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

BOOKS.

Isbister & Co. have brought out in two volumes the life of the great Prelate William, Connor Magee, Archbishop of York. It is more an autobiography than a life, and it is doubtful whether the compiler, Canon Macdonnell, of Peterborough Cathedral, has in every instance exercised a wise discretion in publishing letters of the witty Prelate reflecting on public characters recently passed away, or still among us. Dr. Magee was, on the admission of all competent judges, "a great man, a great prelate, and a great wit." He could not tolerate "fools" whether among his brethren on the Episcopal Bench, the peers of England, or among his own clergy. He gives a capital description of an evening at the Metaphysical Society. A paper was read to prove "the impossibility of dignity from the indefiniteness of words." The author was the celebrated Mark Pattison, Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford, who is thus described: "Imagine the hummery of an opium eater restored to life, and dressed in the dinner dress of the 19th century, that is M. P. free thinker and free writer, but certainly not free speaker." Pattison was certainly a curious study in himself. He went the whole length with Cardinal Newman in the Tractarian controversy, but drew back when Newman took the final plunge into Romanism. His widow, subsequently married the saintly Sir Charles Dilke. To come back to the Archbishop. He writes of Dr. King, the present Bishop of Lincoln: "Lincoln was, as usual, inopportune and mischievous in the most saintly way." "Those who have followed the public character of Dr. King will appreciate the witty sarcasm of this description. Again, "Old Lincoln was pressing upon us a preposterous 'Encyclical' as a panacea for all our troubles. A heap of sweetly solemn platitudes, such as he alone can indite, and such as he alone believes can be of the slightest use to man, woman or child." Of Oxford, he writes in 1835: "How I wish there was some male intellect here to guide and strengthen these young minds for good, instead of such merely *feminine* minds of such monks in petticoats as Siddon and—." Magee was the first Irishman that had ever held an English see since the Reformation.

To show that he was not in alliance with any sectional church party, I quote the following in connection with Disraeli's Public Worship Bill of 1874: "The determined Erastianism of the Archbishop (Pait), the exasperation of the High Church clergy, the dishonesty of the Ritualists, the fanatical bitterness of the Evangelicals, and the sublime unprinciples of Dizzy," &c. &c. Gladstone, after spending two days with him at the late Lord Bowen's, in 1893, he describes as the "most amazing old man in Europe," while of Lord Beaconsfield when dying he wrote: "Beaconsfield is, I think and fear, dying by quarter inches. What a struggle and what a man! and what a real loss to English statesmanship!" Of men of the stamp of John Burns of Battersea, he writes:

"Surely of all governments that by hysteresis is the worst, and England is being more and more governed by the hysteria of half-educated men and women. The aristocratic oligarchy of the last century was selfish and short-sighted as regards domestic policy; but it was cool, far-seeing, and prompt as regards foreign policy. The boorish voter who sustained that aristocracy and squirearchy was dull and impassive, and open to bribery and beer; but he was stolid and bovine, and never got into a fury except against the Pope. But your modern, half-taught, newspaper-reading, platform-haunting, discussion club, frequenter, conceited, excitable, nervous product of modern town artisan life, is a most dangerous animal. He loves rant and cant and fustian, and loves too the power for the masses that all this rant and cant is aiming at, and he seems to be rapidly becoming the great ruling power in England. Well, you and I are in our 57th years. Let our children look to it. But the England of 30 years hence, if Dr. Cumming will let the world

last so long, will surely be the nastiest residence conceivable for any one, save infidel prigs and unsexed women."

On the Bulgarian atrocities agitation he uses the following words, equally applicable to the present Armenian agitation :

"I doubt if the whole history of democracy, rife as it is with instances of passionate injustice, supplies a grosser one than the cry against the Ministry of the last three weeks.

Heaven knows the Turk is bad enough, but he is no worse now than he was, and was *known* to be, 24 years ago, when the English nation hissed Prince Albert because he doubted the wisdom of our fighting for him.

I detest massacre, but I detest nearly as much the dishonesty of making political capital out of it; and I am disgusted with the blatant and mischievous nonsense that our platform spouters are uttering at every meeting on a question of which they know absolutely nothing."

QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

[Extracts from *A Treatise on Hygiene and Public Health*, edited by Thomas Stevenson, M.D., and Shirley F. Murphy, Medical Officer of Health of the Administrative County of London.]

The qualification is determined by statute. The duties are to some extent prescribed by regulations, except, and to some extent, they have been prescribed by statute in connection with particular matters. Section 191 of the Public Health Act provides that a person shall not be appointed medical officer of health under that Act unless he is a legally qualified medical practitioner. Further qualifications have been imposed by Sec. 18 of the Local Government Act, 1888, which in effect provides that, except where the Local Government Board for reasons brought to their notice may see fit in particular cases specially to allow, no person shall thereafter be appointed medical officer of health of any county or sanitary district, or combination of sanitary districts, or the deputy of such officer, unless he be legally qualified for the practice of medicine, surgery and midwifery. The same section also prohibits the appointment of any person after January 1, 1892, as the medical officer of health of any county, or of any district or combination of districts, which contained according to the last published census for the time being a population of 50,000 or more inhabitants, unless he is qualified as above, and also either is registered in the medical register as the holder of a diploma in sanitary science, public health or State medicine, under section 21 of the Medical Act, 1886, or has been during three consecutive years preceding the year 1892, a medical officer of a district or combination of districts with a population according to the last published census of not less than 20,000 or has before the passing of the Local Government Act been for not less than three years a medical officer or Inspector of the Local Government Board.

The regulations of the Local Government Board provide that the following shall be the duties of a medical officer of health in respect of the district for which he is appointed, viz :—

1. He must inform himself as far as practicable respecting all influences affecting or threatening to affect injuriously the public health within the district.

2. He must inquire into and ascertain by such means as are at his disposal the causes, origin, and distribution of diseases within the district, and ascertain to what extent the same have depended on conditions capable of removal or mitigation.

3. He must by inspection of the district, both systematically and at certain periods as occasion may require, keep himself informed of the conditions injurious to health existing therein.

4. He must be prepared to advise the sanitary authority on all matters affecting the health of the district, and on all sanitary points involved in the action of the sanitary authority; and in cases requiring it, he must certify, for the guidance of the sanitary authority or of the justices, as to any matter in respect of which the certificate of a medical officer of health or a medical practitioner is required as the basis or in aid of sanitary action.

5. He must advise the sanitary authority on any question relating to health involved in framing and subsequent working of such bye-laws and regulations as they may have power to make; and as to the adoption of sanitary authority of the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, or of any sections of such Act.

6. On receiving information of the outbreak of any contagious, infectious, or epidemic disease of a dangerous character within the district, he must visit the spot without delay and inquire into the causes and circumstances of such outbreak, and in case he is not satisfied that all due precautions are being taken, he must advise the persons competent to act as to the measures which may appear to him to be required to prevent the extension of the disease, and take such measures for the prevention of disease as he is legally authorised to take under any statute in force in the district or by any resolution of the sanitary authority.

7. Subject to the instructions of the sanitary authority, he must direct or superintend the work of the inspector of nuisances in the way and to the extent that the sanitary authority may approve, and on receiving information from the inspector of nuisances that

his intervention is required in consequence of the existence of any nuisance injurious to health, or of any over-crowding in a house, he must, as early as practicable, take such steps as he is legally authorised to take under any statute in force in the district or by any resolution of the sanitary authority as the circumstances of the case may justify and require.

8. In any case in which it may appear to him to be necessary or advisable, or in which he shall be so directed by the sanitary authority, he must himself inspect and examine any animal, carcass, meat, poultry, game, flesh, fish, fruit, vegetables, corn, bread, flour, or milk or any other article to which the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, in this behalf apply, exposed for sale, or deposited for the purpose of sale or of preparation for sale, and intended for the food of man, which is deemed to be diseased, or unsound, or unwholesome, or unfit for the food of man, he must give such directions as may be necessary for causing the same to be dealt with by a justice according to the provisions of the statutes applicable to the case.

9. He must perform all the duties imposed upon him by any bye-laws and regulations of the sanitary authority, duly confirmed, in respect of any matter affecting the public health, and touching which they are authorised to frame bye-laws and regulations.

10. He must enquire into any offensive process of trade carried on within the district, and report on the appropriate means for the prevention of any nuisance or injury to health therefrom.

11. He must attend at the office of the sanitary authority, or at some other appointed place, at such stated times as they may direct.

12. He must from time to time report in writing to the sanitary authority his proceedings, and the measures which may require to be adopted for the improvement or protection of the public health in the district. He must in like manner report with respect to the sickness and mortality within the district, so far as he has been enabled to ascertain the same.

13. He must keep a book or books, to be provided by the sanitary authority, in which he must make an entry of his visits, and notes of his observations and instructions thereon, and also the date and nature of applications made to him, the date and result of the action taken thereon and of any action taken on previous reports; and must produce such book or books, whenever required, to the sanitary authority.

14. He must also prepare an annual report to be made to the end of December in each year, comprising a summary of the action taken, of which he has advised the sanitary authority to take during the year for preventing the spread of disease, and an account of the sanitary state of his district generally at the end of the year.

The report must contain an account of the inquiries which he has made as to the conditions injurious to health existing in his district, and of the proceedings in which he has taken part or advised under the Public Health Act, 1875, so far as such proceedings relate to those conditions; and also an account of the supervision exercised by him or on his advice, for sanitary purposes over places and houses that the sanitary authority have power to regulate, with the nature and results of any proceedings which may have been so required and taken in respect of the same during the year. The report must also record the action taken by him, or on his advice, during the year, in regard to offensive trades, to dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, and to factories and workshops, and must contain tabular statements (on forms to be supplied by the Local Government Board, or to the like effect) of the sickness and mortality within the district, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities. If the medical officer of health ceases to hold office before December 31 in any year, he must make the like report for so much of the year as has expired when he ceases to hold office.

15. He must give immediate information to the Local Government Board of any outbreak of dangerous epidemic disease within the district, and transmit to them a copy of each annual report and of any special report. He must make a special report to the Board, of the grounds of any advice which he may give to the sanitary authority with a view to their requiring the closure of any school or schools in pursuance of the code of regulations, approved by the Education Department and for the time being in force.

16. At the same time that he gives information to the Local Government Board of an outbreak of infectious disease, or transmits to them a copy of his annual report, or of any special report, he must give the like information or transmit a copy of such report to the county council of the county in which his district may be situated.

17. In matters not specifically provided for in these regulations he must observe and execute any instructions issued by the Local Government Board, and the lawful orders and directions of the sanitary authority applicable to his office.

18. Whenever the Local Government Board make regulations for all or any of the purposes specified in section 134 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and declare the regulations so made to be in force within any area comprising the whole or any part of the district, he must observe them so far as the same relate to or concern his office.

(To be continued.)

Letter to the Editor.

THE CONDITION OF THE MAHOMEDAN COMMUNITY AND THE MEANS OF ITS AMELIORATION.

BY KHAN BAHADUR D. H. AHMED.

(Concluded from page 502.)

Mr. Naseemul Hakh appears to believe that I am advocating the repeal of our laws of inheritance. I do nothing of the kind. Every civilized nation except the Mahomedan has its laws of inheritance supplemented by the freedom to make testamentary dispositions. What I desire and propose is that the Mahomedans should, while continuing to be governed by the Arab law of succession, be granted the freedom to bequeath their property to a single heir. Mr. Naseemul Hakh says: "Since it is admitted that it is wellnigh impossible for any community to advance materially and prosper so long as each member of that community does not help the cause of advancement by his personal exertions and independent efforts, it is, indeed, difficult to make out how the retention of wealth by a limited circle could prove to be conducive to the general good of the community at large." It is wrong to suppose that if, as a general rule, you give pecuniary aid to people you help them to rise. Money passes out of the hands of a man of indolent and extravagant habits just as water passes through a sieve. The very expectation that he will receive pecuniary aid will help to make him indolent and thriftless. It is not money that a man requires so much to help him to rise as character; and if the discipline which he gets stifles the desire for activity and breeds the habit of easy contentment, if it does not teach him to curb his desires or to acquire habits of thrift, the wealth he will inherit will soon be squandered. Under a law of primogeniture in the past and a law of wills in recent times, England and every other European country have progressed. Under a law of compulsory division of property, the Mahomedans of India, especially of Bengal, have declined. The discipline given by a law under which no man is sure of getting any share of his father's property is different from the discipline given by the law of compulsory division.

The question has been put to me, what reason there is to suppose that the sole recipient of his father's property will not dissipate his inheritance. I have already said that the character of a people can only be gradually and slowly changed and a law of wills will take more than a generation to have any effect on our character. The want of energy and thrift, the habits of inactivity and extravagance are the result of the discipline given to us by the law of compulsory division. Every son lives on the expectation of a share of the family property, he feels no necessity or desire for self exertion. Every son is bred and reared in the father's style of living, he is scarcely called upon to curb his desires or postpone their gratification, and the inevitable consequence is that he acquires the habit of self indulgence. When you get the right of making a will you will feel that you have to preserve a property and a name. You will also feel a pleasure in checking your expenditure in order to provide for other children. Your sons will never be sure of getting a share of the family property; there will thus be a check to indulgence and an incentive to exertion. In 2 or 3 generations the character of the people will have considerably improved; activity and thrift will become the general rule and the dissipation and debauchery of Zemindars, of which "a Behari Musalman" complains, will become an exception.

I have also been asked why, when the law of sub-division of property prevails amongst Hindus, we do not find them lose habits of energy or habits of thrift. This law is amongst them traversed by other laws. In the first place, the sub-division of property is not so minute as amongst ourselves, for daughters get no share and, secondly, the Brahmanic religion, by its imposition of duties to be performed and of ceremonies to be observed for the welfare of the deceased, gives an importance to the eldest son, which brings him the respect and allegiance of his brothers. This feeling was strengthened in the past by various other causes which it is needless here to specify and the result is the joint family system. The order and security of the British Government is gradually breaking it up, but the Hindus have now got a Wills' Act which serves to prevent the sons of a father from acquiring thriftless or indolent habits.

"Khaer Khwahi Islam" seems to desire the adoption of the joint family system. He says: "It is not compulsory that we must divide; on the other hand, if circumstances point the other way,

we should try to live amicably and united so that there might be no occasion for such a division." It is easy to put down a proposition on paper, but "Khaer Khwahi Islam" should have shewn how it would work or whether it would work. He does not tell us how he proposes that we should take to the joint family system which, though ages of coercion and discipline have made it natural to our Hindu neighbours, is foreign to the course of our development and the habits of our community. He does not tell us how he proposes to control the conflicting desires of the several heirs who are entitled to a share of the property. The fact is, that the joint family system will not work, and the only alternative is that we must have a law of Wills. An aristocracy will be useful in this way that a class of our own community will have funds which they might devote to the education of the poorer members. It will be useful in another way, that it will give us a standard to which to look up and every Mahomedan will endeavour to rise up to it, there will thus be an incentive to thrift and an incentive to activity. A more important function which a territorial aristocracy in the present state of our society will be able to perform is the influence which it will be able to exercise on the deliberations of the Government and in protecting the interests of the Mahomedan community.

I remarked in a previous letter that "the ultimate overthrow of the Mogal Empire" as well as the Saracenic and Moorish Empires "was due to the absence of a territorial aristocracy, and such an aristocracy can never grow up under a law of compulsory sub-division of property." "Khaer Khwahi Islam" observes that I "will perhaps next say—the Hindus lost India to the Mahomedans, for want of a territorial aristocracy." The Hindus undoubtedly had a powerful aristocracy, and it was this aristocracy which made Alexander retire from the conquest of India, which held the Sassanian Anoshceerwan at bay, which prevented the advance of the lieutenants of the Omeyyads of Damascus, and which repeatedly opposed Mahmood of Ghazni. A cholera patient dies, in spite of the medicines administered; you must not conclude that the medicines are useless. If the Rajpoot aristocracy failed to arrest the onward march of the Mahomedan arms, you must not suppose that a territorial aristocracy is of no use. On the contrary, history proves that, in a particular state of society, it has rendered splendid services, nay, under certain circumstances, it has proved the only institution which is able to prevent the disruption of the State and the extinction of the community.

"Khaer Khwahi Islam" asks, "Does Mr. Ahmed mean to say that there was no territorial aristocracy during the Mahomedan rule?" Yes, I do mean to say so. An aristocracy does not mean the individuals who at any particular time hold landed property; it means an hereditary aristocracy strong from long and prescriptive possession, strong in the affections of its tenantry and retainers, strong from the remembrance of great and honourable traditions. Such an aristocracy we never had. Neither the Mahomedan law nor the law of primogeniture applied to the *jaigirs* and *taluqs* of which he speaks. They were held at the mere caprice and were at the absolute disposal of the sovereign, and each bestowed them upon his own adherents, so that they were never held by a family for even 2 or 3 generations. The Oudh Taluqdars to whom "Khaer Khwahi Islam" refers, are the families who were found in possession of landed property when Oudh was annexed or after the mutiny of 1857-58 had been put down. The Mahomedan Taluqdars are not old families, and they have continued to this day not by the operation of the Mahomedan law of succession but by the operation of the Oudh Taluqdars' Act passed on their behalf by an alien Government. The proportion of Mahomedans in Oudh is very small compared with their number in Bengal, but the Mahomedans of Oudh do not only hold their own against the Hindus of the Province, but hold a position of very considerable influence. The reason is that the Mahomedans of Oudh have a territorial aristocracy.

The "Muslim Chronicle" says that laws and institutions which once made us great cannot be at fault, and a "Shamsul Olema" says that if there were any inherent defects in the Mahomedan laws and institutions the Mahomedan race could not have attained to the greatness and prosperity which they enjoyed in the palmy days of Islamic supremacy in Asia, Africa and Europe. He might with equal plausibility say that, as the Arabs gained their supremacy and greatness under a system of absolute monarchy and that as they were never without the law of polygamy or the institutions of slavery absolute monarchy, polygamy and slavery must be good for all times. I might with equal justice retort that there are inherent defects in our social and political organisation and in our laws and institutions—because, while in possession of them, we have come down to our present condition—when Turkey is unable to govern and is being shorn of province after province, when Algeria, Egypt and Bokhara and Samarkand are under the rule of Christian foreigners, when Persia is unable to introduce the simplest reforms, and when, as Mr. Yakuuddin says, "the word 'Musalman' has become a byword of reproach in the land" of Bengal.

The waters of the Sone increased, at the beginning, the produce of the land irrigated therefrom, but it has since been found that

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the productive powers have diminished and the soil has deteriorated. Would you say that the produce of land having once increased from the irrigation, there cannot be any defect in the water of the Sone? Nations and communities decline, because at the proper time they fail to make the necessary changes in their social and political organization, and the very same laws and institutions, which at the outset led them forward in the march of civilization, impair after a time and deteriorate their character, paralyze their efforts, and make them sleep the sleep of lethargy.

The "Moslem Chronicle" believes that it is the want of leaders that prevents our progress. Does he mean to say that there may be leaders without any definite purpose to which to lead the community? You cannot expect a leader to arise when the great majority of the community has no notion how to arrest the decline in the condition of the Mahomedans of Bengal; nor can any man become a leader unless he has got a clear conception of what ought to be done, and no man in our society has had any such conviction. There is a superstition that Government employment is the panacea for all our evils. But only an infinitesimal portion of a community can ever hope to enter the service of the State, and it will be a serious calamity to a community if it comes to look upon Government employment as the principal aim of life. There is a strong notion prevailing at this moment that education is the thing which will tend to improve our social and political condition. It is a well founded idea, but why cannot we get educated? There are colleges at all large centres, there are schools in all districts and in many sub-divisions; there are seminaries for children also everywhere. Why then do you not get your education? Simply because you are poor and cannot afford to get it; and yet there are men who hold that the Mahomedan should never strive after the riches of this world!

"Khaer Khwahi Islam" says, "if Mahomedans are indifferent to the acquisition of education it is surely no fault of Islam that they are so." I have never maintained any such doctrine. The fact is, that he and I differ in the use of the word "Islam." I mean by Islam the religious and moral truths which are for all times and all climes, while he includes in it the laws and institutions established for the government of the Arab people. He blames "the people because they do not follow the teachings of Islam," and asks "How can then character be perfect when they do not observe their religious teachings?" I should like to ask him why they do not observe their religious teachings? To what does he ascribe this defect in the character of the Mahomedans of Bengal and of India?

It is doubtful whether the Mahomedan community have any definite conception of what progress means. The rise of religious schism indicates that the community has life and vigour but the majority even of educated Moslems desire that the Ferazis of Eastern Bengal or the nonconformists of the North-West should be put down and extinguished; they have no idea that intellectual activity must be followed by religious schism. At any rate, there can arise no leader without earnestness of purpose and a man cannot be earnest unless he is thoroughly convinced. When we form an accurate conception of what ought to be done, when we are fully convinced that it must be done, when we have a clear and definite aim, there will appear a practical leader in the fullness of time to carry us on to work.

In a country where the democratic form of government prevails, leaders spring up from all classes and all sections of the people, from landholders and husbanders, from merchants and traders, and even from artisans and workmen. But amongst a people who are comparatively at an early stage of civilization, leaders do not arise from the ranks of the lower orders or even from amongst the educated classes, but appear in the body of the landed aristocracy. Leaders who rise in this body or have the support of this body are the natural leaders of the people, and we should all urge our influence to resuscitate the Moslem aristocracy rather than seek for impossible leaders. The "Moslem Chronicle" bewails the intellectual torpor of the Mahomedans of Bengal. Given the conditions of our society, intellectual torpor must be the consequence. Intellectual activity presupposes the existence of a leisured class; and a leisured class does not exist amongst us in Bengal, for such a class cannot exist in a community which does not possess wealth.

The government of a country by an alien race is an abnormal state of affairs, and the government of India is in the hands of a people whose social and political discipline is far in advance of that of all the communities comprising India. In such a state of affairs, a Surendra Nath, an Omesh Chandra, or an Ananda Mohan may wield considerable power, but they possess this power only because they have at their back the influence and support of a large and powerful body of landholders. It is needless to repeat that wealth is power and landed property is the only durable form of wealth, and the Moslem community cannot have landed property without the right of preventing minute subdivisions or without the right of making testamentary dispositions. It is necessary therefore that we should modify our laws of inheritance.

"A Behari Mosalman" has quoted, "This day I have made your religion perfect" and "you are more aware of your worldly af-

fairs than I am." I may be permitted to ask if matters of inheritance and marriage and slavery are not worldly affairs. Imam Gazzali says, "Religious knowledge is knowledge which can be obtained only through revelation by means of prophets; it cannot be acquired like mathematics by means of the intellect; it cannot be acquired like medicine by means of experience and experiment; it cannot be acquired like language and idioms by means of hearsay and traditions." If the Hindus, the Parsis, the Greeks and the Romans could find their own laws, and if the Russian, the German, the English and the French have been able to establish their own institutions, there is no ground for supposing that the development of laws or the evolution of institutions are transcendental to the reason of man.

The great mistake in the constitution of Moslem society is that we have taken laws to be intended for all ages and all countries when they were meant only for the early ages of Islam and for Arabic-speaking countries. "A Shamsul Olema" says, "It should be borne in mind that to a true Mahomedan, Islam is a perfect religion.....and that its laws and institutions.....are immutable." "An Indian Mosalman" says, "In all discussions on subjects which concern the followers of Islam, the first point to bear in mind is that our social and religious laws are not separate; any attempt to separate them is sure to end in failure, and the person who should wish to do so would not be a reformer but a destroyer."

Let these gentlemen take heed that unless we succeed in distinguishing between the obligation to believe in religious and moral truths and the obligation to believe in the propriety of civil and political laws, a general, hopeless and irretrievable ruin will overtake our community in India.

STRONG ENGLISH WORDS.

WHEN a person says "I suffered excruciating pain," he expresses a fact in the strongest words afforded by the English language. The word "excruciating" comes from *cruz*, a cross, and signifies an intensity of agony comparable only to that endured by one who undergoes the barbarous punishment of crucifixion. There are some diseases which, for a time, cause pain of this acute and formidable nature. To find a relief for it, when possible, is at once the impulse of humanity and the studious desire of science. Two brief examples may indicate what success is attending the effort to both comfort and cure cases of this kind.

"Nearly all my life," writes an intelligent woman, "I have borne the burden of what appeared to be incurable illness. I always felt heavy, weary, and tired. My appetite was poor, and after eating I had a *cruel pain* at my chest and between the shoulders. Frequently the pain was so intense that I was impelled to loose my clothing and walk about the room. My nerves were disordered and irritable, and I was, consequently, easily disquieted and upset. My sleep was habitually bad, and I seemed none the better for spending a night in bed. Eating but little my strength waned of necessity, and I came to be very weak. For a long time I got about feebly and with difficulty."

"In August, 1887, I had an attack of rheumatic gout, which gave me the most harrowing experience of my life. The complaint took its usual course and refused to yield to the ordinary treatment. Through the partial failure of the liver and kidneys dropsy set in and my legs and feet became puffed and swollen. I suffered *excruciating pain* and was confined to my bed for *thirteen weeks*. Remedies of every description were tried but to little purpose."

"My brother, visiting me one day, said he had been cured of an attack of dropsy by a medicine called Mother Seigel's Syrup. I got a bottle from Mr. H-went, the chemist, in Seven Sisters' Road, and after taking it felt a trifle easier. I continued taking it, and soon the pain and swelling abated. I could eat without pain or inconvenience, and by a few weeks' further use of the Syrup I was not only free from any local ailment, but felt better than I ever did in my life before. Since then I have enjoyed continuous good health, taking a dose of Mother Seigel's Syrup occasionally for some transient indisposition. You are at liberty to publish my letter. (Signed) (Mrs.) Elizabeth Rogers, 42, Plevna Road, South Tottenham, London, September 13th, 1895."

"In January, 1892," writes another, "I had an attack of influenza, and was confined to my bed for *eighteen weeks* thereafter. Subsequently I was very weak, and could get up no strength. What little food I forced down (having no appetite) gave me *excruciating pain* so that I was afraid to eat. I came to be exceedingly weak and had frequent attacks of dizziness. I was worn almost to a skeleton, and none thought I would recover."

"In June, 1892, Mr. Smith, a friend of ours, recommended me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup, which I at once procured of Mr. George Coombs, the chemist in Hucknall. After taking it for only one week I felt greatly benefited. I could eat better, and food agreed with me. Continuing with the Syrup I grew stronger and stronger, and soon felt even better than before I was attacked by the influenza. You are free to print this statement if you wish to do so. (Signed) (Mrs.) Ruth Halliday, 44, High Street, Hucknall Torkard, Nottingham, March 19th, 1895."

Intense pain may or may not indicate urgent danger to life, but it is hard to bear, and very exhausting just the same. In cases of rheumatic gout (Mrs. Rogers) the pain is caused by a poisonous acid in the tissues, originally produced by the decomposition of food in the stomach—indigestion or dyspepsia. The same poison acting on the liver and kidneys creates the other symptoms mentioned. In the case of Mrs. Halliday the ailment was dyspepsia, which in the first place invited influenza, and then remained to torment her.

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The form the Memorial should take was left to the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 751.

SONNETS.

I.

TO OCTOBER.

OF all the months which variegates the year
I love this month the best ; for as aware
That Winter soon will come to strip her bare,
Nature with pensive gait approaches near
The confines of her taskmaster severe,
No longer panting in the Summer air,
Wreathing her face with smiles ; but not less fair,
Tho' deeper shades are darkening round her sphere—
Ah ! would that this sweet month with longer stride
Would take a wider range of fleeting time,
Or that the star which o'er it doth preside
Were fixed forever in ascendance prime,
Then would no meaner cares our hearts divide,
Nor poets sigh for a more genial clime.

II.

England ! thou still art strong ; where'er I look
Watching the aspect of thy lowering sky ;
An earnest speaks in many a kindling eye,
Of hope and power that will not tamely brook
To see thy harvest fall before the hook
Of traitors that unseen in ambush lie
With wolf-like hunger and with jickal cry,
Gathering for murderous ends in shades forsook.
Who fears for England while that heart still beats
Which quailed not at Napoleon I while a head
Still sways our councils, called from fiction's heats
To noble triumphs ; while Truth's light is shed
From her pure altars ; and while Heaven takes part
With her who reigns in every Briton's heart.

III.

The voice of that eternal ditty sings
Humming of future things.—CLARE.
A voice came to me from the fields of sleep,
A mournful voice, as of a troubled wind
Seeking for something which it could not find,
And always restless. Thus it spoke—"I sweep
On, on forever ; but no purpose reap ;
I coast the skirts of heaven, but still am blind
I see no goal before me or behind,
No barrier meets me in that unknown deep—
Yet am I baffled." Words like these methought
Were uttered to my soul, and it replied—
"Oh, wandering echo of all hearts I be taught
An humbling lesson. Here with me abide,
Till I, like thee, can wander, and the while
We may with song the weary hours beguile."

B. B. FELTERS.

WEEKLYANA.

THE Vicerny returns to Calcutta on Thursday, the 10th December. The arrival will be public. In our advertisement column will be found the Military Secretary's notification on the subject.

THE largest medical library is to be found in Paris. The Surgeon-General's Library of Washington is the second in number. The next is the Library of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Philadelphia. There is no public library—medical or other—properly speaking, in Calcutta. The Public Library, established to signalize the freeing of the Press from despotic regulations, in honour of the deliverer, Metcalfe, instead of developing, is dwindling into decay and nothingness.

PUCK will put a girdle round about the earth in forty minutes. The present ingenuity of man cannot accomplish the feat, that is, he cannot travel round the world in less than 66 days. Thus : New York to Southampton by steamer, 6 days ; Southampton to Brindisi, *via* Paris, 3½ days ; Brindisi to Yokohama, *via* Suez, Red Sea, &c., 42 days ; Yokohama to San Francisco, sea, 10 days ; and San Francisco to New York, rail, 4½. Prince Heilkoff, Minister of Ways and Transportation of Russia, is, however, prepared to do the same round in much less time, in 33 days, if not in as many minutes. After the completion of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, at the present rates of fast ships and trains, the Prince calculates that the time and course of the travel will be : New York to Bremen, 7 days by steamer ; Bremen to St. Petersburg, 1½ day by rail ; St. Petersburg to Vladivostock (30 miles an hour) by rail, 10 days ; Vladivostock to San Francisco, *via* Hokodate Straits (Japan), by steamer, 10 days ; San Francisco to New York, by rail, 4½ days.

THE collection by the Lord Mayor of London in aid of the distress occasioned by the tidal wave in Japan, amounted to £3,895.

THE rage in the Court of Lisbon is—against the corset. After a special study of medicine in consequence of the obesity of the king, the beautiful Queen Marie Amelie of Portugal denounces the corset as the cause of half the ailments of women. She not only preaches but also practices the doctrine—"Down with the corset." Her words though listened to in silence have not been followed by Portuguese belles. What her words have failed to accomplish, Röntgen's rays have done—by exposing the extraordinary deformities caused by tight lacing.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Lancet* who assisted at a large bazaar by holding a small Röntgen Ray Gallery, gives his experiences thus :

"No. 1. An elderly gentleman of prosperous appearance, after examining the unique collection and absorbing a brief *résumé* of x-rayism, objected that the show was not 'up to date,' as he had 'read somewhere in a newspaper that now you can see the liver palpitating and the heart circulating.'"

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPF, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

No. 2. Two elderly ladies entered the small room and, solemnly seating themselves, requested me to close and fasten the door. Upon my complying they said they wished 'to see each other's bones,' but I was 'not to expose them below the waistline,' each wishing to view the apparently dismantled osseous structure of her friend first!

No. 3. A young and anxious mother asked me to see if her little boy had really swallowed a threepenny-bit, as he was uncertain himself. She had read in the papers that a great doctor, Sir Something Blister (fact), in a speech in a large meeting in Liverpool a little while ago, said that a halfpenny had been seen in a boy's 'sarcophagus'!

No. 4. A young girl, of the domestic servant class, taking advantage of her opportunity, as she thought, and my sex, asked me in confidence if I would 'look through her young man unbeknown to him, while he looked at the pictures, to see if he was quite healthy in his internals.'

No. 5. When showing a photograph of the invisible spectrum and mentioning the fact that the mystic x rays, owing to their enormous vibration frequency, should take their position far above the ultra-violets, whereas in reality they have a place in the prismatic spectrum as infra-infra red, one dignified dame remarked, 'I don't wonder they call them *infra dig.* rays when they penetrate even one's most intimately protective apparel.'

A REPORT by Sir Ernest Satow from Tokio gives the following information on the foreign trade of Japan during the first half of the current year:—

"Since the war with China, Japan has been pursuing the twofold object of becoming a strong military Power and a great commercial country. With that intent she is making a large, if not a lavish, outlay upon national defence, the development of home manufacturing industries, and the purchase abroad of raw material for their consumption, as well as upon the extension of the railway system and the encouragement of navigation. The foreign trade for the first half of 1896, says Sir Ernest, has been marked by an abnormally large importation of raw and semi-raw material, and Japan has actually paid the outer world for her half-year's purchase no less a sum than 190,868½. Great Britain and her dependencies—British India, Hong Kong, Australia, and Canada—now enjoy the lion's share of the trade of Japan. The growth of imports and the shrinkage of exports, Sir Ernest tells us, have had the effect of reversing the relative positions hitherto of Great Britain and the United States. The share taken by the latter in Japan's foreign trade for the half-year is only one-seventh, while that of Great Britain amounts to nearly one-quarter, and that of the British Empire to over forty-six per cent. of the whole. The most remarkable development is the advance of British Indian imports, which have risen from 12,000,000 dol. for the whole of 1895 to more than 13,000,000 dol. for the first half only of 1896. Sir Ernest Satow anticipates a large demand for railway material, and mentions that one British firm now holds an order for the supply of as many as seventy-two locomotives. Great Britain has a largely predominating share in the supply of steel rails to the Japanese, but Germany holds first place as regards iron rails and wire. But the Japanese are going to develop their own iron resources, and an appropriation of more than 4,000,000 dol. has been passed for the purpose. They have one mine already which produces 16,000 tons of iron annually. The services of two foreign experts are to be engaged, and twelve foreigners are also to be attached as foremen to the national foundry. Japanese experts are now travelling abroad to study methods and purchase plant."

AT Bow Street, before Mr. Lushington, two firemen of the Metropolitan Street station were convicted of behaving in an idle and disorderly manner in Trafalgar Square and bound over in their own recognisances in 5l. to be of good behaviour for one month. Their offence was climbing up Nelson's column. They were walking through Trafalgar Square and finding the ladders in position and the steeplejacks at work,

"Shall we go up?" said one. "Yes, let's," said the other. And up they went.

The steeplejacks had just descended, and the path leading to cloud-land was clear. One took the ladder on the east, the other that on the west, and confidently, with the sure step of the expert, they began mounting. By the time they had gained the base their action had attracted a great many people, and a crowd gathered faster and faster in the square as they commenced the perpendicular climb.

"Didn't you get giddy?" asked a reporter, who met them soon after they had left the police court.

"Lor' bless you, no. There was nothing to make you giddy. It was no more difficult than going up a ladder on the side of a house. All you want is confidence, eh, Frank?"

"That's all. Confidence."

They climbed on to the parapet, and stood by the side of the hero of Trafalgar. This did not satisfy them, for there was a ladder reaching some twelve or fourteen feet from the great man's boots to his cocked hat, and they could not resist the temptation it offered. They ascended, and Maysey proceeded to sit on the Admiral's head. His friend, standing on the ladder, shook hands with him, and with one accord they exclaimed, "We're up!" The question in the mind of the crowd below was how were they going to get down. Somebody proposed that the steeplejacks should be sent to fetch them. There was no need, however, for this amiable proposition to be carried out, for as skilfully and leisurely as they had gone up, so leisurely and skilfully they came down."

Up in heaven, the two friends inspected the Admiral's quarters and found only "a lump of cement in his hat, and a lump of cement on his sword." They were punished perhaps for their foolhardiness, but for the confidence and courage they exhibited were they not worthy of

praise? Or, was it the indignity offered by them to the great hero that brought on them disgrace?

THE Home Department of the Government of India have published the information:—

"It has been reported to the Board of Health, Constantinople, that the distilling apparatus for the provision of water for the lazaret at Camaran is in operation, and that the quality of its waters is excellent after filtration. The apparatus is capable of affording fifty tons of water in twenty-four hours."

THE District Board of Dacca having appointed Babu Kimini Kumar Sam, a passed B. A. and plucked M. A., as Sub-Inspector of Schools in place of his deceased father, an enquiry was made whether a Mahomedan could not be found for the post, as there is no Musalman Sub-Inspector in the Musalman district. It was found that there were 20 members of the Board present, four of them being Musalmans. No Musalman was proposed and a Musalman seconded the Hindu, who was appointed by an overwhelming majority. Not only there was no Mahomedan candidate but no efforts were made to secure one. The matter has been made the subject of a special report and the Commissioner of the Division concludes it with the words: "The remark made by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in his speech at Dacca to the Mahomedan community on 31st July 1896, 'if they want Government to help them, they must help themselves,' is well illustrated by the proceedings above described."

AT the last half-yearly meeting of the Bengal Bonded Warehouse Association, only one-third dozen proprietors were present and one of them represented another dozen. There were 6 resolutions proposed and seconded. The Chairman himself proposed two of them. The proxy of the 12, for himself and for one of his principals, took part in four of the resolutions. We believe, it would be within the law, if one proprietor, representing all others, held the meeting, presided at it, proposed, seconded and carried all the resolutions and declared a dividend.

THE subjects fixed by the Reception Committee for discussion at the next Congress to be held in this city, are:—

- (1) Congratulations to Her Majesty on having completed the sixteenth year of her reign.
- (2) Constitution of the Congress.
- (3) Scarcity throughout India, and the necessity of restoring the Famine Insurance Fund to its original position.
- (4) Re-adjustment of provincial contracts and better terms to the various Provinces.
- (5) Poverty.
- (6) Separation of Judicial and Executive functions.
- (7) Simultaneous Examinations.
- (8) University reform.
- (9) Reorganisation of Education service which virtually excludes natives of India from the higher grades of the Education Service.
- (10) Legislative Councils, constitution, and rules. Interpellation and the right of dividing the Council on any question arising out of the Budget.
- (11) The Jury question.
- (12) The Medical Service.
- (13) Indians in South Africa.
- (14) Omnibus.

The formal resolutions at the close.

The Congress *pandal* is being erected in Beadon Square. Whatever the reasons that might have driven the Committee to the questionable quarter, the construction is a vandalism which should not have been allowed. We wonder how the Calcutta Corporation could agree to the spoliation of the Square. The rebuke administered by Sir Alexander Mackenzie to the Municipal Commissioners at the laying of the foundation stone of the new drainage works at Palmer's Bridge, Entally, seems not to have been unmerited.

KAVIRAJ N. N. Sen's present, the Ayurvedic Pharmacy sheet almanac for 1897, is welcome. With the pictorial representations of youth and age, it vividly reminds us that we are about to close one year and to begin a new.

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noses in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,
OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH
OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

A SEMI-OFFICIAL Note issued in Paris states that M. Cambon, jointly with the other Ambassadors at Constantinople, continues to press vigorously for the fulfilment of the Sultan's promises. A European Commission is about to start for Crete to reorganize the gendarmerie. The Porte has instructed the Commander in Crete to co-operate loyally with the Governor.

DURING the debate in the French Chamber on the Foreign Estimates, M. Hanotaux was asked to define the relations existing with Russia. In reply, he declared that it was not expedient to supplement the precise statements that had been made by the Tsar and President Faure, regarding the entente, the existence of which was undeniable. Referring to Egypt, he said France had abandoned none of her claims in that quarter. France was not now alone, but was supported by a friendly nation.

Russia has rejected the proposal made by France to establish an international control over the Turkish finance similar to the Egyptian system. An inspired article in the *Viedomosti* says that Russia's policy is to reduce Turkey to a complete dependence. The *Neue Freie Press* states that Russia is opposed to an international control over the Turkish finances because she does not wish Great Britain to co-operate at a moment when the reopening of the Egyptian question is perhaps imminent.

The *Times* Vienna correspondent says that the Powers forming the Triple Alliance were never less disposed than at present to raise the Egyptian question.

FIFTEEN Mahomedans belonging to the Naval College at Constantinople have been arrested for being implicated in the Young Turkey agitation.

THE Bismarckian organ, *Hamburger Nachrichten*, still continues its Anglophobe campaign, and says that England wishes to England (*sic*) universal war, and does everything to cause an open conflict between the Mahomedan and Christian Worlds through the Armenian conflagration at Constantinople.

THE Egyptian Budget for 1897 shows a surplus of only £5,000, as it has been decided henceforth to exclude sums going to the general reserve fund and the conversion economies fund, since Government is not free to dispose of these funds.

Government believes that it will be able to meet the annual expenses of Dongola Province without disturbing the financial equilibrium. The Army is to be increased by four battalions of Infantry, two Squadrons of Cavalry, and a battery of Artillery, Dongola Province bearing the cost.

THE *Times* Rome correspondent states that Italy has decided not to preserve Erythria as a military colony, but the form of government will not be settled until the country has expressed an opinion thereon, and no plan will be adopted before consulting England. Massowah and Kussala, if evacuated, will be restored to Egypt. An agitation has commenced throughout Italy in favour of a total and speedy evacuation of Erythria.

THE West Indian Colonies have made urgent representations to Government regarding the critical position of the sugar industry. Government is considering the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry into the matter. Mauritius has joined the representations.

EIGHT THOUSAND Hamburg dock labourers have struck work. This is evidently an attempt to effect an international strike, for which an agitation has been carried on for some time. The strike has extended to Bremen. The Seamen's Union of London has resolved not to discharge Hamburg vessels.

THE Lord Mayor of London intimates that he will open a National Relief Fund for the Indian famine the moment the Indian authorities apprise him of the necessity for such a step.

CAPTAIN Morjan, an officer in the German Army, is going to the Soudan in a private capacity to study the Dongola campaign. He had an audience on Nov. 23 of the Emperor, who sent his greetings to Sir Herbert Kitchener.

IT is expected that there will be an extra Session of Congress after Mr. McKinley is installed to consider the question of increase in the American tariff.

A NUMBER of Korean officers have been arrested for plotting to seize the King and force him to return to the Palace. Three Russian officers and eighty seamen with a field gun have entered Seoul.

JAPAN is sending a warship to the Philippines owing to disturbing news from that quarter. It is reported that the rebels have won a battle, and an attack on Manila is feared. The British Consul at Manila and the Government of Hongkong are constantly exchanging telegrams respecting the state of affairs at the Philippines. Her Majesty's ship *Pique* has been ordered to join the *Daphne* at Manila.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* states that Government intends to increase the war estimates by several millions, to complete the re-arming of Artillery, to form several new battalions, and reorganize transport.

DR. Jameson is unable to sleep without narcotics and is suffering severe pain.

GREAT activity prevailed in Arctic exploration during the first half of the century. In 1818 Sir John Ross explored Baffin Bay, and Buchan endeavoured to penetrate to the north of Spitzbergen. In 1819-25 Parry explored Lancaster Sound and the islands to which it gives access, including Melville Peninsula, and also tried to pass through Hudson's Bay. In 1823 Clavering reached the east coast of Greenland in 76° N. latitude. In 1827 Parry reached 82°43' N. latitude to the north of Spitzbergen. In 1829-32 James Ross was on the Boothia Peninsula, and discovered the Magnetic Pole. On the main land in 1819-23, Franklin, Richardson and Back were exploring the coast from the Coppermine River. In 1833 Back was similarly engaged. In 1837-39 Dease and Simpson and, ten years later, Rae, contributed to the knowledge of this coast and of the opposite islands. To Rae is also due the geography of the region round Repulse Bay. In 1845 Franklin's ill-fated expedition in the *Erebus* and *Terror* sailed to find out the North-West Passage, and was lost on the South of King William's Island. For ten years, many expeditions were sent out to discover traces of Franklin, they found not only the fate of Franklin and his men, but many new coasts and new islands to the north of America. One of these expeditions under McClure actually completed the North-West Passage. In 1853-55 and 1860-61, Kane and Hayes pushed northward in the Smith Sound direction, and in 1871 Hill succeeded in reaching 82°16'. In 1857, the Swedes began to send scientific expeditions to Spitzbergen; these were continued for years, latterly under the direction of Baron Nordenskjöld, and have added greatly to our knowledge of Spitzbergen and of the seas and islands around. In 1875-76 the baron penetrated through the Kara Sea to the Yensie, and in 1878-79 he succeeded in sailing along the north coast of Asia and Europe and so accomplishing the North-East Passage. In 1859-70 Koldewey wintered on the east coast of Greenland, and reached 77° N. lat. In 1872-74 Payer and Weyprecht, sailing to the north-east of Novaia Zemlia, discovered Franz Josef Land, since further explored by Leigh Smith. Under Nares, the *Alert* and the *Discovery* were sent out by Smith Sound by the British Government in 1875. He wintered in Lady Franklin Bay 82°27' N., explored the north coasts of Greenland and Grinnell Land, while Captain Markham succeeded in pushing as far north as 83°20'26'. Since then Greeley (1881-85), in command of a United States expedition, wintered in Lady Franklin's Bay, explored the interior of Grinnell Land and the north coast of Greenland, one party reaching a mile or two beyond Markham's. In Greenland itself, Nordenskjöld, in 1883, succeeded in penetrating about 150 miles across the

travelling to the South of Disco. A year or two later, Peary went inland for about 100 miles, while, in 1888, Nansen crossed from the east to the west coast in the Southern part of Greenland. Early in the century Lütke explored Novaia Zemlin, and in more recent years English and Russian expeditions have added to our knowledge of these islands. In 1805 Sannikof discovered the New Siberian and other islands. In 1820-25 Wrangell explored the north coast of Asia and Kamchatka. In 1877 Finsch and Brehm led an expedition from the Chinese border across Siberia to the Kara Sea. A recent expedition under Bunge and Toll, stationed at the mouth of the Lena for several years, made valuable contributions to the geography of the coast, and especially the New Siberian Islands. In his second venture, Nansen, on April 7, 1895, found himself in the highest latitude yet reached—86°14' north, distant 261-5/6 miles from the Pole.

No rain having fallen during what are known as the Hathi and Siwati asterisms, that is, from the 25th September to the 10th October and from the 22nd October to the 5th November, the Bengal Government made, on November 18, its report, in conformity with section 9 of the Famine Code, giving the earliest intimation of possible distress in Bengal generally and in Bihar in particular. From the papers circulated by the Bengal Government, we make the following analysis of rainfall and price of food grains in the Bengal districts:

BURDWAN.—Normal Rainfall 54·36 inches, in 1896, 43·90 inches; common rice 15 seers per rupee, prospect of winter rice 9 annas; in famine of 1874 relief was given.

BIRBHUM.—R. 56·50, 1896, 40·73; rice 15, prospect 9½; famine in 1874, relief opened.

BANKURA.—R. 56·14, 1896-45·02; rice 14½, p. 9; famine 1874, relief.

MIDNAPUR.—R. 60·33, 1896-55·32; rice 14, p. 8; famine 1874.

HOOGHLY.—R. 57·25, 1896-49·86; rice 13, p. 8; famine 1874, relief.

24-PARGANAS.—R. 62·02, 1896-54·48; rice 14, p. 9½; famine 1874.

NADIA.—R. 56·83, 1896-40·65; rice 16, p. 2½; famine 1874, relief.

MURSHIDABAD.—R. 53·97, 1896-23·50; rice 14, p. 7; f. 1874, relief.

JESSORE.—R. 59·20, 1896-55·31; rice 20, p. 1½

KHULNA.—R. 74·85, 1896-48·65; rice 17, p. 10.

RAJSHAHI.—R. 56·02, 1896-31·07; rice 18, p. 6; famine 1874, relief.

DINAJPUR.—R. 62·73, 1896-44·17; rice 14½, p. 10; f. 1873-74, relief.

JALPAIGURI.—R. 122·06, 1896-54·74; rice 16, p. 7½; f. 1874, relief.

DARJEELING.—R. 137·19, 1896-103·19; rice 9, p. 8; f. 1873-74, relief.

RANGPUR.—R. 82·56, 1896-74·66; rice 12, p. 10; famine 1874, relief.

BOORA.—R. 64·55, 1896-53·17; rice 15, p. 12; famine 1874, relief; scarcity 1888.

PABNA.—R. 61·30, 1896-42·81; rice 15, p. 5; famine 1874, relief.

DACCA.—R. 72·23, 1896-57·08; rice 15, p. 7½

MYMENSING.—R. 86·08, 1896-50·29; rice 17, p. 7.

FARIDPUR.—R. 65·45, 1896-45·42; rice 20, p. 8.

BACKERGUNGE.—R. 82·36, 1896-60·81; rice 15, p. 10.

TIPPERA.—R. 76·91, 1896-10·65; rice 20, p. 10.

NOAKHALI.—R. 115·13, 1896-87·23; rice 18, p. 8.

CHITTAGONG.—R. 111·50, 1896-73·19; rice 22, p. 11.

PATNA.—R. 52·86, 1896-30·70; rice 13, p. 10.

GAYA.—R. 43·20, 1896-33·89, rice 12, p. 8; famine 1873-74, 1888-89, relief; scarcity 1891-92.

SHAHABAD.—R. 41·91, 1896-29·47; rice 12, p. 4; famine 1873-74, relief; scarcity 1888-89, 1891-92.

SARAN.—R. 40·56, 1896-22·32; rice 12, p. 1; famine 1873-74, relief; scarcity, 1889 and 1892.

CHAMPARAN.—R. 49·55, 1896-27·94; rice 15, p. 3; famine 1873-74, 1888-89, relief; scarcity 1891-92.

MUZAFFARPUR.—R. 46·15, 1896-34·26; rice 16, p. 3; famine 1873-74, 1875-76, 1888-89, 1891-92, relief.

DARBHANGA.—R. 47·37, 1896-37·94; rice 12, p. 5; famine 1873-74, 1875-76, 1888-89, relief.

MONGHYR.—R. 45·30, 1896-41·73; rice 13½, p. 8; famine 1873-74, 1892, relief; scarcity 1888-89.

BHAGALPUR.—R. 48·91, 1896-37·53; rice 13, p. 8½; famine 1873-74, 1889, 1892, relief.

PURNEA.—R. 63·95, 1896-37·12; rice 11, p. 8; famine 1873-74, 1892, relief; scarcity 1889.

MALDA.—R. 53·42, 1896-43·88; rice 10, p. 4; famine 1873-74, relief.

SOUTHAL PARGANAS.—R. 52·35, 1896-16·70; rice 12, p. 8; famine 1874, relief; scarcity 1889.

CUTTUCK.—R. 59·77, 1896-58·16; rice 36, p. 7.

BALASORE.—R. 60·02, 1896-61·66; rice 24, p. 6; scarcity 1889.

PURI.—R. 58·91, 1896-48·02; rice 33, p. 9; scarcity 1888-89.

HAZARIBAGH.—R. 52·91, 1896-50·35; rice 13, p. 7; famine 1874, relief.

LOHARDAGA.—R. 62·41, 1896-43·98; rice 15, p. 8; scarcity 1873-74.

PALAMAU.—R. 49·31, 1896-32·71; rice, 7, p. 6; famine 1874, relief; scarcity 1889.

MANBHUM.—R. 53·37, 1896-38·71; rice 11, p. 6; famine 1874, relief.

SINGHBHUM.—R. 53·98, 1896-63·32; rice 12; famine 1874, relief.

FROM these figures, it will be seen that great distress prevails, and perhaps will grow in certain districts of Behar, in Shahabad, Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga.

The prospect of winter rice is bad in Nadia, Jessore, Rajshahi, Pabna and Malda.

In Orissa, the winter rice is hopeful, though Balasore is suffering from the effects of the late inundation and extra normal rainfall.

The districts of heavy rainfall are Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Noakhali and Chittagong; of medium rainfall are Burdwan, Birbhun, Bankura, Midnapur, Hooghly, the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Jessore, Khulna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, Dacca, Mymensing, Faridpur, Backergunge, Tippera, Patna, Purnea, Malda, the South Parganas, Cuttuck, Balasore, Puri, Hazaribagh, Lohardaga, Manbhun and Singhbhum; of least rainfall are Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Palamau.

Monsoon generally prevails over the whole of Bengal and Orissa excepting portions of Bihar where the sea breeze cannot reach.

IT is to be remarked that the *aus* rice crop is of greater consumption than the *aman* crop in Nadia, and this, perhaps, is a singular instance. The outturn of the former has been calculated at 8 annas, and of the latter at 2½ annas. Believing it to be an incorrect estimate, a special report has been called for.

The famine of 1874 was felt in almost all the districts of Bengal and Behar, excepting Jessore, Khulna, Dacca, Mymensing, Dacca, Faridpur, Backerganj, Tippera and Patna. In Behar, there were famines and scarcities in 1889 and 1892 and, excepting Patna, none of the districts escaped. In Orissa, the Balasore and Puri districts suffered from scarcity, but Cuttuck escaped. There has been no famine in that division after 1866, when the Governor danced when people died of hunger.

SINCE then, a better system to meet famine has been adopted, and we have now a regular famine code. The first indication of failure of harvest or scarcity is being regularly published and circulated. Preparations are making for relief measures.

Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, Commissioner of the Patna Division, writes: "After full consideration I have decided that the time has come for declaring scarcity to be prevalent and for submitting this report, because although there are so far no signs of distress among the mass of the population, yet grain is already at famine prices almost everywhere, and it follows that all those who have to purchase grain for their daily consumption must already be greatly straitened."

Mr. R. C. Dutt, Commissioner of the Orissa Division, says:—"The Collector believes there are still considerable stocks of rice in the district (Cuttack) though the exportation since the last cold season has been continuous and almost phenomenal. But the mahajans and big zemindars are now chary in parting with it, and hence there is difficulty sometimes in getting rice in the market and the prices are high."

Mr. Dutt complains of the high rates of irrigation in comparison with that levied for the Eden Canal of Burdwan.

Mr. M. Finucane, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, instructs the Commissioner of the Patna Division thus:—"You will observe that a sum of Rs. 34,000 is now available in the hands of the Bengal Distress Relief Committee which was formed in Calcutta in 1888, and His Honour proposes after consulting you at Sonapore, to ask the committee to place at your disposal so much of the amount as may be required at present and in the immediate future for distribution in charitable relief."

THE following letter dated the 19th November from our correspondent in the Balasore district, was received too late for the last number :

"The rayyets are reaping their winter harvests, but the price of rice is still stationary. There is no tendency to any fall. Owing to a rumour, originating with traders in the article, that the import of salt has been prohibited, its price has gone up to 4 annas a seer. Salt would formerly be prepared on the coasts of Orissa and people would get it at 1 anna per seer. You may conceive the inconvenience they are put to now for such an exorbitant price at this time of difficulty.

In order to find work, starving people are setting fire to the dwellings of their rich neighbours to find themselves employed in the reconstruction of the burnt houses. Both the District Magistrate and the Sub-Divisional Officer of Bhuddruck are on tour. At present they are inspecting the places suffering most from want of rain and are expected to come to Basdehpur in a week.

On the 22nd November, he writes :—

"On Friday last, Mr. Thompson, the Assistant Settlement Officer, was at Ancoora and inspected the local office at Eron. The manager of the Mullicks' estate representing to him the sad condition of the rayyets, Mr. Thompson promised to report the matter to the higher authority. It is expected the settlement operations will be abandoned for the present. The condition of the rayyets is becoming worse daily. Reports from Verah are distressing. Cholera has appeared, though not in a virulent form.

In your editorial of the 7th November, you wrote 'According to the evidence of one of the experts recently examined in a sensational defamation case, the elephant-headed son of Siva and Durga is nowhere worshipped by the people of this country.' I am sorry for the expert. If he will visit the Orissa Division from Balasore to Puri, on the fourth day of the light half of the month of Sravan (July-August) he will surely alter his opinion. The *puja* of Ganesha is celebrated more pompously than the Durga Puja in Bengal."

Our Monghyr correspondent, writing from Jamalpore on the 25th November, reports that ordinary rice is selling there at 8 seers a rupee and superior quality at $7\frac{1}{2}$; wheat 8; *bhuta* (local crop) 10 to 12 seers; castor oil at $2\frac{1}{2}$ and mustard oil at $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers.

A knowing correspondent in Behar writes under date the 27th November: "The recent rain has done much good to the *rabi* crop but it is doubtful whether it can avert the scarcity. This scarcity may prove serious and it is difficult to form any correct idea about its extent."

A letter from the Burdwan district says :—

"The paddy crop will be here average. The cultivators are comparatively better off than the middle classes who want money to buy food-grains at famine rates. By the end of the cold weather the water difficulty will begin to be felt. The tanks will, I am afraid, dry up soon."

From Allahabad the report is :—

"Up to this time (Nov. 26) Government are doubtful whether the famine has actually begun, so they have not yet started extensive relief works, though prepared to do so at any moment. The N.-W. P. Government have suspended $\frac{1}{2}$ of the land revenue for *khari* and postponed the introduction of the new settlement assessment, and are giving advances to Taluqdars to open minor relief works in their Taluqs, without interest and half of the amount only being payable. The Government have also raised the pay of servants drawing Rs. 10 and less by one rupee and are helping organized associations for aid of Pardanashin ladies with grants, and have publicly declared they will not allow a single soul to die of starvation.

The associations and public bodies in the N.-W. P. were very pressing in their prayer that Government should open grain shops and sell grain at cheaper rates than the market, but it has not been accepted, for that will, it is said, hamper free trade.

I hear from persons lately arrived here that there has been rain in different parts, but as the price of grain has not yet gone down to any extent, the rain seems to have been nominal. In Guzerat however I see there has been 3 or 4 inches of rain in some places. As regards Allahabad, there were heavy clouds for several days, but save a little drizzling there was no rain."

THERE was to have been a meeting of the Medical Board at 11 in the forenoon of Thursday. The same morning, at 8, Surgeon-Captain S. C. Robson-Scott, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal and Secretary to the Medical Board, was found lying dead in a pool of blood in his bath-room at the United Service Club, with a punctured wound on the right side of the neck and a lancet lying alongside. It was not deemed necessary to hold any post mortem examination.

On the assurance of Surgeon-Colonel Ross that the deceased had committed suicide by severing the right carotid artery and production of a letter of the deceased stating that he was very much worried and going mad, and on the evidence of Surgeon-Captain H. J. Dyson who deposed that he saw the deceased on Thursday morning and was told by him that he was very much worried, the Coroner made no further enquiry as to the cause of suicide. The verdict of the jury was of course temporary insanity. The deceased was a bachelor and had recently returned from home. It was remarked that he was morose and absent-minded for about a week before self-destruction. The mystery is further mystified by the complete ignoring by the Anglo-Indian morning papers of the bloody business. They do not publish it even as a piece of news. It is rarely that a medical man takes his own life. That a high-class club should be the scene of the act is perhaps another cause of this significant silence. Or, are we to suppose that the deceased had no near friends who could take care of him or distant friends and dear ones to be informed of his sad end?

DR. Mahendralal Sircar, who fell ill while investigating the case of "veritable" bubonic plague in Raja Rajbullab's Street, is still confined to bed. Before he could complete his thorough report, he was struck down and has not been able to acquaint his colleagues on the Medical Board with the results of his independent investigations. It is to be hoped that the Board will not come to any hasty conclusion, and Dr. Sircar will be able to send in his report by Monday when the Board meets again.

AT one time it was believed that Mr. H. J. S. Cotton would have to retire from the Bengal Secretariat without further advancement. The tide has, however, turned in his favour. He was promoted to the Home Secretaryship and is now Gazetted Chief Commissioner of Assam. His brethren of the service gave him a dinner at which the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal presided, and his native friends and admirers feted him as no Chief Commissioner elect was honoured before him. The Indians who organised the Evening Party at the Dalhousie Institute on Monday week in the name of the public, given, as the *Pioneer's* Calcutta correspondent says, by Maharaja Govind Lall Ray, of Rungpore, who owes his high position in the new Indian peerage to Mr. Cotton, and by Raja Binayakrishna, late of Raja Nabokissen's Street now of Grey Street, who is always for worshipping the rising sun, was enjoyed by not only the guest of the evening but also by the invited native gentlemen and the public generally. The chief attractions were the X-ray show, the fireworks and the wines. Mr. Cotton is, indeed, very fortunate, and the home-players have played their part capitally. They honoured him in the belief that he will be the next Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.

THE sensation of the week is the commencement of the Drainage Extension Works of this city, or rather the reply of the Lieutenant Governor to the address asking him to lay the foundation stone. Sir Alexander Mackenzie took the opportunity to read the Commissioners a lesson which was far from palatable to them and which may lead to grave results. During the delivery of the diatribe, and it was nothing else, a Commissioner was seen collecting opinions of such of his brother Commissioners as chose to attend regarding the action to be taken on the Governor's rebuke. We reproduce his speech in full :—

"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I had pleasure in complying with your request to lay this stone not only because of the importance of the work of which it is the commencement, but in recognition of the position which the Commissioners occupy as the local representatives of the Provincial and Imperial capital. You have in the address that has been presented given a brief history of the inception, objects and development of this project, and of its connection with the general scheme of Calcutta drainage. That subject was at one time very familiar to me, and there are in the Bengal Office, if I mistake not, lengthy notes of mine, written years ago, dealing, as Secretary to Government, with not a few phases of the question. It has always been surrounded with difficulties, and the complexity of the problems involved has certainly not diminished with time. I hope, however, you are now fairly on the way to a solution of the most pressing of these. I have elsewhere sought to vindicate the Commissioners from the charge of having dealt inadequately and perfunctorily with this drainage question. There has been delay, no doubt, in prosecuting these extensions of the system, but the delays have not, as was thought, been inordinate, and the wisdom of caution in undertaking such costly and gigantic operations is vindicated by a comparison between the original estimates and those of the scheme as now sanctioned. The Municipality has, I am afraid, many shortcomings to answer for. But I must say this, that I have never been able to agree that it has shown niggardliness or been backward in sanctioning money for either water-supply or drainage.

You have, gentlemen no doubt been hampered in the task of im-

proving Calcutta by many things, and perhaps by nothing so much as by your own constitution. The marvel is that with such an impracticable organization so much good work should have been done. You have a constitution borrowed *en bloc* from the most advanced models in England, and without any reference to the utterly different circumstances of an Oriental city, and a very mixed community. It seems to have been supposed that because Birmingham for instance (which I know well) is admirably managed by an elected Council of 72, Calcutta could be equally well managed by a Council of 75, of whom 60 are elected. But in Birmingham, to begin with, the population is homogeneous, and accustomed for generations to manage its own affairs on lines as to which all parties are agreed. The Council there is composed entirely of shrewd, capable men of business—manufacturers, merchants, tradesmen and the like—whose one object is to treat every question before them, not as an opportunity for speech-making, but as a matter to be settled as promptly as may be in the most practical way. They work, no doubt, as you do, through Committees, but the endeavour is to place in each Committee only the men who know most of the particular subject entrusted to it, and to have in the Chair of each Committee a man who has for years been administering that special branch. This done, the Town Council does not waste its time in doing over again the work of its Committees. It criticises when necessary, and can on occasions condemn, but its general object is to strengthen and support the executive and to have the work of the Town done, and not merely talked about. There is (according to the November number of the *Century Magazine*) only one lawyer and one newspaper man on the whole Council. Now I think everybody in Calcutta outside the Corporation, and a good many people inside it, will admit that there is here far too much speaking for the sake of speech, that your executive is not nearly strong enough for action, and is far too readily upset and interfered with; that work is often done twice or thrice over, and is often spoilt by the multitude of counsellors or cooks, and that far too much deference is paid at times to the wishes and objections of special interests. This is inevitable, I fear, in a Corporation constituted as yours is having many members whose individual stake in the town is small, who are not all practical men of business, and who represent themselves in the first place and a variety of heterogeneous interests in the second. But if you are wise, you will seriously set yourselves to reduce the evil of desultory discussion to a minimum. I know that much of this is due to the laudable feeling that each Commissioner is individually responsible for the good working of the whole but this interest can often be as well shown by a silent, sensible vote as by a long speech or an acrimonious debate. You cannot all be experts even in such simple subjects as bacteriology and quantitative analysis. It is to be regretted that Calcutta was too proud to borrow its constitution from Bombay, which to my mind has an admirable system combining all that is required of popular representation with a strong executive. But do try to make the best of the system you have, and trust the actual work of the town more fully to your executive officers and to those members of your body who have most experience of its needs.

You must indeed understand, gentlemen, that the Municipality stands at present, or will certainly very shortly stand, at the bar of public opinion in the matter of its general conservancy. Many of you have, I see, made up your minds that, however Bombay may suffer, no plague shall come nigh your dwellings. You want now to crucify those who originally startled you, and as for your Health Officer, crucifixion itself is not good enough for him. He is to be immolated by a Special Committee. Now gentlemen, it is an old saying that it is best not to shout till you are out of the wood and safe from all the dangers of the jungle. I hope with you that the plague may not invade us, and the town is certainly at present as regards its human population quite remarkably healthy, even though dead rats have been found in some of the drains; but I must tell you frankly that the marvel is that we are ever without plague and every other disease that comes from neglected filth. I hold in my hand the report of the five Sanitary Commissioners deputed by the Special Medical Board to examine and report upon the state of Calcutta conservancy, and a more appalling document it was never my misfortune to peruse. I positively dare not read out to this assembly its revelations of the abominations in which this city abounds. It will be for the Medical Board to say, in the first instance, where the responsibility lies for this, and to indicate what form, in their opinion, the remedies should take. But it is clear to me that the excessive tenderness which the Commissioners have hitherto shown in dealing with the so-called rights of private ownership will have to be given up. Private owners cannot be permitted to maintain death-traps, cholera and plague nurseries for the destruction of their fellow citizens. The city must have Building Regulations of the most stringent description for preventing the creation of such dreadful places as the Sanitary Officers have discovered. I believe, as a matter of fact, you could do nearly all that is wanted for the future under your existing law, but that law is not put into operation. Private interests, as I have hinted, are too strongly defended to the detriment of the public weal. The operation of the law must henceforth be practically automatic and beyond the influence of party or personal votes. But the chief problem is how to clear out the pestiferous quarters that already exist. Something may be done, as I have said, by insisting on private improvements, but many of these places are too bad for any improvement. They cannot be mended and must be ended. The only remedy is to drive broad roads through these quarters, and to replace these horrid pigsties (where, indeed, no normally constituted pig could live) by respectable, well-sanitized dwellings. This operation properly conducted ought not to involve the town in much permanent expense; but whatever it costs it must be done if Calcutta is to cease to be a disgrace to the Empire and the nineteenth century. The Government must, for its own credit and for the sake of the commerce of Bengal, see that these reforms are carried out. I have already invited the Commissioners to concur in the appointment of a Commission to consider this question of Building Regulations. I trust shortly to hear that they are prepared to work with me in the matter. I shall then have to consider the disagreeable alternative of pro-

ceeding without them and in supersession of their authority. You must also, to raise the necessary funds, make the most of your existing sources of income. Your Warrant Department, in spite of all special pleading, is a standing scandal. I believe that your Loan Department would be all the better for a thorough overhauling. And when all this is done if more money is required you must consider the question of special cesses on specially bad areas and specially neglectful owners, and such other measures of raising revenue as may suggest themselves to you. You will receive all the support and assistance that I and the Bengal Council can afford you.

Gentlemen, I am well aware that you have spent much on the conservancy of Calcutta, and I believe that the state of those streets and lanes which can be easily reached by your sweepers and carts is by no means bad. But these sanitary reports show that there is behind these streets and lanes a festering area that it is at present almost impossible for your agency to scavenge effectually, and that must be opened up. I believe the description given of this area will take many of you by surprise. Whether it ought not to have been discovered and attacked before is a question for discussion. That it must be effectively dealt with now is what I am trying to impress upon you. Then the worst question must in future be disposed of and not played with. The condition of the cow-sheds and ticcagari stables is another grave blot on the town and a standing peril to the population. I believe you could not do better than remove all the cow-sheds outside the urban area, as the Sanitary Commissioners suggest. With most of the evils depicted by the Sanitary Commissioners your existing Act gives ample power to deal. I trust that when once the requirements of the case are laid before you, you will, with a minimum of discussion and controversy, set yourselves to remedy those evils and earn for yourselves a reputation for business-like courage and capacity in dealing with what is undoubtedly a very difficult situation. That the Commissioners can rise to the height of great enterprise has been shown by their treatment of the water-supply and drainage questions. I am not without hope that, when they find what is before them in this matter of conservancy, they will sink all differences of opinion and unite to initiate and carry through a scheme of general reform worthy of the first city in India and of their own responsibilities.

Some one has said that Councils are on ordinary occasions more courageous than most individuals because they can bear odium better. I trust that the Calcutta Corporation will show its courage in accepting any burden of unmerited odium that may come from doing its duty, and defeat the odium that some seek to attach to it as a sample of the failure of Local Self-Government in India. You would (I repeat again as a friend whom I have already suggested as Lieutenant-Governor) do well to improve your methods of working. 'There be,' says Bacon, 'three parts of business—the preparation; the debate or examination; and the perfection; wherein, if you look for despatch, let the middle only be the work of many, and the first and last the work of few.' Give your executive full powers in 'preparation' and 'perfection' *i.e.*, in the preparation of projects and the carrying of them out. And, 'the surest way to make agents do their duty' (says Phelps) 'is to show them that their efforts are appreciated with nicety. In your daily dealings with them, you should beware of making slight or haphazard criticisms on any of their proceedings. Your inclination should be to treat them with hearty confidence.' In that way only will you get satisfactory work done; and the state of Calcutta is such that unless the Government, the Corporation and the Executive of the town all work together heartily and with a single mind, there must come a general cataclysm in your municipal affairs, and radical changes such as I, last of all men, desire to bring about.

I thank you, gentlemen, for the patience with which you have listened to me, for your address, and the handsome mementoes of the occasion which I shall carry away with me."

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 28, 1896.

FAREWELL ENTERTAINMENTS TO OFFICIALS AND TITLE-BROKERS.

THE desire for giving farewell parties to officials has fairly developed into a mania that is spreading fast like an epidemic disease. Particulars of such *fêtes* are reported almost every week from one station or another. European officials—high or low—are not the only recipients of such honours. Native officials too have a fair share. The occasions are either a transfer from a district or a province or retirement from the service for good. The plea urged is that the people should express appreciation of individual officers that have merited it by successful administration. On principle, such recognition of the value of a public servant by the public or any section of it, may not be objectionable, if the value be real instead of being purely imaginary. But such demonstrations indiscriminately made lose their effect and demoralize the officials generally. Our people, always prepared to overdo a thing, have reduced their public appreciation of public men to absurdity. There are Government orders on the subject which

are repeated from time to time to prevent scandals. Explanations are occasionally called for from the officers honoured. There is a lull for a time, but it is like the calm before a storm. The party-managers, among whom the principal offenders are some native officials who hope to advance their own interests and extend their influence by such activity, always find means to evade the standing orders of Government. Recently, it was explained that the farewell parties taken exception to were not the outcome of public subscription but of private friendship. To keep clear of the rules, one man, generally a subordinate official or a private individual basking in the sunlight of favour, opens the demonstration as a friendly movement and others follow from a fear that their inaction would be resented. In this way, pressure is brought upon the rich who are eventually compelled to submit to a demand on their purse which has all the force of a Tudor benevolence.

Such is the degeneracy of the day that it is not possible for even a Sub-Judge, an Assistant-Surgeon, a Police Superintendent, or a Deputy Magistrate to leave a district without being entertained with some sort of publicity. The practice of honouring has become so disreputable that, even when a movement is spontaneous, suspicions arise of low and selfish motives or of undue influences being at the bottom. Entertainments by acknowledged leaders of a community stand on quite a different footing, because they may have a representative character and may not have an official origin. There have been occasions when the expenses paid by one rich zemindar under obligation to the retiring magnate, were unblushingly represented as contributed by the public in general in aid of a public movement. It is not a safe and pleasant task for Government officers to collect subscriptions from reises for such purposes. If they wish to do a thing let them do it independently and openly. Native officers in charge of such entertainments have been known to put off payment of bills and not to settle them till a long time after, on the intercession of friends, to avoid a scandal. It is sometimes openly hinted that such entertainments have opened up a new business or source of income, if not of living.

Under these circumstances, we think European officials should always discourage the business when it relates to themselves as well as to their native subordinates. Many of the latter appear to be very

anxious to see their names in the columns of newspapers in such connection.

Officers that deserve such honour are welcome to it. It is the best testimony of the people's love and respect. Nothing should be done to impair the value of such testimony. It should always be genuine.

We have several times criticised rather sharply the action of Government for the indiscriminate bestowal of titles on native gentlemen. Some of our contemporaries also have dealt with the matter in their own way. There cannot be two opinions that the manner in which titles are being showered every half year, that is, on New Year's Day and the Queen's Birthday, and the means usually adopted for obtaining them, are greatly demoralizing our rich people and a certain class of native officials. We have unfortunately a troop of title-hunters of all classes and grades, in each district, who leave no stone unturned to achieve success. They are pretty well acquainted with the tactics by which to crown their wishes with fruition. They devote themselves to the work with an assiduity and zeal worthy of a better cause. Some of them are, no doubt, clever in their own way, but many of them seem to be credulous fools and allow themselves to be playthings in the hands of designing men who have constituted themselves title-brokers. The brokerage business is a lucrative one and flourishes most in Behar, where the reises are not as knowing as the Calcutta Babus. We are sorry to find native gentlemen in rather high positions and holding public offices partners in the trade and doing everything to further the end. It is not easy to detect malpractices under the cloak of friendship and patronage, but the astute can scent them. So lost are the members of the fraternity to shame that they often prostitute their position and degrade themselves winning the unholy race. The offensive business is carried on so extensive a scale that we have been compelled to take notice of it.

We must first explain the method or means generally adopted by these men. They talk, in and out of season, a good deal of their influence with the Lieutenant-Governor and other high officials. To their visitors, they do not fail to exhibit a list of persons for whom they have procured the favour of the sovereign or her viceroy. They converse with the local or the higher officials in favour of their clients. There is a selection of candidates. That is regulated by the length of the victim's purse. Usually, the best persons are those who have some claim for Government recognition or who happen to be in the good book of the district authorities. In this way, by false reports and information picked up in conversation with officials, the brokers make an impression upon the candidates who are led to believe in the patrons' power and influence. An actual conferment of a title in any talked of case confirms the belief. It is trumpeted forth throughout the province to draw more victims. The word flies from mouth to mouth that such a one has obtained for so and so his title. It is not difficult to feel the pulse of district officers or to obtain information from other sources for purposes of the trade. On numerous pretexts, money and other valuable presents are taken for work to be done. On completion, the recipient of honour is again reminded of his obligation. He is then made an *umedwar* for higher distinctions so that the exaction may continue.

Where information is accidentally received from a high circle or guessed out, a telegram of congratula-

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.
(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Bahu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Monday, the 30th November, at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Preparation and Properties of Chlorine.

Lecture by Bahu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Tuesday the 1st Dec. at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Hydrochloric acid, Chlorides, Oxides and Oxy-acids of Chlorine.

Lecture by Bahu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 2nd Dec., at 7 P.M. Subject: Force and Motion (continued.) Composition and Resolution of forces—Centrifugal force.

Lecture by Bahu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Thursday, the 3rd Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Oxy-acids of Chlorine concluded, Bromine, Hydrobromic acid and Bromides.

Lecture by Bahu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Friday, the 4th Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Iodine. Compounds of Iodine with Hydrogen, Oxygen and Nitrogen. Fluorine.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 3rd Dec., at 5 P.M. Subject: Circulation.

Lecture by Bahu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Saturday, the 5th Dec., at 3 P.M. Subject: Carbon and Carbonic Oxide.

Lecture by Bahu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 5th Dec., at 4-30 P.M. Subject: Histology of Plants—A Cell.

Lecture by Dr. Niranjan Sircar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 5th Dec., at 6 P.M. Subject: Histology—Muscle Nerve.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

Nov. 28, 1896.

tion is sent, followed by confidential letters telling how the whole thing has been managed and what the costs incurred have been. In two instances, the congratulatory messages brought back not only a thousand thanks but substantial currency notes of two thousand rupees each, from a Nawab and a Raja. The reputations of high officials have sometimes been compromised, as presents have been taken in the name of their favourite *amla*, if not in their own.

Beware then of title-brokers! Officers of Government, from the district Magistrates upwards, ought to guard themselves against the approach of wolves in sheep's skin. European officials will miss nothing if they refuse to talk upon the subject with such men. Sometime the approach is made in the shape of giving advice or information. Another danger is that the good and the true are mercilessly denounced in these visits, that they might not stand in the way.

The best course is to keep these interviewers at a distance. When any information is wanted, the responsible official must select honest men for such a delicate enquiry. The brokers are but few and they are, we believe, by this time sufficiently known, and it is not difficult to mark them out. Arrangements should also be made so that no information may ooze out before the Gazette is actually out.

Credit is sometimes taken for the bestowal of honour on even civilians. There are fools who would not hesitate to believe it. The fact is, that because our people are credulous they are successfully bamboozled in this way. It is a hopeless task to improve their intellect or give them sense, but at the same time, it is our duty to protect them from harm, if possible. We have, therefore, in view of the shower of honours of the next New Year's day, repeated our protest against a degradation of honours.

GENERAL PROGRAMME FOR THE NATIONAL CELEBRATION

IN 1897 OF THE FOURTH CENTENARY OF THE DEPARTURE OF VASCO DA GAMA FOR THE DISCOVERY OF INDIA

Drawn up in pursuance of the decree of the 5th of May 1894 and approved by Government.

1. The necessary authorisations and agreements having been previously given there shall be celebrated in the year 1897, throughout the whole of the Portuguese territory, a national jubilee, commemorating the expedition, which discovered the maritime road to India, and consecrated to the memory of the Portuguese navigators, who first discovered the lands and seas of Africa, Asia, America and Oceania.

2. Especially destined to commemorate, universally and perpetually this celebration, there shall be created :

a) A monetary series, in silver coins of 1,000 reis, 500 reis and 200 reis of lawful ring, diameter and circulation, within the limits and proportions, that may be competently established.

b) A series of postage stamps, with the types, limits and proportions that may be competently established.

§ 1. The Central Executive Committee for the celebration can grant and authorise, by or without competition, on the conditions that it may think convenient, the making and selling on private account, of a medal in gold, silver and any other metal, and of a medallion in bronze or iron, for the same commemorating purpose and character.

§ 2. An edifice in a convenient locality to be built or temporarily adapted, when it cannot at once be done so definitively, shall be specially destined for solemn, national and international receptions and meetings, connected with the celebration, and for installation and exhibition of the Colonial and Ethnographic Museum, in the terms of the decrees of the 12th of August 1880 and the 10th of March 1892.

3. In the same year 1897 the following exhibitions shall be held in Lisbon within the terms of the respective plans, as much as possible alongside the Terminus, between *Praca de D. Luiz*, and the *Jeronymos*, including the edifice of the *Cordoaria* (Rope-Yard) :

a) A National Agricultural and Cattle Show, with live samples of the rural ethnography, to include competition for floricultural, agricultural and lactical products ;

b) A National Industrial Exhibition ;

c) A National Ethnographical Exhibition ;

d) A National Exhibition for Fisheries, including the hydrography and orography of the Portuguese waters, their inhabitants and flora, fishing material and industries derived therefrom and aquariums ;

e) A National Exhibition of Chase, including the qualities and flora relating thereto, chase material and industries derived therefrom ;

f) A National Exhibition of Fine Arts, including works of the 15th and 16th centuries ;

g) A Colonial Exhibition Vasco da Gama.

4. Exhibitions on a smaller scale shall also be organized in the National Public Library and Archives, in the Army Arsenal, at the geological Committee, in the National Museum, in the Fine Arts Museum, and in other public institutions.

5. The Governments of the maritime nations shall be invited to send their naval forces to represent them at the centenary celebration in a great gathering of War Vessels, which ought to be held in the Tagus in the month of July 1897.

6. The large transoceanic Navigation Companies, the Chambers of Commerce and Commercial Associations of the principal maritime cities shall be asked to send representatives to the Centenary celebration.

7. On the same occasion, there shall be promoted the realisation in Lisbon of :

a) An International Regatta from the Tagus (Belem Tower) to Sines (the birthplace of Vasco da Gama), and one or more Regattas for coasters and river boats ;

b) An International Rifle Competition,

c) An International Competition for Bicycling.

8. Means shall be taken for holding in Lisbon in the same year divers Scientific Congresses and Conferences, both international and national, after previous agreement with the public authorities.

Sole proviso.—Likewise there shall be held a conference on public charity and beneficence, to which shall be invited all the charitable and such like institutions of the kingdom.

9. The Central Executive Committee shall promote the drawing up of Memoirs, Monographs and other literary and scientific works for the purpose of making better and more known :

a) The *Lusiadas* ;

b) The Monument of *Jeronymos* ;

c) The *Custodia* of Belem ;

d) History, Arts, Industries and Ethnography of the nation ;

e) The Progress of Science and the History and State of Public Education ;

f) Portuguese Navigations, Explorations and Conquests ;

g) The Lives and Deeds of the different Navigators ;

h) Formation, development and individuality, both historical and political of the Portuguese nation ;

i) The Portuguese scientific and industrial discoveries and inventions ;

j) The History of Portuguese Naval Art and the Study of the most important problems and questions of nautical sciences.

§ 1. The Committee shall establish the mode of appreciation of the Memoirs or works presented to it and the assistance, compensations or premiums to be granted, it being understood, that it will keep possession of the editions made in the Printing offices and on account of the Government either for the latter or in order that the respective proceeds revert in benefit of the funds for the celebration, without prejudice of the said assistance, compensations or premiums.

§ 2. A great planisphere shall likewise be executed, showing the discoveries and principal journeys by land and sea, made by the Portuguese and this shall be conveniently abridged for distributing among all the official schools and furnishing to private persons, who may apply for it.

§ 3. By agreement with the Government Printing Office of Lisbon a monumental edition of the *Lusiadas* shall be initiated, the whole of the material for which and for the work relating to the same shall be exclusively national.

10. The same Committee shall promote among national artists, to be chosen by them, the composition and execution :

a) Of a National Triumphant Hymn and March ;

b) Of a Historic Drama, the subject of which is to be Portuguese ;

c) Of a Portuguese Opera or Lyric Drama ;

d) Of Divers Pictorial and Sculptural Compositions, which are to contribute to the celebration or to affirm in the same the national art ;

e) Of Concerts and Musical Contests.

Sole proviso.—The Committee shall also promote the organisation of concerts for ancient Portuguese music, and the representation of some of the ancient national compositions for the theatre.

11. In order that the National Celebration may as far as possible be extended over all Portuguese territory, and may associate and embrace all classes of society, the Central Executive Committee

constitute in the kingdom, adjacent islands and in the colonies, and amongst all the Portuguese who reside in foreign countries, special Committees for the purpose of assisting that Committee and promoting and organizing the celebration in their respective areas.

12. All Cooperations or Associations of whatever nature, legally constituted can likewise cooperate or organize special celebrations in harmony with this general programme.

13. Any Committees or Associations that may resolve to cooperate and take part in the national celebration, shall communicate to the Central Executive Committee as early as possible their programmes and resolutions, in order to avoid confusion or contradictions in the works which may affect the harmony and signification of the grand national solemnity.

Sole proviso.—Any programmes or resolutions that have not been communicated to the Central Committee and agreed to by it, will not be taken into consideration for the effect of the mission with which it is intrusted, and will not be allowed when they go against or disturb the execution of the general plan and of the instructions that regard it.

14. The 8th, 9th, and 10th of July 1897 shall be for all effects considered as Holidays and national Feast days in all of the Portuguese territory, in the Embassies, Consulates and amongst Portuguese resident in foreign countries, and on board of all Portuguese vessels that at the time may be outside the waters of Portuguese territory.

15. At the dawn of day of the 8th of July 1897 all Portuguese fortresses and vessels of war shall hoist the Portuguese flag and salute the same with one hundred guns; the bells of all the churches shall be rung and in front of the Town Halls of all the districts, on which likewise the national flag shall be hoisted, large numbers of rockets shall be fired off; regimental bands or any other bands of music shall march through the towns and villages and play the Centenary Triumphal Hymn.

16. On the same occasion the places of public worship shall be thrown open, and thanks given to the Almighty for the Glory and Independence of the nation, and also prayers will be offered up for the souls of all those, who have served and honoured their country.

17. Likewise all the public buildings and establishments, depending on the State, the Town Councils and Parishes, shall hoist the national flag and shall decorate and illuminate the respective fronts on the 8th, 9th and 10th of July.

18. All citizens shall be invited to decorate and illuminate the fronts of their houses on the same days and to promote demonstrations of public rejoicing, appropriated to the object of the centenary.

19. In all the Parish churches a thanksgiving Mass shall be read or sung.

20. The authorities, administrative Cooperations and local Committees shall promote all kinds of festive demonstrations in their respective localities, and more especially general and popular ones, such as illuminations, fairs, processions, dances, popular games and songs on the 8th, 9th and 10th of July.

21. All the Town Councils shall be invited to take their competent places in all the solemn acts of the celebration, with their respective insignia and standards.

22. For the like purpose invitations shall be issued to:

a) All Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Societies;

b) All Class, Aid, Mutual and Benevolent Associations and Sporting Clubs;

c) All Schools and Learned Societies and the Press.

23. At the hours and in the terms of the respective special programmes, the following demonstrations of festivity and of great public joy shall be realised in Lisbon:

a) On the 8th:

I. A *Te-Deum*, composed by a Portuguese author to be sung in the church of St. Maria de Belem.

II. A civic procession to the church of St. Maria de Belem (the first monument raised for commemorating the discovery of India), and to the tombs of Vasco da Gama and Camoes in the same church;

b) On the 9th:

A naval procession on the river to visit Alhandra and the *Quinta do Paraizo* (where Affonso de Albuquerque was born), and the inauguration of the Commemoration Monument.

c) On the 10th:

I. Review of the land and naval forces and of the military schools;

II. At night a grand march *aux flambeaux* from Belem to the Town Hall of Lisbon.

24. To meet the general expenses of the celebration, in charge of the Central Committee, a special fund shall be created with the denomination of "The Centenary Fund" and an agreement shall be made with a Bank, to be chosen by the Government, for depositing the same in account current.

25. The Executive Committee is authorised to resolve in all cases of omission or in unforeseen events.

26. In harmony with the Decree of the 15th of May 1894,

all public authorities and departments shall afford all the assistance and cooperation they can, to the Executive Committee of the Grand Committee appointed by this Decree, which for all effects and to the end shall be the Central Executive Committee for the Celebration.

Committee Rooms, the 10th of June 1896.—For the Central Executive Committee: *Francisco Joaquim Ferreira do Amaral*, president—*Luciano Cordeiro*—*Ernesto de Vasconcellos* secretaries.

QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

[Extracts from *A Treatise on Hygiene and Public Health*, edited by Thomas Stevenson, M.D., and Shirley F. Murphy, Medical Officer of Health of the Administrative County of London.]

(Concluded from page 536.)

Beyond the legal qualifications there are others of a personal nature which are essential in the successful medical officer of health. Since he is not so much an executive officer as he is the adviser of the local authority appointing him, on all matters pertaining to his office, he must be prepared from time to time to accept with equanimity the rejection of any advice he may have tendered to them, however sound it may have been. He must not be too sensitive in the event of his advice or actions being misunderstood or even misconstrued, if he is conscious of having been actuated by proper motives.

He must not advise lightly, hastily, or inconsiderately on any matter, but only after due deliberation, and must put himself in a position to be able to stand by and, if necessary, to defend his advice, since it may be initiative of legal proceedings. Hasty or ill considered advice, thoughtlessly given would disparage him and diminish his influence with the public, as well as with the local authority.

Having advised conscientiously and to the best of his abilities, he has discharged his duty, and if his advice is not followed he must bear in mind that the decision of the authority may have been subject to considerations and influences which had no weight with him. If, on the other hand, he finds that his advice is systematically and persistently ignored by the authority, and that the public in his district is likely to be prejudicially affected in consequence, he must repeat it, again and again if need be, firmly but dispassionately. His advice on all matters of importance should be tendered to the local authority in writing, with a view to future reference.

He should, under many circumstances, endeavour to induce the authority themselves to propose any works which may be needful for the benefit of his district, rather than urge the proposals too much as emanating from himself. He will often find some members of the authority willing to take a matter up as a scheme of his own, and what may be legitimate pertinacity in a member of the authority might be considered unbecoming obstinacy in the medical officer of health. By paying attention to this point he will not infrequently gain his end more surely than if he had paraded the proposal as his own. It is not conducive to success for him to be continually thrusting himself prominently forward in his official capacity. His power for good will not be lessened if he sometimes judiciously obscures his individuality.

He should regard all questions he has to deal with from the view-point of the local authority, the owners and occupiers of premises, and the public, as well as from that of the medical officer of health intent upon the health improvement of his district.

He must be possessed of good judgment, discretion, and tact, for he will have various and varied persons and matters to grapple with; from this it follows that the larger, wider, and more varied his experience in his special branch of the profession may be, the better able will he be to perform with efficiency the duties pertaining to it.

While careful to avoid encroaching in any way upon the province of the clerk, the surveyor, or the engineer of the authority, he should, nevertheless, have an intimate acquaintance with all the statutes and bye-laws relating in any degree to his office, and should be conversant with the principles of modern sewage, drainage, disposal of sewage, water-supply, warming and ventilation of buildings, and house construction; and while not taking upon himself the duties of the inspector of nuisances, he should be intimately and practically acquainted with them.

He should have a knowledge of any trades, articles of trade or manufacturing processes that are liable to be controlled by the local authority.

He must be well acquainted with the etiology, so far as it may be known and the characteristics of those diseases, at any rate, which are capable of influencing the public health, the most numerous of which will be found amongst the zymotic diseases, and must know the principles of hospital construction, especially in relation to hospitals for the isolation of infectious diseases.

He should possess a general knowledge of bacteriology, and

he will probably find that his multifarious duties will not allow him sufficient leisure to become proficient in the practice of it, and that he had better leave that to those who have the time and the opportunity to become expert in it; such specialism and division of labour is a necessary outcome of the vast multiplication of the scientific knowledge of the age.

He must be trained in the methods of observation requisite for tracing the origin and course of epidemic and other diseases.

He must be capable of expressing himself in his reports with terseness and perspicuity.

He must know how to compile statistics, how to deduce sound conclusions therefrom, and how to avoid fallacies in dealing with them.

He should, at any rate, know how to properly interpret the results of analyses of water, air and articles of human consumption, and should understand meteorology, climatology, and cognate subjects. He should be acquainted with the general facts relating to the geology of his district.

He should possess an even temper, as he will find it frequently tried. If of an irritable or excitable temperament, he must train himself to control it, it is of the utmost importance that not one of his official actions or expressions should savour in the remotest degree of resentment or vindictiveness.

He must be patient and persevering since his efforts should be directed to the accomplishment of his objects by persuasion rather than by compulsion. He must endeavour to educate rather than to force public opinion, seeing little good is to be done by attempting to go much in advance of that in regard of matters pertaining to public health.

He must not be impulsive, but must be methodical, exact, and punctual in all his dealings, and must conduct the business of his department in a manner that will not cause friction with any other department connected with the local government of his district. He must show courtesy and respect to any member of the local authority.

Whatever his political bent may be, he must strictly avoid making any public parade of it; it is absolutely essential that he should banish any suspicion of political bias from all his official proceedings; even if the authority is so unwise as to allow the local government of their district to be swayed by political considerations, as too frequently happens, he must not permit himself to be influenced by them, since he is the officer of the whole public and not alone of any section of it.

He must not allow himself to be drawn into any local newspaper controversy in regard of any of his official action. Such a proceeding marks a very raw and inexperienced office-bearer. If he has acted wrongly he will not thus clear himself, but if rightly, his sense of the dignity of his office should preclude him from taking such a course, as tending to bring it into contempt, and himself into ridicule.

He must not go beyond his special province; he will seldom gain any credit, but often very much the reverse, if he sets himself to do anything beyond that which comes strictly within his statutory duties. If, however, he observes anything amiss which does not come within their scope, he will do well to give an intimation of his observation in the appropriate quarter.

Above all, he must practise the strictest honesty, integrity, straightforwardness, and impartiality in all his actions, and must rigorously resist the slightest attempt on the part of any one to do anything towards him which could by any possibility be construed as an effort to influence his conduct as a public officer. He must regard himself as the custodian of the fair fame of public offices in general and of his own in particular.

It is desirable that he should occupy such a social position as will fully command the confidence and respect of all classes throughout his district.

He must cultivate cordial relations with the whole of the medical profession in his district, as without their confidence, respect, and co-operation, his work will become much more arduous and be far less successful, his power for good will be greatly crippled. His behaviour towards them should be regulated by what his conscience tells him would be the treatment he should expect from a medical officer of health if he were himself in practice. He must be careful not to wound their legitimate susceptibilities and sensitiveness; especially must he be on his guard in these respects if he is also a private medical practitioner. The passing of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, accentuates if possible the importance of mutual confidence and esteem being upheld between the profession and the medical officer of health. Unfortunately his obligation is not always comprehended, and in consequence, there have been instances in which the medical officer of health has erred grievously in that behalf, at sometimes through ignorance of his powers and duties, but at others through personal unfitness for the office.

He must not regard himself as in any way the censor of his medical brethren, but must endeavour to win their trust and confidence, so that they may freely seek his advice and assistance in regard of any matters within his province occurring in their prac-

tice. If in the discharge of his duties he is brought into contact with any irregular practitioner, his dealings with him must not be regulated by ordinary professional rules, but must be guided by regard for the public weal, which must be the paramount consideration.

In his relations with the public, the medical officer of health must be considerate and unobtrusive. He must endeavour to carry out his, occasionally unwelcome, duties in such an equitable manner as shall not provoke resentment, and must so exercise his powers that his visits may be welcomed rather than shunned; he must have regard for the rights and interests of the owners as well as of the occupiers of premises, so that his advice and assistance may be readily sought by both alike.

The removal of house refuse at regular and frequent intervals has an intimate relation with the prevention of disease and health. It is incumbent upon the medical officer to see that refuse is not allowed to remain and decay in the vicinity of inhabited dwellings. In thickly populated parts he will probably find it necessary to advise the local authority, if they have not already done so, either themselves to undertake or to contract for the removal of house refuse from premises, and the cleaning of earth-closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools. The adoption of these measures has been many times clearly proved to immensely improve the public health of places where preventible disease had previously been rife; diminished mortality and a generally bettered state of health having rapidly ensued.

NEEDLESS ALARM.

Whether the suffering which people undergo from disease is more physical than mental is a point not easy to decide. It depends largely on the nature of the disease, and the make-up of the individual. Experience seems to show, however, that in one prevailing disease—indigestion or dyspepsia, the two kinds of suffering are very evenly divided, and both very great, the mental distress being chiefly due to the illusions and deceptions which attend it. For example, though dyspepsia is solely an affection of the digestive organs, it has power to set up disorders in others which always alarm the sufferer, and often perplex his medical advisers. These symptoms or sequences may relate to the head, the heart, the sight, the hearing, the lungs, or to other organs or functions. Take an illustration or two.

"In the spring of 1891," says Mr. Edward Tatham, "I fell into a low, weak state of health. I had a foul taste in the mouth, and was constantly spitting up a thick phlegm. My appetite was poor and after eating I had fullness and pain at the chest—the latter seemed to be puffed or swollen. What made me most anxious was my *breathing*, which came to be so difficult and short that at times I could only catch my breath by an effort. I was led to fancy that something must ail my lungs, especially as so great a quantity of mucus gathered in my throat and mouth. It was usually worse at night, and I got very little sleep on account of it; sometimes none at all. In a morning I would be quite worn out.

"As time went on I became very weak, and was much put to it to get about. I took all kinds of medicines and got no proper relief from anything. In February, 1893, Mr. William Beardsley, grocer, Coman-hay, told me how he had been cured of a like trouble by Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. Acting on his advice I got a bottle of this medicine from Mr. Platt's Drug Stores, Awsworth Road, and after taking it felt quite another man. My *breathing* was easier, and my food agreed with me. I continued using the Syrup, and got stronger and better every day. When I had taken four bottles I was as well as ever, being free from all pain or discomfort. My wife, who has suffered for years from *liver complaint*, has taken the Syrup with the same good results as in my own case. You are at liberty to make any use you like of this statement. (Signed) Edward Tatham, Tatham's Lane, Coman-hay Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, March 21st, 1895."

"In October, 1888," writes another, "I began to feel weak, heavy, and tired. My appetite was poor, and after eating I had distress at the stomach, together with *shortness of breath*, and a good deal of pain across the chest. Sometimes I would be taken with sudden dizziness, as though I must fall to the ground. Cold, clammy sweats used to break out all over me and I trembled from head to foot. Finally, I got so weak I could scarcely walk to my work. Indeed, I had occasionally to leave my work; I have been away as long as a month at a time. In this way I suffered for about two years.

"In August, 1890, Mr. Thompson, the grocer in Church Street, urged me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup. After taking only one bottle I felt better. My food agreed with me and I was stronger. Continuing with this medicine, gradually all pain left me, and I completely recovered my health. Since then I have kept the Syrup in the house for use in time of need. You are free to publish this statement. (Signed) William Mullender, 71, Robinson's Buildings, Newhall, Wath, near Sheffield, October 11th, 1895."

Cases of supposed disease of the heart, of the nervous system, of the kidneys, &c., constantly prove to be, not organic affections of those parts at all, but merely local or functional disturbances caused by the toxic or poisonous principles thrown into the blood by the decomposition or fermentation of food in the stomach; otherwise, by dyspepsia or indigestion. But until they are discovered to be so they are mistakenly treated; and serious, often fatal, results, follow. Until pronounced and undeniable symptoms of organic mischief show themselves (which is not the case once in a hundred times) you may take it for granted that your ailment is some form of dyspepsia, easily curable by Mother Seigel's Syrup, as demonstrated by the two instances cited above.

MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE. NOTIFICATION.

Simla, the 16th September, 1896.

No. 9444M.—His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General will reach Calcutta on Thursday, the 10th December 1896, arriving at Howrah by special train at 9 15 A.M. Calcutta time.

On arrival at the Howrah Railway Station His Excellency will be received by the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, the Commissioner of Police for the Town of Calcutta, and the Magistrate of Howrah; and at Government House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and Staff, the Honourable Members of His Excellency's Council, the General Officer Commanding the Presidency District and Staff, the principal Civil and Military Officers, and other gentlemen who are desirous of attending.

A Guard of Honour of the East Indian Railway Volunteers will be drawn up on the platform of the Howrah Railway Station, and a Guard of Honour of Native Troops with Band, outside the Station.

The route taken will be by the Houghly Bridge, Strand Road, Fatile Place, Dalhousie Square North, and Out Court House Street.

The Body Guard and the Calcutta Light Horse will form His Excellency's Escort.

A Royal Salute will be fired from the Ramparts of Fort William as His Excellency alights from the train.

A Guard of Honour of British Infantry and of the Presidency Volunteers will be drawn up in front of the Grand Staircase of Government House.

Full Dress will be worn by those entitled to wear uniform. Review order by Military Officers. Gentlemen not entitled to wear uniform will appear in Morning Dress.

By Command,

A. DURAND, Colonel,
Military Secretary to the Viceroy.



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Memorial

TO THE LATE

SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left to the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

Subscriptions will be received by Lieutenant-General McLeod Innes, 9, Lexham Gardens, Cromwell Road, London, W.

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Honorary Secretary :
Colonel T. Deane,
Simla.

Subscriptions will be received, in India, by Messrs. King, King & Co., Bombay; Messrs. King, Hamilton & Co., Calcutta; and by the Alliance Bank, Simla, and its branches at Calcutta, Cawnpore, Agra, Ajmere, Darjeeling, Lahore, Murree, Mussoorie, Rawal Pindi and Umballa. Subscriptions are limited to a maximum of Rs. 32 in India.

By order of the Committee,
T. Deane, Col.,
Hon'y. Secy.

Simla, 18th July, 1896.

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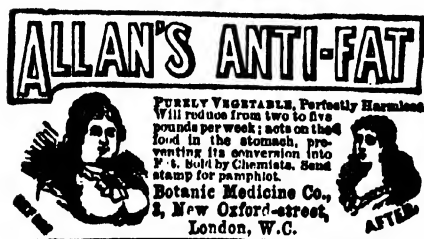
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND
REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 752.

A DAY-DREAM.

THERE are bright and happy hours
In this dwelling-place of tears,
Sunny gleams between the showers,
Merry birds and smiling flowers,
Hopes that conquer fears.

There are many sweets that mingle
In the cup of mortal sadness,
Fairy bells that softly tingle,
By woodland way and forest dingle,
Moving hearts to gladness.

There are fairer, brighter things
Starlike gem the path of life :
Sympathy that ever brings
Friendship on its dove-like wings ;
Faithful love till death that clings ;
Peace, the sleep of strife.

Thus I mused one soft spring morn,
While, her clear soprano ringing,
A sweet nightingale was singing
From her seat in the old thorn.
Then, methought that at my side,
Harshly thus a voice replied—
“Dreamer, as you name each blessing,
With your gaze upon the sky
Wrapped in a fool’s fantasy,
Tell me which art thou possessing.”
And at these strange words I wondered,
But the bird was singing still,
And an echo from the hill
Seemed to ask me why I pondered.
Then I answered musingly,
“Love, the urchin, ever roving
To and fro, still passes by,
Glancing with a roguish eye,
Leaving me unloved, unloving.
Better so, for love,” I said,
“Flashes like a meteor gleam ;
And realities but seem
Harsher by the light it shed.
I have many a loving friend ;
With their pleasant voices near me,
And their sympathy to cheer me,
I will wear life to its end.
And when death has had his will,
Sparkling eyes for me will weep,
Loyal hearts a corner keep,
For our friendship’s memory still.”

—Sharpe’s Magazine.

WEEKLYANA.

THE Levée has been fixed for Thursday, the 17th December, at the usual hour of 9-30 P.M. and the Drawing Room at the same hour on Saturday the 19th December.

Today is the last day for sending in cards for the Levée, and Wednesday next for the other reception. The Government House notifications regarding the two ceremonies will be found elsewhere.

THE fifth or the last Criminal Sessions of the High Court for the current year, will commence on Monday, the 7th December, under the presidency of Mr. Justice Jenkins.

•••

THE holiday notifications of the Bengal Government for the next year run in these words :—

“Under section 25 of Act XXVI of 1881, entitled ‘The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881,’ the Lieutenant-Governor hereby declares the following days to be public holidays during the year 1897 :—

All Sundays.		
January 1st	...	New Year’s Day.
February 6th and 7th (Sunday)	...	Sri Panchami.
March 18th	...	Dol Jatra.
April 12th	...	Chaitra Sankranti.
April 16th	...	Good Friday.
April 17th	...	Easter Saturday.
June 10th	...	Dasahara.
August 20th	...	Janmashtami.
September 26th (Sunday)	...	Mahalaya.
October 2nd, 3rd (Sunday), 4th, 5th	...	
10th (Sunday) and 11th	...	Durga-Lakshmi Puja.
October 25th and 26th	...	Kali Puja.
November 3rd and 4th	...	Jagadhatri Puja.
December 24th	...	Christmas Eve.
December 25th and 26th (Sunday)	...	Christmas Day and the day following.

The day which may be fixed by the Government of India for the observance of the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India shall also be a public holiday.

“With reference to the above notification, the Lieutenant-Governor hereby notifies that on the following days during 1897, which are not declared to be ‘public holidays,’ the offices under the Government of Bengal and all Revenue and Magisterial Courts in Bengal, with the exception of the offices of Collector of Customs, Shipping Master, the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta, the Stamping Department of the office of the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, and the Salt Rawana and Opium Departments of the Board of Revenue, shall be closed :

I.—Muhammadan Holidays.

Id-ul-fitr	...	On the 6th March, but if the moon be visible on the 4th, then on the 5th March.
Id-uz-zuha	...	On the 13th May, but if the moon be not visible on the 3rd May, then on the 14th May.
Muharram	...	On the 11th and 12th June, but if the moon be visible on the 1st, then on the 10th and 11th.
Fatiha Dawazdaham	...	On the 12th August, but if the moon be visible on the 30th July, then on the 11th August.

II.—Hindu Holidays.

Durga-Lakshmi Puja	...	30th September, 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th October.
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III.—Other Holidays.

Two days preceding Christmas Eve.	...	22nd and 23rd December.
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Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.”

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

THE head-quarters of the Burdwan Commissionership has, from the 1st December, 1896, been removed from Burdwan to Chinsurah. What the father was not permitted to do, the son has accomplished. Mr. C. T. Buckland was peremptorily ordered to go back to Burdwan when he had removed his office to Howrah. The present Commissioner Mr. C. E. Buckland will now reside in the Chinsurah barracks as Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

20,773 persons visited the Indian Museum during the month of November, the total being made up of 275 male and 130 female Europeans, and of 16,057 male and 4,311 female natives of India. The daily average during the 11 days on which the Institution was open to the general public was 1,888.

A JAPANESE soldier is allowed seven ounces of meat, an Austrian or Spanish private eight, a French, Turkish, German, or Belgian nine, an Italian eleven, an Englishman twelve, a Russian sixteen, and an American twenty. The ration of bread is highest in the Austrian Army, thirty-two ounces, and lowest in the English, sixteen ounces. In the German army it is twenty-eight ounces, in the French and Italian, twenty-two, the same in the United States, and in the Russian army seventeen ounces. All modern armies, save the Russian, have a daily allowance of rice.

PROF. W. Oswald of Germany, in a letter to Prof. W. Ramsay of England, points out the superiority of scientific education in Germany to that in England, thus :—

"In our frequent discussion on scientific education we have both often been struck with some points of very great difference between the English and the German way of dealing with it. As it may be asserted without national arrogance that university education in Germany is in a more satisfactory condition than in your country. You are, of course, anxious to know which of the German customs I consider most effective in bringing about this better state of things; and I will, therefore, try to point them out. Of course, I shall confine myself to the subject of natural science, and especially chemistry and physics, feeling myself unable to deal with sciences beyond my knowledge. The main point of our system may be expressed in one word, freedom—freedom of teaching and freedom of learning. The first involves for the teacher the necessity of forming in his mind a clear conception of the scope of his science, for as he is free to choose any possible method of view, he feels himself answerable for the particular one he has chosen. And in the same way the student feels himself responsible for the method and the subjects of his studies, inasmuch as he is free to choose any teacher and any subject. One who has not seen this system in action may be inclined to think that such a system must lead to arbitrary and irresponsible methods on the side of the teacher, and confusion on the part of the student. But the former is avoided, because at the beginning of his career the teacher is dependent for his advancement on the results of his scientific views, and is naturally anxious to improve his position in the educational world. As for the students, they themselves impose certain restrictions on their own freedom. Most of them feel that they require some advice and guidance, and they therefore follow the usual and approved order in conducting their own studies. As to the inventive man of original ideas, it has often been proved that for him any way is almost as good as any other, for he is sure to do his best anywhere. Moreover, such a man soon excites the interest of one of his teachers, and is personally led by him, generally to the great advantage of both."

THE Berlin "Vossische Zeitung" published the recent terrific ballooning experience of some aeronauts. One of them, M. Bouteux, says:—

"When we had risen 600 yards or more, we found ourselves in such thick clouds that we could distinguish nothing. Suddenly the Jupiter lay on one side and the car leaped terribly. At the same time we were lashed by large hailstones and heavy rain. We were driven forward with bewildering speed. In our fright we threw out everything that our hands came across. The balloon sprang upward like an arrow and soon passed through the clouds. We were under a clear sky, in the light of the setting sun. Gradually it grew colder and colder, and our outclothes were frozen stiff. Crepillon fell fainting to the bottom of the boat, and we others were not much better off. As I looked out I saw a large black cloud moving from south-west to north-east. But we still rose. Then I saw nothing more. The blood streamed from my nose and ears. My hands were frozen hard as a board.

In a few minutes we had risen to a height of nearly 5,000 yards. Then we began to sink, first slowly, then rapidly. All at once we were again in complete darkness. We were in the midst of thunder clouds. Again, amid hail and rain, the wind drove the Jupiter on at a speed of ninety miles an hour. We were blinded by the hail and could scarcely breathe. But I did not lose hope of reaching the earth safely. The hail and rain now began to be mixed with leaves and particles of earth. The car was violently shaken, and we fell against each other, and had to hold on to the ropes. Then we began to drag along the ground. The balloon suddenly rose again. I let my rope go, and was dashed to the ground. Legrand believed that I had voluntarily jumped out. He jumped after me, and fell near me with a broken leg. Thus lightened of weight the balloon rose more rapidly. Rushing through the tree tops,

it went on about six miles in the direction of Gretz. As it hung on the top of a tree Foucard tried to land, caught a rope, but was thrown violently to the earth. A woman saw the balloon hanging in the trees and sent the people at her inn to our assistance. Foucard was found covered with mud and ice, his face all torn. He still breathed. When his head was raised with the intention of giving him stimulants, he was seized with a convulsion and soon expired.

As he was carried away a weak voice was heard calling from the car for help. Two ladders were brought and tied together, and a gendarme climbed up to assist Crepillon. It took an hour to get him down. On reaching the ground he fainted away. He was cold as ice, and only regained his senses after continued friction. In a few hours he was out of danger."

THE electric tramway, constructed in Egypt, was opened at Cairo on August 1.

THE British Parliament has made no less than 20,000 statutes, of which 5,000 are in force. 3,300 have been passed in our Empress's reign. 151 date from Henry III, the first three Edwards and Richard II, 25 from the House of Lancaster, 3 from that of York, 170 from the Tudors, 69 from the Stuarts, 92 from William III and Anne, and 1,132 from the four Georges and William IV.

BICYCLE is now utilized for army-march, producing no noise, the folding pattern being in use. In the Russian army it is the order of the day.

THE year 1896 will be memorable for many commemorations. Apart from the celebration of the sixtieth year of reign of our beloved sovereign, the longest of any English monarch's, we have others of scientific and general interest. The centenary of the discovery of vaccination by Jenner was celebrated with pomp in Germany, Russia and in the United States but not in England, the discoverer's birthplace.

It is also the jubilee year of the introduction of anæsthetics in surgical practice. The terrible suffering of an operation is now avoided. The letter of a doctor patient who had undergone amputation, to Dr. Simpson describes the horror, in the following few words, of the dark period :

"Of the agony it caused I will say nothing. Suffering so great as I underwent can not be expressed in words, and thus, fortunately, cannot be recalled. The particular pangs are now forgotten, but the black whirlwind of emotion, the horror of great darkness and the sense of desertion by God and man, bordering on despair, which swept through my mind and overwhelmed my heart, I can never forget, however gladly I would do so."

It is again the hundredth year of the declaration of faith by Hahnemann for *similia similibus curentur*, (let likes be treated by likes), since formulated in the law *similia similibus curentur* (likes can be treated by likes). To America we owe its propagation, though the birth-place of the hero, Germany, has been apathetic to him.

Last in the list is the potato tercentenary. In 1596 the first potato was planted in England, in Holborn, about the time that Sir Walter Raleigh was planting the first Irish potato at Yonghal near Cork. The Spaniards introduced the tuber into Virginia, North America, from either Peru or Chile, where it grows wild. They also carried it to Spain long before the Raleigh culture. From Spain it was taken to Italy and thence to Flanders in 1598. The Spaniards call it *batata*.

The introduction of potato into England was directly due to Raleigh, whose Virginia expedition ships brought back some specimens in July 1586. Calculated from that date the celebration is ten years later.

The value of this article of human food was not appreciated till the famine of 1771-72 in Germany. Before this critical period, it was a botanical curiosity, gradually turned into a food of delicacy. When Parmentier developed the plant in France, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette wore its flowers as ornaments. Frederick the Great also stimulated its cultivation. In Scotland the tubers were not cultivated before 1732.

The potato (*Solanum Tuberosum*) is not a root. It is an underground stem, swollen by accumulated starch stored up for future use. Tobacco (*Nicotiana Tabacum*) was also introduced into Europe about the same time. It is now one of the highly taxed articles of commerce in England.

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The time of the introduction of potato into India is not known. Roxburgh who came here at the end of the eighteenth century found it widely cultivated. It is possible that this tuber was brought to India by the Spanish merchants, in the sixteenth century, when most of the edible fruits were transplanted.

From earth to heaven, 1896 is also the jubilee year of the discovery, by Herschell, of the planet Neptune.

NOTES & LEADERETTES,

OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

THE British Government have given a written pledge to France that the Niger expedition will not touch any point at present in dispute with France.

SEVERAL large Russian landowners are offering supplies of corn for the victims of the Indian famine. The newspapers are urging the Government to assist by land and sea the transport of these gifts. The *Moscow Bourse Gazette* strongly protests against the Government organising relief for the Indian famine, and declares that private efforts have produced but little response. Government, it adds, has plenty to do at home without troubling about India. But, is not India its cynosure?

THE Shah has announced that henceforth he will dispense with a Premier, and will himself preside over a Cabinet of twelve responsible Ministers. Will he have the time and patience for the work?

PARLIAMENT will meet on 19th January.

AN informal report from Earl Grey to the Chartered Company states that the war is now ended. The only remaining enemy is Nungler. He eulogises the immense services rendered to the Company by Mr. Rhodes.

PRESIDENT Kruger, in a speech at Pretoria, condemned the damaging reports which have been made that the Transvaal would forcibly break the London Convention, which guarantees the independence of the Republic, and which, if modified, would be by constitutional means. He was confident that when the claims for the Jameson raid were presented, Great Britain would fairly meet just demands. It was, he said, to the interest of the Transvaal to foster the mining industry.

NUMEROUS arrests have been made at Constantinople of Turks implicated in the Young Turkish movement.

ELECTION disturbances took place at Sofia. The police and cavalry twice charged the crowds. Bloodshed is also reported from other towns in Bulgaria.

THE Hamburg strike has ended.

THE Powers have presented a note to the Porte declaring that they will organise the gendarmery and judiciary in Crete without the Porte's concurrence, unless the reforms promised in the Sultan's irade in August last is executed.

THE *Standard's* Paris correspondent reports that Mr. Pasteur's pupil, Doctor Yersin, who has been working at Saigon for the last five years, has discovered an anti-plague serum which has effected numerous cures.

THE *Times* states that the Russian Mission to Abyssinia has secured great influence with the Negus, and will remain there as long as the British remain in Egypt.

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IN the Italian Chamber of Deputies the Marquis di Rudini stated that it was not yet time to come to a final decision with regard to Erythrea, which he regarded as a permanent danger. Parliament, he said, must decide the future policy to be followed in that quarter according to the true interest of the country, which could never attain greatness while engaged in colonial enterprises which were disproportionate to its resources. The Chamber, by a large majority, has rejected the motion of the Opposition for an early discussion of the abandonment of Erythrea.

MR. Curzon, speaking at Manchester, said that the brilliant issue of the Sudan campaign was the happy augury of future triumphs. He believed the irritation in England against Germany had entirely subsided. With regard to the Transvaal, he said that the solution of the problem depended more upon the wisdom displayed at Pretoria than in London.

THE St. Petersburg *Bourse Gazette* demands a free passage of the Dardanelles for Russian ships alone, and also the abrogation of the Treaty of 1840.

THE Blackburn Chamber of Commerce has offered to raise a famine fund for India. Lord George Hamilton has tendered his best thanks, and says he awaits advices from India before appealing to the public.

THE Italian Consul, Signor Ceechi, and the captains of the Italian warships Volterno and Staffetta, besides six other officers, have all been killed by Somalis at Magadoxo, and a hundred men wounded. A telegram from Zanzibar regarding the disaster to the Italians states that they went for an excursion outside Magadoxo escorted by seventy Askaris, and that all the whites of the party were massacred by the natives.

THE Alexandria Court of Appeal has condemned the Egyptian Government to refund the half million used for the Dongola campaign and pay all costs. The newspapers in discussing the decision concur in the opinion that it will strengthen the British position in Egypt and prolong the occupation, and that if England pays the amount in dispute she has a right to Dongola rather than Egypt. The French Press say that the decision of the Alexandria Appeal Court is a rebuff to England and a triumph for France, and declare that financial helps to Egypt will give Britain no mortgage rights. An agreement has been concluded between France and Russia during the last few days for the representation of Russia in the Council of the Ottoman debt.

THE Viceroy still holds out. He is not yet prepared to say that there is famine in the land. At Baroda, he thus spoke on the 28th November:—

"There is one circumstance to which I should like to direct attention. I have had before me the figures of the rainfall during this last disturbance. It is somewhat remarkable that that storm has visited the parts of the country where it was most wanted. It has visited the Deccan. It has passed through the Central Provinces; it has been felt in the North-Western Provinces; it has penetrated to the Patna Division in Bengal; and I hope and believe also that rain has extended far enough north, in the Madras Presidency to reach the most affected districts in that province. Even in the Punjab which I would willingly have included in my list, I know that rain has fallen in the division of Delhi where I saw with my own eyes the necessity for it (applause). Now the circumstances to which I would direct your attention is this, that though the rainfall has not been uniform, and though I daresay there are few if any districts which would not be able to say that they would be glad to have more and others in which the fall has been slight, still the reports which have reached me are uniform in one respect, and that is, that they all say that the prospects of the *rabi* crop are materially improved, and that the area which will be sown will almost certainly be increased (applause). Now I have spoken with sobriety of judgment in the circumstances of the moment, and I should be the last man to wish to appear oversanguine and I will admit that the rain which has fallen, timely and beneficial though it has been, has not swept away all our anxieties or removed the necessity for measures of relief. The Government is ready as regards measures of relief, and I know that your Highness and the Chiefs of Rajputana are ready also (applause). But I am bound to say that this has strengthened my belief in the sufficiency of the supplies of food available to meet the necessity. I was always myself sceptical as to the deficiency, but now that the *rabi* crop with normal conditions during the next two months is fairly assured, I venture to say that any doubts may vanish, and it is perhaps not inopportune that I should mention this here in the great city of Baroda, because I am well aware that it is the inhabitants of the great cities that have most felt the pinch of high prices, and I hope and believe that they will soon share in the opinion which I have just expressed. (Applause)."

THE following is the official comparative statements of food grains, in Bengal :

Common rice on the 15th November,

	1896	9 Seers ;	1895	15 Seers.
Burdwan	"	9	"	17
Birbhum	"	12	"	18
Bankura	"	10	"	16
Hooghly	"	8	"	12
Howrah	"	9	"	15
24 Parganas	"	9	"	13
Calcutta	"	8	"	11
Nadia	"	8	"	14
Murshidabad	"	10	"	15
Jessore	"	9	"	16
Khulna	"	8	"	18
Rajshahi	"	9	"	16
Dinajpur	"	9	"	15
Jalpaiguri	"	9	"	16
Darjeeling	"	8	"	13
Rangpur	"	8	"	14
Bogra	"	9	"	15
Pabna	"	9	"	16
Dacca	"	9	"	15
Mymensing	"	8	"	12
Faridpur	"	8	"	16
Backergunj	"	8	"	15
Tippera	"	7	"	14
Noakhali	"	9	"	17
Chittagong	"	9	"	14
Patna	"	10	"	18
Gya	"	8	"	15
Shahabad	"	8	"	18
Saran	"	9	"	18
Champaran	"	9	"	18
Mazuffarpur	"	7	"	15
Darbhangha	"	10	"	16
Monghyr	"	8	"	15
Bhagalpur	"	10	"	17
Purnea	"	10	"	20
Malda	"	11	"	17
Sonthal Parganas	"	10	"	18
Cuttack	"	11	"	23
Balasore	"	11	"	24
Puri	"	13	"	24
Hazaribagh	"	9	"	16
Lohardaga	"	9	"	18
Palamau	"	8	"	13
Manbhum	"	10	"	18
Singhbhum	"	12	"	18

Wheat on the 15th November,

	1896	9 Seers ;	1895	15 Seers.
Patna	"	8	"	11
Gya	"	8	"	11
Shahabad	"	8	"	15
Saran	"	9	"	16
Champaran	"	8	"	15
Muzaffarpur	"	8	"	13
Darbhangha	"	8	"	15
Monghyr	"	9	"	16
Bhagalpur	"	10	"	16
Purnea	"	10	"	16

North-Western Provinces.

Common rice on the 15th November,

	1896	6 seers ;	1895	11 seers.
Jaunpur	"	8	"	15
Gorakpur	"	6	"	12
Mirzapur	"	9	"	12
Benares	"	7	"	14
Ghazipur	"	9	"	15
Ballia	"	9	"	15

Wheat on the 15th November,

	1896	7 seers ;	1895	13 seers.
Jaunpore	"	7	"	11
Gorakpur	"	7	"	12
Mirzapur	"	7	"	12

	1896	7 seers ;	1895	12 seers.
Benares	"	7	"	12
Ghazipur	"	8	"	13
Ballia	"	8	"	13

THE information supplied by the Director of Land Records and published in our last number, differs materially from the statement supplied by Mr. Finncane. The price of common rice in most of the districts is not lower than 8 or 9 seers per rupee. In Bankura, Midnapore, Murshidabad, Patna, Darbhanga, Bhagulpore, Purnea, Malda, the Sonthal Parganas, Cuttuck, Balasore, Puri, Manbhum and Singhbhum it is above 10 seers. In Orissa generally the supply is of such a kind as not to raise apprehensions of famine. In Behar great difference is found in the comparative prices of 1895 and 1896. It is half as regards rice and nearly as much regarding wheat.

IN Bengal, the famine price is prevailing in most of the districts. The only hopeful sign is the average outturn of rice is calculated at half, though in the districts of Jessore and Nadia it is different.

THE total stock of rice in and around Calcutta at the end of November last, was twelve lakhs maunds, from which two lakhs have to be deducted for probable exportation.

THE total quantity of rice and paddy imported into Calcutta from foreign and Indian ports in 1895 was 9 lakhs maunds. In 1896 it is 24 lakhs.

OUR correspondent in the Balasore district reports that cattle disease has broken out in Verah, and the people are living on one scanty meal a day. He remarks—"This in November and December! No body can say what is in store for them in July and August next."

TEN DAYS' experience of Dr. C. Banks, in temporary (3 months) charge of the conservancy branch of the Health Department of the Calcutta Corporation, gained in "what are reputed to be the dirtiest, most overcrowded and unhealthy wards," writes he, "justifies me in pronouncing these wards abnormally filthy." "It would require," he continues, "stronger language than is to be found in the Encyclopædia Britannica to convey anything like a correct idea of the appalling state of matters." He is so appalled by the filthiness of the town that "if my services were placed at their (the Commissioners') disposal for the next 20 years I should not be able in that time, with a mint of money at my back, to bring the chaotic condition of affairs into anything like order." We hope, if permanently appointed he will commit no suicide. He is specially tempted to make the remark by "the terrible overcrowding of human dwellings and the resulting evils thereof." According to him, to improve the sanitary condition of Calcutta and the amalgamated area, special attention should be directed to pulling down insanitary and building sanitary houses, constructing drains, widening streets and lanes and introducing a plentiful supply of water. He also finds that the supervision of the conservancy establishment "has been seriously neglected." The suggestions, which if acted upon, will, in his opinion, do a great deal of good, are :—

1. The hours for depositing house refuse or rubbish in streets and lanes should be restricted.
2. Pucka pavements should be constructed around all hydrants.
3. Hackney carriage stands should be made pucka, provided with surface drains, and flushed at least twice daily.
4. Every gully-pit in the town should be at once thoroughly cleaned (and disinfected as far as possible), special carts and an adequate establishment being employed for the purpose.
5. Better platform arrangements for the removal of street sweepings are absolutely necessary. The present system results in a most serious waste of time and money, and accounts for the dirty state of the streets late in the forenoon. At present these platforms are a public nuisance.
6. Building regulations are urgently required. Advice may be meanwhile given to the owners and occupiers, or both, of grain godowns and such like places in which food stuffs are stored, not to allow human beings to occupy such buildings. This is a most important point which was suggested to me by Mr. N. N. Ghose, a Municipal Commissioner.
7. A general notice should be issued to the owners of stables and gowkhanas to provide pucka floors and drains connecting the main drains, and insisting upon the washing of their carriages in their own premises and not in the streets. The condition of these places is disgraceful.
8. Body spouts should be prohibited unless connected with the drains. Such nuisances should not be tolerated. In visiting narrow lanes, one never knows when one may be drenched with the foul discharges from these primitive domestic conveniences.

10. There are numerous houses which should be certified uninhabitable until thoroughly cleaned outside and inside, disinfected and ventilated, as far as it is possible to do so. This certainly would facilitate the attempts that are being made to make them habitable.

10. A Lodging-house Act should be introduced. I understand no such Act is in force.

11. Night-soil depots situated in thickly populated parts of the city should be removed.

12. Means should be provided whereby narrow lanes might be flushed with the aid of a hose; that is to say, there should be abundant supply of water.

13. Drop privies should be abolished.

14. Drainage extension, open squares in crowded localities, and the widening of streets and lanes.

WE give a prominent place to the letter of Dr. Jelovitz on the Bombay plague. As the disease is proving obstinate, it is time to have recourse to other than ordinary methods to meet it successfully. Already, there is a cry in Bombay for the distant Dr. Yersin and the anti-plague serum which he is telegraphed to have discovered. Dr. Jelovitz suggests a remedy ready at hand and the cost of which Bombay will not probably grudge, seeing how freely it has been expending money not only in its own interests but the interests of other cities, finding itself shunned by the rest of the world. We do not see any absurdity in Dr. Jelovitz's suggestion. There are diseases in which an even temperature is prescribed for sick rooms. There are, again, hot houses. Why not then hot buildings? If the raising of the temperature may lead to the raising of the siege by plague, why not take to it?

"STR.—The morning papers inform us by telegrams from Bombay of the increase in the number of daily cases of bubonic plague. I am not at all surprised at the increase which will perhaps continue as the temperature of the atmosphere falls. This remark, among others, I made at the last adjourned meeting of the Bombay Medical Union. I remember having given a hint to that effect, knowing from my personal experience, affirmed by many known writers, that an epidemic of bubonic plague reaches its maximum when the temperature of the atmosphere is 55 to 60°F. and diminishes *part passu* with the rise of the temperature and ultimately disappears at a temperature of from 100 to 110°F., re-appearing, when precautions are not taken, as the thermometer falls. The present state of the Bombay epidemic verifies my observation in other parts of the world. With a shower of rain a few days ago, necessarily reducing the temperature, the number of attacks increased and it went down with reaction in the air, namely, with warmer atmosphere. This theory may be opposed to popular notion. Indeed, one of the speakers at the first meeting of the Bombay Medical Union freely gave out his belief that a shower of rain would cause the disease to disappear from Bombay. During the epidemic in Turkish Arabia, where I was then residing, plague shewed itself at the latter end of February, when the thermometer rises from nearly the freezing point, gradually increased in virulence and reached its intensity in March and April. It began to abate in the latter half of April and disappeared in the middle of May, when the thermometer indicates a temperature of 110 to 115°F.

Now the question arises how shall this disease be stamped out from Bombay, where the temperature does not exceed 95 to 98°F? Will it never disappear? I am afraid not, unless extraordinary measures are resorted to. The measures taken by the health department of the Municipality of the city of Bombay are in themselves not sufficient, and the class of people who are usually attacked do not, because they know not how to, help the executive in their attempts to drive out the disease. I would suggest artificial heat to be introduced into the infected houses and quarters. In the former this can be done by laying down and carrying through every room, iron pipes through which hot air can be passed, thereby increasing the temperature *ad libitum*. This is to be continued for at least one month or six weeks; at the same time, once every three days the floors of each room are to be washed with hot water. It would be better perhaps if the hot water were mixed with perchloride of mercury (1 in 5,000) as suggested by the Medical Board, for this city, appointed by the Bengal Government. My suggestion may appear startling, but to the knowing it is not so ridiculous. A trial at any rate cannot do any harm until more effective means can be found for stamping out this dire disease which has already claimed victims by hundreds.

Hotel Continental,
Calcutta, Dec. 5."

M. L. JELOVITZ, M.D.

Today's telegraphic report from Bombay seems to confirm Dr. Jelovitz. There is a large increase in the number of attacks and deaths. Plague has also spread to other quarters. The Health Department, we are told, want to try the experiment of removing a portion of the tiles from the roofs of houses to let in the sun.

THE Lieutenant Governor will hold a Darbar at Belvedere, at 4-30 P.M., on Tuesday, the 8th December, 1896, "for the investiture of certain gentlemen on whom Titles have been conferred by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India." "Full Dress for gentlemen entitled to wear uniform and Morning Dress for others." Morning dress for Darbars is a recent innovation and is not calculated to preserve the grandeur and solemnity of the occasion. It is, however, in keeping with the indiscriminate bestowal of Indian titles. In the cards of invitation issued, we observe another omission. They give the block and the seat number but no plan (on the back) of the Darbar Hall.

The gentlemen to be invested are:—

Maharaja Gobind Lal Ray, of Rangpur.

Raja Shashi Shakharewar Roy Bahadur, of Tahirpur in Rajshahi.

Shams-ul-Ulama Maulavi Zulfiqar Ali, of Calcutta.

Khandkhar Fazal-I-Rabbi Khan Bahadur, of Murshidabad.

Rai Ram Okhoy Chatterjee Bahadur, of Calcutta.

Rai Sarat Chunder Das Bahadur, C.I.E., Tibetan Translator to Govt.

Maulavi Badruddin Haidar Khan Bahadur, of Calcutta.

Rai Hari Ballabh Bose Bahadur, Government Pleader, Cuttack.

Rai Anand Chander Sen Bahadur, of Dacca.

WITHIN a fortnight of Mr. Manomohan Ghose's death, his favourite niece, Pramila, who had been ailing for months, died. Although not more than 24 years of age, yet she had made herself a name as the writer of *Pramila* and *Talini*. Her verses wrung admiration from all classes of readers. Commencing her literary career at the early age of 13, she had early enough, before she was 20, won her fame. A constant contributor to the vernacular press, especially to the well-known magazines, she has left a number of manuscripts which she could not complete on account of her continued illness. She was a good specimen of a Hindu lady, with an amiable disposition and pleasing address. She had the advantage of seeing English life in India in the house of her late uncle, Mr. Ghose. Mr. Ghose was very anxious for her life. He saw her before his last visit to Krishnagur and when himself dying enquired how she was and wanted to see her. In his last visit to her, by way of consolation, he impressed on her that man is mortal, that sooner or later all must die, and that he himself was prepared to meet death at any moment.

THE gaieties at Baroda during the viceregal visit were marred by a very painful accident. In the rush of the crowd that had gathered to witness the fireworks, 29 persons lost their lives. The subsequent entertainments were abandoned and Lord Elgin, while opening the new court buildings on the 30th November, alluded in feeling terms to the catastrophe, thus:—

"Your Highness,—Before I proceed to carry out your wishes and to declare this building open, I desire, with your permission, to take this the last public opportunity which I shall have in this city to express my sympathy with your Highness and with the citizens of Baroda at the sad and untoward accident which was the only blot upon the successful proceedings of Saturday. It so happened that I did not pass through the gardens in the late evening, and therefore I was unaware of what had happened till yesterday morning, but I had passed through the gardens several times earlier in the day, and I had mentioned to your Highness and to others my wonder not only at the size of the crowd, but at the happy and orderly manner in which they were evidently enjoying the various entertainments which your Highness' kindness had provided for them. I am sure it must be a deep grief that one of those sudden movements to which large crowds of this kind are notoriously liable should have brought about so sad a result, but it is not for me now to examine into the causes. I have only to express what I am sure must have been the first feeling of everyone when they heard the news, the deep concern and grief which we all feel for the victims themselves and for their families and dependants. (Hear, hear.) I know that was the feeling which was present to your Highness yourself, because you were good enough to pay me a visit almost immediately after you received the news; and I know that your first thought was to visit the sufferers in the hospital and to make such enquiries as would enable you to make proper provision for the families of those who, alas, are themselves beyond human aid. I should have wished to have shared in that good work, but as your Highness desires to take it upon yourself I have only to express my deep sympathy with you and my sense of the kind and charitable feelings which have animated your heart. (Hear, hear.)"

THE Evening Party, on Monday, at Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore's was the occasion for the second appearance of Mr. Ronald Smedley before a native audience in a native private residence. Mr. Smedley is not only a reciter but a bit of an actor as well, but nothing like Birch or Locke Richardson. The first excelled them all. He would, in the twinkling of an eye, change his dress to suit the part he recited. Locke Richardson, without change of dress, would act many parts in quick succession suiting his voice and manner to the character assumed. Mr. Smedley did the comic parts capitally. In the serious portion of his programme he was not so successful. The recitation of Freedom from Nesbit's Story of a Hungarian Hero was not sufficiently stirring. We had better reading of Mark Antony's speech in Shakespeare's Julius Cæsar. The Battle of Waterloo from Byron did not impress us much. Hamlet's soliloquies fell flat. In his anecdotes Mr. Smedley shewed his cleverness especially to the disparagement of foreigners, not excepting his own German professor. Dickens' Sergeant Buz Fuz's address to the Jury was splendid. Whether he could successfully present to his hearers the nameless advocate whom he wanted to caricature we cannot say, but he took them, among whom were many lawyers, with him. He concluded with the Trial Scene from the Merchant of Venice, which was indeed a treat. He was perhaps more than ordinarily harsh on the old Jew.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 5, 1896.

THE CRISIS IN THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION.

PLAGUE on the Municipal Commissioners ! Such is the verdict of the head of the Bengal Government on a body of men who are preparing to meet the threatened danger from Bombay. Hitherto Sir Alexander Mackenzie had received all representations on the subject of plague with caution. He had refused to precipitate himself into any ill-considered action in consequence of the hysterical shrieks of the Health Officer. No sooner he was in Calcutta than he smelt a dead rat and grew loudly delirious from the stench of the new sewers to be constructed and of which he laid the foundation stone on the 26th of November. He utilised the occasion by denouncing the Commissioners in no measured terms, for supporting of the executive, specially the Health Officer who has lost the confidence of his masters and whom they would like to get rid of. He found fault with the constitution of the Municipality, with the members, and with the method of their working, and threatened them with extinction unless they prove themselves better, that is, amenable to the whims of their executive and unless, above all, they let their Health Officer alone.

Dr. Simpson has been found to be an alarmist by the Medical Board, as he has been found wanting by his masters. All the cases reported by him have been pronounced to be not of plague. Regarding the earlier ones, the Medical Board say :—

"Six cases of fever accompanied with swelling of lymphatic glands have been reported to the Board up to date, and they are of opinion that there are at present no grounds for believing any of these to be cases of true bubonic plague."

Later on, while making their final deliverance on the 11 cases reported, they say :—

"In the cases marked with an asterisk, (numbering 5) the plague bacillus is said to have been found in the blood of the persons attacked. Three others were found to be cases of simple enlarged glands, fever and bronchitis, and intestinal obstruction, respectively. The result of the examination of the blood of the two cases in the Presidency General Hospital is not known to us. As a full history of all these eleven cases is contained in the appendix to this report, it is not necessary to recapitulate them here, and a summary of the conclusions drawn from these will, therefore, be sufficient in this place.

The bacillus is also said to have been identified in the case in Raja Raj Bullub Street which terminated fatally. This case was first reported by a homœopathic practitioner to the Health Officer of Calcutta by post card on the evening of the 2nd November; it was seen by Drs. Cobb and Simpson on the 3rd at 5-30 P.M., and the man died in their presence at 6-30 the same evening. They reported it 'as a fatal case of true plague.' The Board of Health did not hear of this case till the following day, after the body had been disposed of, and then only from private information. An interval of nearly 20 hours occurred between the time the case was first seen by the homœopathic practitioner and the time it was inspected by Drs. Cobb and Simpson. It is to be regretted that Drs. Cobb and Simpson did not call in one of the medical members

of the Board, who would have been only too willing to go and see 'a true case of plague.' The omission is the more unfortunate, because doubt had arisen in the public mind regarding the diagnosis of the previous cases. Drs. Dys on and Robson-Scott, however, as soon as they heard of the case, proceeded to the spot and made minute enquiries concerning it, with the result that it was clear that other reasons existed for the enlargement of the glands in the groin, which was reported to be one of the prominent features of the case.

The most noticeable point in the suspicious cases that have occurred is the fact that all the patients in whose blood the plague germ is said to have been found recovered, with the single exception of the case in Raja Raj Bullub Street, and in this case, as already stated, the symptoms noticed can reasonably be ascribed to other causes. Another remarkable fact is that none of these six sporadic suspicious cases produced any infection either in the neighbourhood or even among the people who attended the sick.

Looking only to the clinical symptoms set forth in the appendix to this report, we have no hesitation in expressing our emphatic opinion that none of these cases including the fatal case of Bipin Behari Dutt, can properly be described as a case of bubonic plague. It may be inferred, however, from the reports which have come before us, that the diagnosis made by the Health Officer and Dr. Cobb is based not so much upon the symptoms of the patients, as upon the supposed presence in their blood of a microscopic organism stated to be 'the plague bacillus.'"

They conclude :—

"Looking to the evidence as a whole, we have no hesitation in expressing our opinion that there is no evidence that any case of true bubonic plague has yet occurred in Calcutta; and that the cases which have been reported to us as plague were so described on the strength of an opinion as to the origin and character of certain microscopic organisms which has not been confirmed by the results of an independent inquiry conducted by an expert of long experience in bacteriological research."

This is complete distrust of the Health Officer and his ways, as plainly expressed as sober official language can do. But Dr. Simpson sees not the condemnation. He does not feel the sting. He is evidently more thick-skinned than people generally are. The Board consist of men that are gentlemen. They could not perform a surgical operation for rousing Dr. Simpson's sensibilities. The fact of his sticking to his place notwithstanding the displeasure of his masters and his condemnation by the Medical Board, carries with it its own tale. He prides himself as an expert in the manipulation of the microscope. He is now declared to be no bacteriologist and, according to the statement of his new assistant, he has grossly neglected the supervision of an important work of his own department. It is a wonder, therefore, how he can still retain his position and a greater wonder how he has found a supporter in the Lieutenant-Governor who falls foul of the Commissioners for his lapses. This is only a proof of the utter helplessness of the Commissioners whom a breath can unmake as a breath has made. In fact, they have been seriously hampered in dealing with their Health Officer. He may very well defy them in the security of gubernatorial favour. The Governor, while chastising the Commissioners for the filthiness of the town, hesitates not to hold out an inducement to insubordination in a servant. Mr. James Kimber, the late Engineer to the Corporation, had, in the same way, been the means of bringing the Commissioners to grief. The Cunningham-Commission, presided over by Mr. Justice Beverley, has been repeated, in the interest of the Health Officer, in a form that will not end as that Commission had ended. The present movement is more systematic and thorough and has the ring of an Alexanderine, needless or needful, we do not enquire in the present article.

The present régime in Bengal, as regards the Calcutta Corporation, is that of Sir Ashley Eden and Sir Rivers Thompson and not of Sir Richard Temple who gave the present constitution. Sir Alexander

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Monday, the 7th Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Carbonic anhydride and Carbonates.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Tuesday the 8th Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Sulphur and Sulphuretted Hydrogen.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 9th Dec., at 6 P.M. Subject: Force and Motion (concluded.) Laws of falling bodies—Atwood's Machine.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Thursday, the 10th Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Oxides and Oxy-acids of Sulphur.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 10th Dec., at 5-15 P.M. Subject: Circulation.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Friday, the 11th Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Oxy-acids of Sulphur (concluded.) Bi-sulphide of Carbon.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Saturday, the 12th Dec., at 3 P.M. Subject: Phosphorus and its compounds with Hydrogen and Oxygen.

Lecture by Babu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., M.R.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 12th Dec., at 4-30 P.M. Subject: Histology of Plants—A Cell.

Lecture by Dr. Nilratan Sirkar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 12th Dec., at 6 P.M. Subject: Histology—Nerve.

Mackenzie accepts Sir Ashley Eden, under whom he had acted, as his model in the art of government, and, following him, has commenced his attack on local self-government in Calcutta. Sir Ashley Eden was of opinion that local self-government is a sickly plant even in its native soil. Then Dr. Payne was supreme in the Corporation, though he was only a servant, and now Dr. Simpson rides over his legitimate masters. Sir Richard Temple was a fool to grant the present elective municipality. He was no better in other departments of the Bengal Secretariat. His favourites there have, therefore, been sent away. The Thompson's raid saved the then Engineer of the Corporation, who, afterwards in conjunction with the Chairman, turned on his deliverers and accomplished strange feats to cover past neglect of the drains and sewers. The Chairman did not throw the Commissioners overboard but carried on a mighty contest, aided by his friend, the present Chief Commissioner of Assam, with the Lieutenant-Governor and vindicated the Municipality with a vigour of reasoning of which he alone was capable.

Twelve years after, the Municipality has been taken up again for a sharp handling. The town is not what it was. Improvements, on a large scale, have been made in every direction. It is difficult to identify many neighbourhoods. Progress has been steady. The municipal income has gone up by leaps and bounds. The largest part of that income has been every year devoted to the cause of improvements. Hundreds of open drains have been filled up. Dozens of bustees have been cleared. Many new roads and streets have been opened. The conservancy has been vastly improved. Water connections have been extended. The value of landed property in the town has increased. Instead of thanking the Commissioners for what they have done, they are censured for what they have not done. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is an experienced administrator. And yet he has shown a regrettable lack of experience in thus indulging in a diatribe against those who are entitled to his best thanks. Time is a factor in every question of improvement. They who ignore this, must be regarded as ignorant, indeed, of the ways of humanity. Hysterical shrieks inspired by alarm are unmanly and unstatesmanlike. Rulers should not act like old women. They must take note of what is impossible. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, with the cleverest Secretary at his elbow, and with ten times the present income of the Corporation, will not succeed in making Calcutta a perfect town within even twenty years to come.

It is a consolation to think that Sir Alexander Mackenzie does not mean what he says—such, at least, is the interpretation put on his speech at Entally by a native daily edited by one of the loudest of Commissioners who had loudly complained of it. Mr. Risley, Secretary to the Bengal Government and President of the Medical Board, who is not usually courteous and communicative, who, while receiving presents from a stranger, always forgets to acknowledge them, specially if the stranger happens to be a native, who ignores the native without thinking it beneath his dignity to apply to the native press for literary commissions, has been prompt in making the bitter pill less bitter, if not sweet. Here is his balm. As Secretary to the Bengal Government he writes to the Medical Board of which he is the President:

"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the Medical Board, of yesterday's date, submitting the report of the five

Sanitary Officers and the Civil Surgeon of the 24-Parganas upon the results of the sanitary survey of Calcutta and the added area, made under the directions of the Board. The Lieutenant-Governor entirely agrees with the Board, and has already publicly declared, that the state of things disclosed constitutes a standing menace to the health of the city, and indicates a lamentable failure on the part of those responsible for the town conservancy. The Lieutenant-Governor would be glad if the Medical Board would make a full and searching enquiry into the causes of this failure, and report the result to Government. His Honour feels sure that the propriety and, indeed, the necessity of such an impartial enquiry will be generally admitted. The Lieutenant-Governor has complete confidence that the Corporation, both through its executive and collectively, will give every assistance to the Board in arriving at a correct conclusion, and will face the task of cleansing the town with a firm determination to allow nothing to come in the way of this.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor has himself an entirely open mind on the question of responsibility. It is a mistake to suppose that in his speech at the initiation of the drainage works, he intended to declare that the executive of the Corporation was blameless in the matter of the sanitary and other shortcomings of the city, and that the general body of Commissioners was alone to blame. For the state of some departments, such as the Warrant Department, there can be little doubt that the executive is largely responsible. It was His Honour's intention to stir up the Commissioners to take vigorous action to remedy the gross evils brought to light by the sanitary reports, and to point out various matters which in his judgment called for scrutiny and reform, but he carefully refrained from deciding to whom or to what feature in the municipal arrangements the blame is to be imputed for particular shortcomings. The Lieutenant-Governor considers (and said) that the constitution of the Municipality is not in itself calculated to promote the rapid disposal of work or to fix responsibility; that there has been at times undue interference with the executive, which ought, in a city like Calcutta, to be strong and well organised; and that there has been great remissness in working the existing building regulations. Sir Alexander Mackenzie believes that his views on these points have been held by every Lieutenant-Governor since the Corporation came into existence. But the questions before it and the Government at the present time are eminently practical, viz., what steps are necessary to remedy the existing foul state of the city and to prevent its recurrence. On these points the Lieutenant-Governor desires to have the advice of the Medical Board before he addresses the Corporation.

3. He understands that the Medical Board have themselves addressed the Corporation regarding the measures detailed in their letter, which ought, in their opinion, to be taken in hand at once. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the Corporation will respond promptly and heartily to the Board's suggestions, and insist on effect being given to them.

4. The Board should apply to the Corporation direct for copies of the regulations on house-connections, and for any other information which they may require."

Thus Mr. Risley raises his magic wand to calm the tempest raised by his chief. His interference seems to have softened to a degree the outraged susceptibilities of the Commissioners. At any rate, they are in no hurry to make their protest. The above is as complete a retraction as possible of the censures hurled forth on the 26th of November. "A full and searching enquiry into the causes of the failure," it is frankly admitted, has not yet been made. Till such an enquiry is completed, there can be no apportionment of praise or blame. Sir Alexander Mackenzie did not intend to castigate the Commissioners. Poor souls! if they thought so, they were mistaken. He was only "stirring" them up. It was only a crack of the whip and nothing more. If anybody was hurt and blood was drawn, he should take it as an unfortunate accident, for the intention to strike was totally absent.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

October 26.

When the mail closed on Friday evening, the 23rd instant, I purposely refrained from even mentioning the extraordinary case of the Chinese Doctor, Sin Yat Sen. That such a case was possible in the capital of the world seemed to be incredible. I am afraid we will not know the full details until Parliament meets. One thing seems clear. The doctor belonged to a secret society, very much apparently on the lines of the Nihilists in Russia. These Chinamen wished to overthrow the present dynasty. The plot was revealed, no doubt by one of themselves, as almost invariably happens, and sixteen of the comrades of Sin Yat Sen

lost their heads. He managed to escape to America, and eventually found his way over here. He may be a born conspirator and an eminent physician, but he must be singularly wanting in that most uncommon of all attributes—common sense. The very last place he should have gone to was the Chinese Embassy in Portland Place. But he appears to have courted persecution, by going ostentatiously to the Embassy. When his friend Dr. Cantlie applied to the Vacation Judge in Chambers for a writ of "habeas corpus" (what the immortal Sam Weller called "have his carcass") the Judge properly refused to issue the writ, remarking that the High Court had no power to interfere with the doings of an Ambassador. There was only one resource left, to appeal to the Executive Government in the person of Lord Salisbury. As soon as he heard of it, he put his foot down and negotiations were carried on with Sir Halliday Macartney. This last is a distinguished member of our diplomatic service. But in this instance he seems to have lost his head. The matter was no doubt complicated by the unfortunate condition of the Chinese Ambassador. He went down to Southampton to say adieu to Li-Hung Chang, was seized with paralysis, and since then has been lying between life and death. Lord Salisbury apparently insisted on the immediate and unconditional surrender of Sun Yat Sen, and so he was made free.

The Royal Academy, as the cable will have informed you, has elected Mr. E. J. Poynter to succeed Sir J. Millais, as President. The "Times" has nothing to say against Mr. Poynter, beyond the fact of his being Director of the National Gallery, and asks "whether those duties are not too exacting to be properly performed in conjunction with the duties of President of the Royal Academy?" It points out only once, more than forty years ago, were both offices conjoined in the person of Sir Charles Eastlake. But in 1850 our National Gallery was only of second rank. Now "it is comparable with the Louvre and with Dresden, and far superior in all round excellence to the Galleries of Vienna, Munich and Berlin."

Nov. 6.

Great Britain. We are in all the throes and agonies of the inextinguishable education question. You will remember it was on this question the Government came to such a melancholy fiasco in the last session of Parliament. Voluntary Schools versus Board Schools, the former representing the Churches of Rome and England, the latter, the Non-conformists, Secularists and all who hold aloof from churches in general. Day after day, the "Times" has several columns devoted to the lusty combatants, one whole column yesterday being given up to Sir H. Howarth. It is impossible to read the trash, even if one had time, and then English Churchmen are divided on the question as to State aid or Rate aid. That is, shall the assistance be from the State under the supervision of the Education Department or shall it be from the local rates without any supervision at all? The position has been further complicated by the prominent position taken in the controversy by Lord Salisbury's two sons, Viscount Cranborne and Lord Hugh Cecil, who are violent opponents of State aid. It is assumed they would not take upon themselves the prominence they have, unless with at least the tacit assent of their distinguished father. But the "Times" in a leading article yesterday, rebuts this conclusion. The "Times" writes:

"It is reasonable to suppose that the opposing schools of thought are represented within the Cabinet, which, however, is under a necessity to decide upon some course of action, which does not seem to be imperatively felt by outside disputants. Sir Michael Hicks Beach and Lord George Hamilton have indicated very clearly the enormous difficulties which, in their opinion, beset any scheme for assisting voluntary schools out of the rates, but they are not, of course, to be understood as having in any way fettered the discretion of the Cabinet as a whole, however certain it may be that they are the spokesmen of a large and influential section. On the other hand, the public, always keen to note indications of the opinions held by responsible Ministers, must be warned against what would be the very natural mistake of supposing that they have gained from communications that have appeared in our columns authentic information concerning the opinions of the Prime Minister. Statesmen differ widely in their methods, and it must not be inferred from a recent and conspicuous precedent that the son of a Prime Minister is necessarily his *alter ego*, or even an authentic exponent of the general drift of his policy. It would be particularly unfortunate were the Convocation of the two Provinces, who hold their joint meeting to-day, to assume that the opinions expressed by Lord Cranborne and Lord Hugh Cecil are those of their distinguished father. Both have a marked individuality of their own, which would probably have sufficed to put all men on their guard against such a mistake, were it not for the precedent just referred to. But as things stand it may be useful to issue a warning which is of general application and by no means confined in its scope to the question now under discussion."

But yesterday afternoon a conference was held, at the Church House, Westminster, of members of the Convocation and of the Houses of Laymen when a resolution in favour of Rate aid was carried enthusiastically.

Earl Cranbrook (the famous Gathorne Hardy of the Irish Church debate) and Lord Cross earnestly protested in favour of State aid. Whereupon the Heir of Hatfield had the bad taste to sneer at "the old fashioned conservatism of the two previous speakers." This young lord appears to be as great a master of "jibes and flauts and sneers" as Mr. Disraeli alleged in the House of Commons his father was. But the best joke of the meeting was the Bishop of Manchester. His friends had been touting to secure for him the See of London. He is evidently terribly chagrined at having been passed over, and is determined to give the Government as much trouble as possible. It is a pretty seemly quarrel as it stands for these Right Reverend Fathers in God! Personally I hope most of the Prelates will follow Dr. Moorhouse. The separation of Church from the State will then be within "measurable distance."

Lord Rosebery's memorable pronouncement at Edinburgh has apparently given a deathblow to the fanatical agitation about Armenia. But the inevitable H. P. Hughes was determined to have the last word. So in his paper the "Methodist Times" he declares Lord Rosebery's resignation was due neither to Mr. Gladstone nor to Sir W. Harcourt, but to the uprising of the "Non-conformist conscience," because of his Lordship having refused to abandon the turf! Hughes writes: "Lord Rosebery ignored the 'non-conformist conscience' for the sake of a race horse, and the whole world sees the result." The "Scotsman" replies vigorously:

"Lord Rosebery ignored the nonconformist conscience for the sake of a race horse, and the whole world sees the result." Was ever more arrant cant and humbug uttered by a minister of the Gospel? Does any sane man believe that at the time of Lord Rosebery's accession to the Premiership, the nonconformists were not just as well aware of his connection with the turf as, say, Mr. Gladstone, who recommended him, and as the majority of intelligent people in the country? Does any one believe that if Lord Rosebery had never won a Derby, but had only taken a secondary place with his horses, a word would have been heard from the nonconformist conscience, and those who profess themselves its keepers? But even if we waive these points it is surely ridiculous to connect Lord Rosebery's present position with his countenance of horse-racing. The nonconformists would have gone on supporting him and voting for him if he had chosen to remain Premier. It pleases Mr. Price Hughes to represent Lord Rosebery as having 'fallen from the great position he occupied in the country.' He has not fallen. He has stepped out of bad company in which may be included the spokesman of that hypocritical figment, the nonconformist conscience. As for position, nothing is more certain than that Lord Rosebery has, by his manlike stand upon the Armenian question and his refusal to sacrifice national issues to party exigencies, gained for himself in all classes, favourable or hostile, a reputation for statesmanship, which he never enjoyed."

Professor Johnston has, I am glad to see, determined to appeal to the Privy Council. That a man may be a very learned scholar, and yet a most inefficient teacher I know by my own experience. I was a pupil of one of the greatest Greek scholars of his day but the most inefficient of Professors, save only to his senior class. The difference between him and Professor Johnston lay in this. No rowdy student, Divinity or otherwise, would have dared to take any liberty with him.

To show the difficulty of any earnest mind knowing what to believe in these days, I quote two criticisms on the much vaunted "Ian Maclaren" alias the Presbyterian Dr. Watson of Liverpool.

First from the London "Presbyterian":—"The Rev. Dr. Watson's American Critics.—Dr. Watson's recent book, 'The Mind of the Master,' is running the gauntlet of some severe comments from Presbyterian critics in America. There is quite a scathing review of it in the 'Presbyterian and Reformed Review'; and the 'South-Western Presbyterian' comments as follows:—'Although, in common with his host of readers in two hemispheres, we alternately laughed and cried over "Bonnie Brier Bush," we were quick to discern a subtle poison diffused through it, only as a faint tincture, but coming to a stronger solution in later tales. In this book there is no concealment, but boldest avowal of beliefs, which, if he is an honest man, dictate his withdrawal from the Presbyterian Church, if in England it still holds to a genuine subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith. It is a pity for the permanency of his own reputation, to say the least, that he should have been tempted to seize the occasion of a world-wide audience to publish his heretical crudities. If he had simply consulted Cruden he would not have committed some of the most patent blunders about the teachings of Christ and His apostles, pointed out by his critics. Suffice it to say, he denies the doctrine of the Atonement as understood by the true Church of God in the days of Paul, Augustine, Calvin, the Westminster Assembly, the Hodges and Alexanders, and the great body of Christians now in the world."

Now from the "British Weekly":

"No American paper has published a happier criticism of Ian

Maclaren than the *New York Tribune*. Of his first lecture in that city the writer says, "It took the form of a familiar commentary upon his stories, and in the course of that commentary the speaker manifested at once a profound knowledge of human nature, a lovely spirit of tender human sympathy, a thoroughly noble ideal of conduct, a broad mind, a most engaging whimsicality of temperament, and a complete command of absolute simplicity in his style of expression. His humour is playful. He knows the value of the right word, and he can make that value deeply felt by his way of saying it. His innocence of manner is almost demure, and it is irresistibly charming. He spoke extemporaneously, and occasionally with the cadence which is peculiar to orators of the pulpit; but since he is a clergyman, that peculiarity was to be expected. He read a few passages from his writings, and his Scottish pronunciation was perfect music. His voice is remarkably copious, and upon occasion, when deeply moved, he would be capable of impressive oratorical display; but in this lecture he consistently preserved, and with much dexterity and fine effect, that colloquial manner which always seems so easy and which is always so difficult. He had the art to begin with mirth and to close with pathos. His success was unequivocal. The welcome accorded to him by a most intellectual and refined audience was scarcely less delightful than his charming discourse. If such a speaker can traverse this country and everywhere meet with success, that fact will be the happiest of auguries for all that is best in American civilization."

The Primacy. Few people believed Lord Salisbury would appoint Dr. Temple to the primatial See of Canterbury. All admit his intellectual superiority, barring his crazy sad on the liquor question. But he is a man *more suo*. In these days one expects to see in the head of the Church of England a man like his two predecessors on the episcopal throne. It matters little that he be an Erastian like Archibald Campbell Tait, or a wise opportunist like Dr. Benson. But, knowing Lord Salisbury's weakness as belonging to the same school of extreme High Church principles as the illustrious Lord of Hawarden, the very last nominee to the chair of St Augustine should have been Temple. An old friend of the late Cardinal Manning has come to the front, telling us that the late Cardinal was an atheist, like his distinguished brother of Paris, Darbois. Had Lord Beaconsfield nominated Dr. Temple to the See of Canterbury, one would only have laughed at the *droit tracasserie* which allowed "him they call Dizzy" to place at the head of the Church of England one who, so far as the public can judge worships more the almighty sovereign than an honest belief in the resurrection of a risen Lord and Saviour! We of this generation will not know the wheels within wheels which have led to this nomination. Possibly, as Dr Temple is seventy-six years of age, it was felt that looking forward to the great rejoicings of the 20th of June 1897, it was wise and politic to place the Bishop of London on the throne of St. Augustine. An income of £15,000 a year with palaces at Lambeth and Croydon, is not to be sneezed at, and had Lord Salisbury named Archbishop Magee's old wife of a Bishop, he of Lincoln, Dr. King, no one would have been surprised. Lord Salisbury might have gone to the lowest level of the other Church party, and appointed Dr. Ryle, the Bishop of Liverpool. Either Lincoln or Liverpool would have been an anachronism, but not so fatal to the Church of England, as nominating a man like Dr. Temple. I speak with the greatest respect of the working men of London. They know their power. They have seventy votes in the House of Commons and what will those working men say over their Sunday pipe on this great scandal? Fifteen thousand pounds a year with two palaces, at Lambeth and Croydon, appeals to their sense of injustice. They say and say with perfect truth, Dr. Temple was known thirty years ago as one of the seven against the Lord Jesus Christ! No one condemns him for that. He boldly took sides with the late illustrious Head of Balliol College, Oxford, Dr. Jowett, with Baden Powell and Rowland Williams. All honour to Dr. Temple for having the courage to take such a position. But, as Head of the Church of England he is in a false position. The late illustrious Huxley or Tyndall would not have done so much harm as the advancement of this great intellectual power to a commanding position, which, if it means anything at all, implies an avowed belief in the resurrection of what, to Christians, is a term of very dear devotion, "our risen Lord." The late Dean Stanley whittled away all dogmatic truths, save that only. He maintained Christ was the risen Lord and he held out the hand of friendship to all who were willing to make the same acknowledgment. I may be a false prophet, but it does seem to me, the elevation of Dr. Temple is a terrible blow to all our old fashioned (if you like to call them so) ideas, portrayed in the "divine song Milton sang," of a world lost by sin, the inheritance of paradise to be recovered by all who can believe that Jesus Christ was the "risen Lord."

Here you and I part company. I admire and respect your devotion to duty to your countrymen, while I mourn for the sake of all that is good and true in English society, the primatial elevation of a man who has no belief beyond his own aggrandisement! It is a sad day for the Church of England. And to have had the

stab inflicted by one of its most illustrious sons, Lord Salisbury, must be, to all truth-loving children, a very terrible judgment of the One whom, all alike Hindus, Mohammedans and Christians worship as the common and beneficent Father of us all.

Great intellects like Carlyle refused to believe in a risen Saviour and Lord. Other intellects quite as illustrious as Carlyle believed it as divine truth. In that marvellous chapter in "Sartor Resartus," Carlyle, the son of covenanting parent, tells us how on the highway between Gith and Edinburgh, he renounced his ancestral faith. All honour to the man who had the courage to publish his convictions, but no less honour is due to those who accepted the Gospel story as believed in by St. Paul, one or other but not both. David Hume as Archbishop of Canterbury would not be a greater anachronism as Lord Salisbury's nomination of Dr. Temple.

To place on the throne of St. Augustine a man who has deliberately denied his Lord and master, would have been worthy of Benjamin Disraeli, but utterly unworthy of the great Lord of Hatfield. Your illustrious proconsul Lord Dalhousie once said in the General Assembly of the old Scotch Church before 1843 split it up into two parts--"the death knell of the Church of Scotland has been rung," and had that illustrious Scotchman been alive to-day, he would have told Lord Salisbury the "death knell of the Church of England had been rung."

Will any man of ordinary intelligence believe in a Church whose representative head may be placed on a level (possibly lower) with David Hume, John Stuart Mill, and John Morley? But, I must say no more.

Great Britain. The Guildhall Banquet. This was a very brilliant function, and took place, as usual, on Lord Mayor's Day, the 9th of November. The Prime Minister made a great speech which has satisfied all moderate men. Of course the fanatics will be wild. He showed how cordially he is working with France, by giving special praise to M. Hanotaux's great speech to which I have referred under the head of France. He also gave the MacKinley party a pat on the back, and he referred in terms of studied moderation to your friend Abdool Hamid. But, every one can read between the lines his days are numbered. The European concert seems to imply that M. Vambery's friend will be asked to quit. Turkey still being governed through the Sultanate under the supervision of the Great Powers. The Venezuela question too is settled, but of much more importance is the agreement between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States to form a permanent Board of arbitration for the adjustment of all disputes between the two Powers.

I need not trouble you with Mr. Morley's wordy dissertations at Glasgow and at the principal centres of the Montrose burghs for which he sits in the House of Commons. The one good thing he laid stress on was, that the question for the Radical party at present was not one of leadership but how to organize the party, and bring it into line, so that when a leader is selected he will have a band of loyal followers to lead. Lord Kimberly will no doubt take Lord Rosebery's place in the House of Lords, while Sir William Harcourt, supported by Mr. Labouchere, Sir Charles Dilke and the arch obstructive Dalziel, will lead in the Commons. In the sordid game of politics as now played, dirty work is inevitable and no better instrument for such work could Sir William employ than the last named.

The "British Weekly" gives us this prayer in this week's issue:

"O Lord, Thou fillest all things with light and all the creatures that Thou hast made will rejoice in the noonday of Thy smile. Say to those who are overweighted, overborne with sorrow, trial, difficulty and perplexity, that there is a day coming when there shall be no more sighing or groaning or burden-bearing, neither shall there be any more pain. Whisper to their hearts, 'Sorrow and sighing shall flee away.' Thou dost all things on a grand scale. Thou dost lord the lily and the daisy with dew. Thou dost not spare any of Thy love, the prodigality, the abundance, the overflowing, the overmuchness of Thy love. The sunshine that falls off the little globe we inhabit fills with morning light worlds that lie away. Thou dost give without impoverishment, and if thou didst withhold, it would not enrich thee. The river of God is full of water, and abundance stands at Thy right hand like an angel, representing the fullness and the tenderness of Thy compassion."

On perusing it one feels himself on a higher level than that of an ordinary secular paper and is disposed to say let us see what this devout Clandius Clear has to say on general politics, after having lifted our soul into the realms of evangelical unction. I come upon a fierce Radical attack on Lord Salisbury's Guildhall speech, simply because the Unionist Prime Minister, and all sense of fairplay, of courtesy, of impartiality is thrown to the winds. And to the winds go the hypocritical prayer and a feeling of nausea and indignation is generated. And yet this is the stuff the Non-conformist conscience is fed on week by week! From the same paper I gather a Glasgow Professor in the Free Church College is at his favourite work of sneering at old evangelical truth. If there is one verse more than another in the Bible that through the ages

has brought comfort to weary souls, it is that containing the word, "come with me all ye that are weary and heavy laden." The rationalist Professor has discovered by a "scientific" study of the Gospel of Matthew that the ordinary interpretation put upon the words is altogether false and erroneous. It was not meant for a general invitation to all the "weary and heavy laden." It was a soliloquy by Christ to himself, which by arrangement Matthew the Publican overheard, and simply indicated not the "yearning of Jesus to give rest to weary multitudes, but His longing for apt disciples."

And that is the present teaching in the Church of Chalmers, Candlish, Cunningham, Duff and Guthrie! Teaching, no doubt highly appreciated by Marcus Dodo in Edinburgh, and George Adam Smith in Glasgow, to say nothing of William Miller of Madras. I beg his pardon, now that he has returned to Madras, I must give him his full title of which he is so proud, the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Miller. Won't he astonish the Madrasites when he turns up at the Governor's levee in his moderator's dress, shoe buckles and all!

The Indian Famine. All who take an interest in India are watching the development of events. Is it to be a severe famine or only scarcity? The best news in connection with it, is the efforts being made in Russia to raise subscriptions for the famine stricken. What better proof could we have than this, that as between ourselves and Russia "old things have passed away, all things have become new," more than justifying Lord Salisbury's remarkable words in his speech at the Guildhall.

• **France.** Two important events have to be noted. The masterly speech of M. Hanotaux on Armenia, and the death of the ex-President of the Senate, M. Challemeil Lacour. The latter was a very remarkable man to whom Mr. Blowitz in the "Times" has endeavoured to do justice. He was one of the "Immortals," a life Senator and had been Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador here.

Mr. Hanotaux's speech in the Chamber on the Armenian question was worthy of him, calm, clear and statesmanlike, no attempt to rival Mr. Gladstone's vocabulary of abuse. I have never seen any answer to the question What did Mr. Gladstone do during his last two tenures of the premiership to give effect to his extraordinary views of how to settle the Turkish question. When his zeal carried him away in the Bulgarian agitation, he was in opposition as now in dealing with the question of Armenia. It is like his famous bribe, when he suddenly dissolved Parliament in 1874 to abolish the Income-Tax. When he got back to office, nothing more was heard of the abolition of the Income Tax. M. Hanotaux is a statesman, one of the first in Europe. The Lord of Havarden is merely a domestic politician. The marriage of

The Duke of Orleans must be noted, on account of a foolish incident. A few ultra royalist ladies travelled from Paris to Vienna to present the bride with a crown of diamonds faced with a *fleur de lis*, which she wore at the wedding. A foolish story got abroad that when thanking the ladies for their gift, she made the statement that she prayed Providence that the crown might descend on the head of the Duke, and that in such an event she would be ready to second him with all her strength. The story bore its own contradiction, as the strict etiquette of the Austrian Court would have prevented such a *tracasserie*, unless indeed the speech had been made with the Emperor's sanction. That would have meant a rupture between France and Austria. However, an official denial was at once forthcoming, and so the incident ended.

On the day of the wedding at Vienna, a service was held at the Madeleine in Paris attended by all the Bourbon aristocracy, and an effort was made to rouse public feeling by disseminating Bourbon literature. Remarking on these incidents, the "Times" writes: "Monarchy in France is hopelessly handicapped by the long break in its traditions. The Republic alone has governed France for more than a quarter of a century, a period long enough to eradicate the sentiments and principles to which monarchy makes its appeal...Probably it is not too much to say that the old monarchy is about the last rival that the Republic has to fear...If Republican institutions are ever overturned it will be by a dictator born of the Republic, a man of modern type, wielding modern forces, appealing to modern instincts and possessed in a high degree of the qualities that dazzle the modern democrat. Should society want a saviour it will find him in some demagogue of larger brain and more virile force than his fellows. He will be modern of the moderns, and will employ the men, the materials, and the organisation of the Republic to construct his new system."

Cyprus. On the 6th instant some gobemouches spread a rumour that Lord Salisbury had determined to abandon Cyprus. The following morning an official contradiction appeared. It is a favourite weapon with the fanatics to urge that the convention of 1878 must be abrogated. But as Lord Rosebery pertinently asked in his famous speech, To whom are we to surrender it?

I am not going to discuss the question of the *modus operandi* by which we obtained possession of the island. Mr. Morley promises us some dainty debates on it when Parliament meets. I saw a

singular statement in a paper the other day which I have been unable to verify, that the idea was present to the fertile brain of the young Disraeli, when he wrote Tancred. Be that as it may, I have never been able to follow the line of those who assert that his diplomatic action in 1878 was unworthy of an English statesman. On the contrary, it seems to me to be only another proof of his extraordinary genius. He was combating Russia. The agreement with Turkey, was, Great Britain was to hold Cyprus until such time as Russia restored Batoum, Kars and Erzeroum, to Turkey, England paying to Turkey £92,440, as quit rent. Now who benefits most by the financial arrangement? Why, England pays one half of it to the French bondholders of the 1854 Turkish loan. Obviously then the first to lose by tearing up the convention would be the French bondholders. And then comes the question what has England done for Cyprus? Why, as, wherever she goes, she has been a civilizing Power, and the Cypriotes are thoroughly happy and contented under the benign rule of our gracious and beloved Queen. Before parting for the present with the subject, I may give you a squib written years ago when the late W. H. Smith, as First Lord of the Admiralty, and the present Lord Derby, then Lord Stanley, as Secretary for War, paid the island an official visit in a man-of-war. It will have all the more interest to you that it was written, I believe, by an eminent officer of the Indian Treasury, long since dead. The lines are

The Cypriotes received them with wildest huzzas:
The one they thought Neptune, t'other Mars,
They raised a brass statue to Stanley forthwith
And ran up a bookstall for W. H. Smith.

NEEDLESS ALARM.

Whether the suffering which people undergo from disease is more physical than mental is a point not easy to decide. It depends largely on the nature of the disease, and the make-up of the individual. Experience seems to show, however, that in one prevailing disease—indigestion or dyspepsia, the two kinds of suffering are very evenly divided, and both very great, the mental distress being chiefly due to the illusions and deceptions which attend it. For example, though dyspepsia is solely an affection of the digestive organs, it has power to set up disorders in others which always alarm the sufferer, and often perplex his medical advisers. These symptoms or sequences may relate to the head, the heart, the sight, the hearing, the lungs, or to other organs or functions. Take an illustration or two.

"In the spring of 1891," says Mr. Edward Tatham, "I fell into a low, weak state of health. I had a foul taste in the mouth, and was constantly spitting up a thick phlegm. My appetite was poor and after eating I had fullness and pain at the chest—the latter seemed to be puffed or swollen. What made me most anxious was my *breathing*, which came to be so difficult and short that at times I could only catch my breath by an effort. I was led to fancy that something must ail my lungs, especially as so great a quantity of mucus gathered in my throat and mouth. It was usually worse at night, and I got very little sleep on account of it; sometimes none at all. In a morning I would be quite worn out.

"As time went on I became very weak, and was much put to it to get about. I took all kinds of medicines and got no proper relief from anything. In February, 1893, Mr. William Beardale, grocer, Cotmanhay, told me how he had been cured of a like trouble by Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. Acting on his advice I got a bottle of this medicine from Mr. Platt's Drug Stores, Ainsworth Road, and after taking it felt quite another man. My *breathing* was easier, and my food agreed with me. I continued using the Syrup, and got stronger and better every day. When I had taken four bottles I was as well as ever, being free from all pain or discomfort. My wife, who has suffered for years from *liver complaint*, has taken the Syrup with the same good results as in my own case. You are at liberty to make any use you like of this statement. (Signed) Edward Tatham, Tatham's Lane, Cotmanhay Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, March 21st, 1895."

"In October, 1888," writes another, "I began to feel weak, heavy, and tired. My appetite was poor, and after eating I had distress at the stomach, together with *shortness of breath*, and a good deal of pain across the chest. Sometimes I would be taken with sudden dizziness, as though I must fall to the ground. Cold, clammy sweats used to break out all over me and I trembled from head to foot. Finally, I got so weak I could scarcely walk to my work. Indeed, I had occasionally to leave my work; I have been away as long as a month at a time. In this way I suffered for about two years.

"In August, 1890, Mr. Thompson, the grocer in Church Street, urged me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup. After taking only one bottle I felt better. My food agreed with me and I was stronger. Continuing with this medicine, gradually all pain left me, and I completely recovered my health. Since then I have kept the Syrup in the house for use in time of need. You are free to publish this statement. (Signed) William Millender, 71, Robinson's Buildings, Newhall, Wath, near Sheffield, October 11th, 1895."

Cases of supposed disease of the heart, of the nervous system, of the kidneys, &c., constantly prove to be, not organic affections of those parts at all, but merely local or functional disturbances caused by the toxic or poisonous principles thrown into the blood by the decomposition or fermentation of food in the stomach; otherwise, by dyspepsia or indigestion. But until they are discovered to be so they are mistakenly treated; and serious, often fatal, results, follow. Until pronounced and undeniable symptoms of organic mischief show themselves (which is not the case once in a hundred times) you may take it for granted that your ailment is some form of dyspepsia, easily curable by Mother Seigel's Syrup, as demonstrated by the two instances cited above.

MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE. NOTIFICATION.

Simla, the 22nd September, 1896.

No. 9510-M.—His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General will hold a Levée at Government House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 17th December 1896, at 9-30 P.M.

All Civil, Naval, and Military Officers, Members of the Consular body, gentlemen whose names are borne on the Government House List, or who have already been presented at the Court of St. James, and Native Officers of the Native Regiments of the Garrison are invited to attend.

Gentlemen who propose to attend the Levée are requested to send their cards to the Aide-de-Camp in Waiting not later than Saturday, the 5th December 1896, after which date no cards will be received, and to bring with them to the Levée two cards with their names clearly written on them—one to be given on entering Government House, and the other to the Aide-de-Camp in Waiting at the time of presentation.

Gentlemen who propose to present others must send in *in writing* for approval the names of such gentlemen to the Aide-de-Camp in Waiting, not later than Saturday, the 5th December, when, if they are approved, presentation cards will be forwarded.

Gentlemen who present others must themselves attend the Levée.

Gentlemen wearing uniform will appear in full dress.

Gentlemen not entitled to wear uniform will appear in evening dress.

Clergymen being University Graduates and other gentlemen entitled to wear robes or gowns on account of judicial or academical office or status should appear in such robes or gowns.

The carriages of Gentlemen (except such as have the Private Entrée) attending the Levée will enter by the North-East Gate, set down under the Grand Staircase, and pass out by the North-West Gate.

By Command,

A. DURAND, Colonel,

Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE. NOTIFICATION.

Simla, the 23rd September, 1896.

No. 9532-M.—Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Elgin will hold a Drawing Room at Government House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 19th December 1896, at 9-30 P.M.

Ladies whose names are borne on the Government House List, or who have already been presented at the Court of St. James proposing to attend the Drawing Room are requested to send their cards to the Aide-de-Camp in Waiting not later than Wednesday, the 9th December 1896, after which date no cards will be received, and to bring with them to the Drawing Room two cards with their names clearly written on them—one to be given on entering Government House, and the other to the Aide-de-Camp in Waiting at the time of presentation.

Ladies who propose to present others must send in *in writing* for approval the names of such ladies to the Aide-de-Camp in Waiting, not later than Wednesday, the 9th December, when, if they are approved, presentation cards will be forwarded.

Ladies who present others must themselves attend the Drawing Room.

Ladies attending the Drawing Room will appear in full dress, but need not wear trains or feathers.

Only Gentlemen having the Private Entrée themselves, and accompanying Ladies in the Private Entrée will be admitted to the Throne Room.

Gentlemen accompanying Ladies by the Public Entrée will leave them at the Entrance to the Eastern Gallery and rejoin them in the Ball Room.

The carriages of those who have the Private Entrée will enter by the South-West Gate, and set down at the South Entrance of Government House.

All other carriages will enter by the North-East Gate, set down under the Grand Stairs, and pass out by the North-West Gate.

By Command,

A. DURAND, Colonel,

Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

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"Bengal"	C. Thomson	1 Chair
" "	S. C. F.	1 " "
" "	Offenham	5 " "
"Nevada"	M A	2 Casks Coconut Oil
"Nadir"	M R	1 Bag Rapeseeds
"Lindula"	C A	1 Bag Dammar
"Bhandara"	K P A M	1 Cask Coconut Oil
"Nubia"	E. Leslie	1 Chair
" "	Venn	1 " "
"Chelydra"	A. Hill	1 Broken Case
"Nubia"	Green Mark	2 Bills, Rattans
"Obra"	L. Taylor	2 Chairs
"Scindia"	White Mark	2 Bells Rattans
" "	L. Roe	2 Chairs
" "	Nil	1 Chair
"Kutsang"	G M D	2 Chairs
"Chelydra"	K L B	1 Bag Betelnuts
"Simla"	B V	1 Parcel Flour
" "	Colonel Baker	2 Chairs
" "	Nil	2 " "
"Purnea"	S B in Diamond	30 Cases Whisky
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" "	G O & 6-7, 10, 16, 20, 27	6 Casks " "
"Eridan"	G O & 1, 4-5, 8-9, 12-15, 17-18, 21-26, 28, 30, and two numbers defaced	22 Casks Claret
" "	G C & 1-56	56 Cases " "
"Kutsang"	P Nil	1 Basket Earthen ware
"Chusan"	A. S. Thomson	1 Chair
" "	Nil	1 " "
"Sui Sang"	M M	3 Chairs
"Purnea"	C C	1 Bag Betelnuts
"Goorkha"	Nil	4 " "
"Pentakota"	"	1 Revolver
" "	"	1 Pkt. Cartridges

The above will be sold if not cleared on or before the 31st December 1896.

E. N. BAKER,

Offg. Collector of Customs.

Calcutta Custom House,

The 28th November 1896.

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By order of the Committee,

T. Deane, Col.,
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Simla, 18th July, 1896.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 753.

THE DUKKERIPEN OF THE STARS.

[The Tarno Rye, on the night of his return to the encampment of Boswells in Gypsy Dell, lingers before calling for the ferry-boat upon the tongue of land called Porto Bello, and looks down the river, where the stars are brilliantly reflected. Rhona, who has secretly come to meet him, appears on the opposite bank, but does not perceive him owing to the shadowing trees under which he stands.]

THE TARNO RYE.

I.

What sees she in the river as it flows?
Does she recall that summer night when we
Rowed here beneath the stars—the night when she,
Unconscious, then, of that within my breast
Which held me mute, murmured in loving jest,
“Our Tarno Rye, he’s dreamin’ while he rows”?
Or is she gazing at the stars that shine
Mirror’d within the stream to read their sign—
The dukkeripen* of good or evil made
By their reflections mingled with the shade
Yon pollard willow throws?

II.

That night I murmur’d, “Life’s one joy is this,
To love, to taste the soul’s divine delight
Of loving some most lovely soul or sight—
To worship still, though never an answering sign
Should come from Love asleep within the shrine.”
That night I said, “I ask no more of bliss
Than—while beneath the boat the wavelets heave—
To touch the gauds upon a Gypsy’s sleeve,
To see her bright nails glisten on her fingers,
To see her throat on which the starlight lingers,
Her mouth I dare not kiss.”

III.

But that same night Love wrote around the prow
In stars! Her trembling body turned to me
In joyful fear of joy, and I could see,
Pictured in frightened eyes, the blissful things
A girl’s pure soul can see when Love’s young wings,
Fragrant of heaven and earth, fan first the brow.

*
[Rhona gives a sudden start and looks round.]
What means that start? Why stands she there to listen?
I see her eyes that in the starlight glisten—
Her eyes—but not the thing of dread they see:
She’s feeling where her knife was wont to be—
Ah, would she wave it now!

[“The Scollard’s” figure appears from behind the pollard willow.]

IV.

’Tis he, my Gipsy rival, by her side!
He lifts a knife. She springs the dauntless girl,

* Nature’s prophetic symbol. The dukkeripen of the stars reflected on a river is believed to be very powerful.

Lithe as a leopardess! But can she hurl
The giant down the bank? He falls below—
Falls where the river’s darkest waters flow!
Twice, thrice he rises—sinks beneath the tide!
Only the stars and I have seen him fall.
Death is her doom who slays a Romany *chal*
And weds a Gorgio: death! But only we,
The stars and one who loves the slayer, could see
How he the murderer, died.

[He looks in the river, where the reflected stars make mysterious figures as the ripples twist round the bulrushes.]

V.

’T was only we who saw, ye starry throng!
And one white lie of mine will hide the deed
Of her who gave me love against her creed—
The Romany woman’s creed of tribal duty—
Gave Rhona’s wealth of love and faith and beauty.

THE DUKKERIPEN OF STARS IN THE RIVER.

Falsehood can never shield her: Truth is strong.

THE TARNO RYE.

I read your rune: is there no pity, then,
In Heaven that wove this net of life for men?
Have only Hell and Falsehood heart for ruth?
Show me, ye mirror’d stars, this tyrant Truth—
King can do no wrong!

VI.

Ah! Night seems opening! There, above the skies,
Who sits upon that central sun for throne
Round which a golden sand of worlds is strown,
Stretching right onward to an endless ocean,
Far, far away, of living, dazzling motion?
Hearken, King Truth, with pictures in thine eyes
Mirror’d from gates beyond the furthest portal
Of infinite light, ’tis Love that stands immortal,
The king of kings. And there on yonder bank
Stands she, and, where the accursed carrion sank,
The merry bubbles rise!

VII.

At last she sees me on this tongue of land,
She plunges through the fringe of reed and moss,
She takes the boat; she’s pulling straight across,
Startling the moorhens as the dark prow brushes
Through reeds and weeds and water-flags and rushes.

* * *
Yes, yes, I saw! Is the little hand
That slew him? How the slender fingers quiver
Against my lips! Those stars within the river
May write of how he died, but Love, my darling,
Looks straight at Doom, though wolves of Death are snarling,
And smiles: “Behold, I stand!”

THEODORE WATTS-DUNTON.

—The Athenaeum.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

WEEKLYANA.

FOR the first time, Madras has been given a Mahomedan sheriff and Calcutta a Marwari. The dignity is now more honorary than remunerative, yet it is an honour coveted by many commercial men.

WE see a company in the land of the Five Rivers offering to make the poor rich, the unlucky fortunate, and the rich more prosperous, and all to roll in wealth—for only one rupee. As the question involved in the offer interests states as well as individuals, the Government of this country will do well to pay particular attention to the advertisers.

GOVERNMENT officers lent to Municipalities, Port Trusts, and Local Boards, unlike those lent to Native States and Railway Companies, are not allowed promotion on the Government list until they return to Government service. They will, however, henceforth be placed in the same position as other Government servants in foreign employ, in respect of *pari passu* promotion through the grades of the Department, including eligibility for the special pension of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 after promotion to the Superintending Engineer and Chief Engineer classes, provided that the appointments they hold are of equal rank and responsibility with those of a Superintending or Chief Engineer in Government service, and that their qualifications are such as would have entitled them to promotion under the Government rules.

Nature says of Babu Rambramho Sanyal's book "Hours with Nature:" "As the book is essentially a medley, to give an account of its contents is difficult." * * * If the book reaches a second edition, we would, however, advise him to study Mr. Boulanger's works, when he would probably amend his classification of reptiles, and point out some means of distinguishing between snakes and limbless lizards."

WE have received letters from respectable Mahomedan gentlemen taking exception to Khan Bahadar D. H. Ahmed's letter, the concluding portion of which was published in our number of the 21st November last. One of them says:

"I see Mr. D. H. Ahmed has an itching for writing. Write he must, whether sense or nonsense. None of his coreligionists cares to read his opinion on Mahomedan religion and law which he ought to know are not susceptible of change. It is a pity that he does not study the fundamental principles of Islam. One who attempts to introduce a change in the religion or law of the Arabian Prophet is regarded as a renegade by the Faithful. I do not know what his object is in discussing a subject with which he is not quite conversant. If it be to attain the position of a leader of Mahomedans in Calcutta, the less he talks about religious subjects the better. If the old Syed of Aligarh had refrained from making adverse comments upon the Koran, he would have to-day enjoyed the friendship of his coreligionists without exception."

Another writes:—

"Mr. D. H. Ahmed has recently been studiously keeping himself before the public in print and discussing with much authority such questions as the downfall of Mussalmans in Bengal and the reformation of their law of inheritance. He seems to be more philosophical than practical. It is not astonishing that these revolutionary reformers cannot discern the causes of the ruin of the old and opulent families and the general backwardness of the Mahomedans of the day in these provinces. They lack the power of observation."

Mr. D. H. Ahmed has lately been converted to Shiasm. I believe this is his fourth change of faith and belief since he left school. He has written an Urdu pamphlet on some points of difference between the Shias and Sunnis. Not to say anything of the arguments, its Urdu is not even correct, but our friend cannot suppress his desire of appearing in print in some form or other."

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

THE *Englishman* is "assured on excellent authority that the Government of India has definitely decided to stand aloof from any scheme for importing grain into this country, and merchants may rest assured that whatever steps they may take in this direction, no competition will be experienced so far as Government is concerned."

Our information is that, on enquiry, Government was informed by European merchants that they could not import grain unless Government were prepared to take it up.

THE Morning Dress Durbar as announced last week was held at Belvedere on Tuesday. Sir Alexander Mackenzie first invested Maharaja Govindlal Roy and then addressed him in these words:

"Maharaja,—For the past ten years you have been distinguishing yourself and earning the approval of Government by acts of munificence designed to benefit your poorer fellow-countrymen. To you the Native Smitam in Darjiling mainly owes its existence, and the town of Rungpur its drainage. It would be tedious to detail the list of your minor benefactions. Suffice it to say that Sir Charles Elliott, in recognition of the fact that he had always found you foremost in good works, recommended you for the title which I have to-day had much pleasure in conveying to you."

It would be tedious indeed to enumerate the acts of the Maharaja.

Raja Sashishkhareswar Roy was the next in the list. To him, the Governor's words were:

"Raja—You are an ex-ward of Government, and the Court of Wards has reason to be proud of its pupil. On taking personal charge of your estates, you devoted yourself to the enlightened promotion of agriculture, and especially to the revival of the silk industry. If all landed proprietors followed your example, Bengal would as a province be greatly benefited. In recognition of your services to the country at large, and of your intelligent discharge of your duties as a landlord, you were in 1889 created Raja. To-day's advancement in dignity recognizes your continued good work, and especially the services rendered by you to Government as a member of the Hemp Drugs Commission."

Then were brought up Shams-ul-Ulama Maulvi Zulfiqar Ali, Khandkhar Fuzli-Rabbi, Khan Bahadur, Rai Ram Okhey Chatterjee Bahadur, Rai Sarat Chandra Das, Bahadur, C.I.E., Maulavi Badruddin Haidar, Khan Bahadur, Rai Hari Ballabh Bose, Bahadur, and Rai Anand Chunder Sen, Bahadur, of Dacca. Then he addressed collectively:

"Of the seven gentlemen to whom I have just handed sanads of their titles, three are, I am happy to say, Mahomedans. The first, Shams-ul-Ulama Maulvi Zulfiqar Ali, is noted for his Arabic scholarship and efforts in the cause of Mahomedan education, the second Khandkhar Fuzli-Rabbi, Dewan of my old friend the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, is distinguished not only by his social position, but also by his historical work 'On the Origin of the Mussalmans in Bengal.' The third, Maulvi Badruddin Haidar, has earned the good word of all the Presidency Magistrates with whom he has served and also of the High Court Judges, for his zeal, ability and integrity, and has also done good service as a Municipal Commissioner. Of the remaining four, two—Ram Okhey Chatterjee and Ananda Chunder Sen, rendered long and faithful service to Government as Deputy Magistrates, and are now enjoying their well-earned pensions. Hari Ballabh Bose is a member of the Orissa Bar, who has been for many years the Government Pleader at Cuttack, and is universally respected there for his high character and abilities. Last, but by no means least, we have that distinguished explorer, Sarai Chunder Das, C.I.E., who is officially Tibetan Translator to Government, but is better known to the learned world as the enterprising traveller who opened up once more the mysterious land of the Lamas, who lived in their monasteries, acquiring their language and their confidence, secured from their libraries many of their most important manuscripts, and is now engaged in compiling a dictionary of their speech which will give to European scholars a much-wished for key to the hitherto occult wisdom of High Asia. To one and all of these gentlemen, I have had pleasure in conveying these marks of the approval of the Government."

Then Sir Alexander remembered the would-be recipients of honour.

"I see among this audience many who have achieved similar distinctions. There are many more to whom the ceremonies of to-day may well serve as an incentive. The Government is never better pleased than when it sees the wealthier members of the community employing the superfluity with which Providence has blessed them in relieving the miseries or improving the lot of their poorer fellow-subjects. It takes note, as far as it can, of every landlord who is considerate to his rayyets. It delights to reward long and faithful service to the State, and to crown literary and artistic merit. It endeavours indeed to find out and recognize merit of every type and in every class of the community."

And concluded with an appeal to all the rich and the charitable in his dominions in view of the threatened famine:

"And now I would only say to you, and through you to the whole aristocracy and plutocracy of Bengal, that if you only have the will to do good none of you need at the present moment lack the opportunity. We are face to face in some districts with very real famine. In some there is actual dearth of food now, and in many there is not only the possibility of similar death hereafter, but also the risk of an even more terrible water famine. Government will, I need hardly say, do

to the best of its ability, and measures are already far advanced for meeting distress in those districts where the need is most pressing. But this is a year when every zemindar and owner of land ought to bestir himself for his own sake to keep his rayyets on their fields. Every means of increasing and improving the water-supply ought also to be sedulously set in motion. If there is any doubt about the sufficiency of local stocks, supplies of grain ought to be brought in from outside. For works of agricultural improvement the Government is ready to give advances, but there are hundreds of proprietors who need no advances, but are fully able to do all that their tenants need in the way of tank-digging, well-sinking, and other local works. I hope shortly to hear from all sides that work of this kind is being started. But I specially commend to your attention the small people of respectable standing who cannot dig and are ashamed to beg—he poorer *bhadra-log*. For them let the tact and good-will of their wealthier fellow-countrymen find suitable means of succour. The Government does not repudiate its own obligation to keep all classes of its subjects alive, but its methods are necessarily rough and indiscriminating, and into some classes of cases it is hardly seemly for it to pry. The price-lists even in Eastern Beagal are weighing on me like a nightmare just now. The whole staff of the Province is, I believe, on the alert, but unless we have the support and active help of the leading men in each locality, we shall fail to grapple adequately with the situation.

I shall keep myself informed as far as possible of all those who come forward at this crisis to do what is after all only their duty, and I have every confidence that Bengal will turn out to be inferior to no Province in the liberality of its rich men and the providence of its landholders."

NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS

LORD George Hamilton, replying to a letter, stated that it was not at present the intention of the Government to undertake the supply and sale of grain, they believing that private enterprise was adequate. The possible formation of local corn rings would not be overlooked. Government was well able to deal with such illegal combinations.

The Russian newspapers have collected over one thousand pounds for the Indian famine relief fund, and they complain of Great Britain's failure to appreciate Russian sympathy.

THE St. Petersburg *Bourse Gazette* says that as the international situation is not favourable to Russia and France in demanding the evacuation of Egypt, it is best to postpone the Egyptian settlement, and concentrate their activity in Europe on the more urgent question of the settlement of Turkish affairs.

ALL the dock labourers in Hamburg have now struck, owing to the refusal of the employers to accept the offer of the authorities to arbitrate, though the men have accepted arbitration. A great Railway strike is threatened in England, owing, it is stated, to the London and North Western Railway Company dismissing some brakesmen.

IT was reported on the 5th December that the Egyptian Government had accepted the British offer of pecuniary aid, and conveyed its grateful thanks to Lord Salisbury. Next day, we were told that Egypt had expressed her warm gratitude to Great Britain for her offer of pecuniary aid towards the cost of the Dongola expedition, but had not accepted it, and that the Khedive's Government the same day refunded half a million to the Caisse Dette. The next day's telegram was that the payment was effected from the cash balance in the Egyptian treasury and that England would advance two hundred thousand pounds this month, and further amounts as required. The *Times* believes the loan will be chargeable to surplus revenues which will not be affected by the demands of the Caisse Dette.

The report that a French Syndicate has offered to advance the Egyptian Government half a million sterling, but the British have made a prior offer which renders the acceptance of the French offer unnecessary, is officially denied at Cairo.

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 29, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

TURKS are being arrested nightly at Constantinople. The prisoners are conveyed to the Palace, where the Minister of Police and the Prefect have a permanent residence. Those lately arrested have been exiled without trial to Anatolia. It is believed that they are connected with the liberal party, which is growing in strength, and has sent a manifesto to the Embassies demanding political liberties, and concluding "Down with the Tyrant!"

PRESIDENT Cleveland in a message to Congress strongly urges the granting of genuine autonomy to Cuba which would end the ruinous war now going on there. America, he adds, is always ready to act as mediator, and he hints that she might eventually intervene in Cuba if Spain proved powerless to restore order. Mr. Cleveland says he can not believe that the present sombre prospect of affairs in Turkey will be long permitted to offend the sight of Christendom. With regard to tariffs he merely defends the existing ones. The Republicans are about to frame a tariff bill to submit to a special session of Congress after March 4. Reciprocity will be its chief feature, and it is understood that average rates will be lower than the Mackinley tariff, but will be considerably above the present rates.

THE Porte has received a despatch from the Ottoman Ambassador at St. Petersburg stating that complete accord exists between Russia and Great Britain regarding Turkish reforms.

VENEZUELA has accepted the agreement arrived at by the United States and Great Britain to settle the frontier question in dispute by arbitration.

THE French Ministry intend proposing an immediate reform in and increase of the Navy involving expenses of two hundred million francs. The German Government has proposed to increase the subsidies paid to steamship lines running to the Far East to one million and a half marks in order to meet foreign competition.

THE *Cologne Gazette* states that King Menelik has ceded to Russia a coast strip for a coaling station near Obok.

ADVICES received at Berlin state that the Dutch Consul at Lorenzo Marquez has been assaulted and wounded, that the German consulate has been attacked, and also that the British flag has been torn to pieces. No details of these outrages are yet to hand, Germany has demanded reparation of the Portuguese Government.

ADVICES from Madagascar state that the rebels in the middle of November looted a town ten miles from Antananarivo, and took some cattle and forty prisoners. The English residents had a narrow escape from being massacred.

THE *Times*, in discussing the Russo-Chinese treaty published by the *North-China Daily News*, says that there is room in the Far East for both Russia and Great Britain, and that the latter must simply strengthen her own positions and extend her markets, and if ever her interests are directly assailed, she must resist, if necessary, by arms.

THE North German Liner *Salier*, bound from Bremen to Buenos Ayres, was totally wrecked near Corunna, and all on board, numbering 275, were drowned. There were no Englishmen among them.

IT has transpired that two cases of plague were landed in London from Bombay in October, and treated in the Seaman's Hospital, without spreading elsewhere.

REUTER'S correspondent at Blantyre sends news, dated 25th October, stating that, owing to the Matabele rising, the Angoni Zulus under Chikusi attacked the south-west portion of Nyassa, burned the British Mission and many native villages, and killed many natives. Five hundred troops, including Sikhs, have been despatched against the invaders.

THE Viceroy returned to Calcutta on Thursday. There was a large gathering headed by the Lieutenant-Governor on the grand staircase of Government House to welcome him. Next Thursday, Lord Elgin holds his Levée. The Drawing Room follows on Saturday, the 19th December.

THE Municipal Commissioners in meeting have accepted without a dissentient vote the sanction of the General Committee for spoliation of Bendon Square by the Congress *Pandit*. Not that there was no verbal opposition. Only one Commissioner, Native, had the courage to oppose the desecration. And a European Commissioner raised his voice against the inroad into Calcutta on the occasion of people from Bombay where plague is raging. We doubt not the Medical Board will take up the subject. By the bye, can the Commissioners close the Square or any portion of it to the public? The Congress is supposed to represent the people and to press their rights on Government. How do the Calcutta managers of this year's Assembly encroach upon a valuable privilege of the residents of Native Calcutta?

THE office of Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery has always been considered a sinecure and been the resort of special favourites or the burial ground of independence. Mr. Roberts, the Police Magistrate, for quarreling with Sir Stewart Hogg, the Police Commissioner, over the murdered body of Mr. Justice Norman and for other impertinence, was sent there as to Coventry. In later years, Mr. Ryland had to make room for Mr. Barnes, the relative and Private Secretary of Sir Rivers Thompson. The present incumbent, who was out-Beaming Beames in the Registration Department, was selected by Sir Charles Elliott, let us hope, for curbing his mischievous activity. He, it seems, is not for mending his ways, and the office having run into chaos, has to be set right again. It is said the incoming man is the Burma importation of Sir Alexander Mackenzie for his Private Secretariat.

The post of Assistant Superintendent has just been given to a European who has seen service for only a year. Another ugly rumour is that the office of Income Tax Collector is to be filled by another European ministerial officer on a pay of Rs. 1,000, who is only of the grade of Rs. 250. The question arises, Has it not been ruled that natives of India as defined in the statute are eligible for these appointments and why should there be such a big jump in favour of Europeans to the exclusion of deserving "Natives of India?" There is, besides, the order of the Secretary of State that no European is to be appointed to posts of Rs. 250 and upwards without special sanction.

KHAN BAHADUR Abdul Jubbar Saheb who would not be allowed to retire as Inspector-General of Registration, Bengal, and who left the service in dissatisfaction, has been partially compensated by the Secretary of State with a special pension of Rs. 5,400 a year. The Khan Bahadur would have been allowed, we are sure, the full Rs. 6,000, if he could act, while in service, independent of his conscience. His retirement, while still capable of hard work, has been a distinct loss to the public service. He comes from a district which supplied most of the Principal Sidar Ameeris, his father Moulvi Gholam Ashgar Khan being one. Then was the period when only the respectable and the respectably behaved were taken into the public service, and the low and the ill-bred had to find their sphere of activity in other directions. As the first Mahomedan who had attained the first place in the Matriculation examination of the Calcutta University, and as the son of his father, Sir Frederick J. Halliday, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, had appointed, in 1859, Moulvi Abdul Jubbar to the Subordinate Executive Service as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector. After 36 years and 3 months, on the attainment of the age of 57, during which period he not only served Government with zeal and loyalty but also did credit to himself, always doing his duty uninfluenced by threats and frowns or only with an eye to promotion and favour, he retired. But for that strict adherence to his sovereign and his conscience, he would have been a much greater man than only a good neighbour and a faithful friend. Like most Natives in the public service, he did not cling to it till death or till he was forced out of it on account of infirmity, and would not take any private service though offered from high quarters. As a good Muslim that he is, he has made his pilgrimage to Mecca and passes his days chiefly as a retired country gentleman and in the service of his God.

DR. Jelovitz has followed up his letter of the 5th instant (published in R. & R. of the 5th December) on the Bombay plague by another dated the 7th December which we publish below:

SIR,—Soon after sending in my letter, dated the 5th instant, for publication in your journal, I picked up another journal to look over the telegrams from Bombay, and lo! there I read in large letters the number of patients attacked by the bubonic plague, verifying my remark about the influence of the temperature of the atmosphere on the disease. Lower down, in a paragraph in the same issue, I read: "As it is, the plague is considered irremediable, and must be allowed to run its course." Further up: "The Health Department want to try the experiment of removing a portion of the tiles from the roofs of houses in which plague cases have taken place, and see what health-giving effects can be had by letting in the sun from the house-tops."

I shall not dispute the rationale of that theory—the benefit that may be derived from the rays of the sun; but what does the Health Department intend to do with the rooms on the ground-floor and the other floors immediately below the rooms where part of the tiles from the roof are to be removed? Are they going to remove parts of the ceiling from the lower rooms? How about the portions where the tiles are not to be removed? Is it possible that only a few hours' sun (eight to nine hours at the most) out of the twenty-four hours will have the desired effect? Are not the streets and lanes in the infected quarters equally responsible for the spread of the disease? These are open to the sky and have the benefit of the sun; and though its rays are beneficial to patients, it is doubtful whether their heating power is sufficient to counteract the increasing course of the disease. If we could utilise the sun to such an extent as to increase the temperature of the affected houses, streets, lanes, etc., continually, for about one month or more, it would, as I said in my previous letter, successfully combat the epidemic. Partial or even entire uncovering of roofs, while making the rooms of the uppermost flats uninhabitable, will be useless in raising the temperature of the entire building, as I presume must be the object of the Health Department.

It is now admitted that the vitality of all microbes (pathogenic) whether bacilli or cocci, is destroyed by heat; but different degrees of heat are necessary for different species; whilst some succumb to a temperature of 45 to 50°C., others require much greater heat for their destruction. As the bacillus theory has been so plausibly established in connection with bubonic plague, why not take to artificial heat to destroy the germ? I do not know of any other means than the one suggested in my letter of the 5th instant for this purpose. If no effective measures are taken and the malady be allowed to run its course, I fear it will make its permanent home in Bombay. In certain districts of China, Russia, and Turkish Arabia, plague has made its home. Though not always detectable, it is always present, sometimes showing itself in sporadic cases even as to escape the observation of medical men; and after a certain time, say, three, five, ten, or even thirty years, breaking out in an epidemic form, when it is—erroneously, I should think—believed to be of foreign importation. It cannot be expected to spare Bombay. The Continent of Europe has been free from this scourge for nearly two centuries, and the city of London for over two hundred and thirty years, and why? Because sanitary laws are strictly attended to and enforced.

This brings me to the measures to be adopted in Bombay for radical removal of bubonic plague, and, I may say, of other kindred fevers. The immediate measures at present to be resorted to, have already been suggested in my letter of the 5th instant, and I need not repeat them here. The permanent measures are much more costly and laborious. The cost, whatever it be, need not stand in the way, considering the human lives to be saved and the permanent benefit to be derived. I am not an alarmist, and do not pretend to know all about plague and its ultimate consequences when allowed to die a natural death. I only give my humble opinion from what I know by long experience. The measures to be resorted to, then, to permanently remove this dire disease from the midst of a populous city like Bombay are, to my thinking, first, free public baths in different localities of the city in the native quarters, where the poor can have the benefit of a daily wash of the whole body; these establishments to be provided with hot and cold water, to be supervised by a staff of competent men acting as health inspectors, in order to keep them clean and in a sanitary condition; secondly, removal of all garbage twice a day from every house, lane, and bye-lane; no sweepings and sillage allowed to be thrown into the streets from windows or doors (this prohibition is enforced in the majority of cities in the Continent of Europe); thirdly, the erection of dwelling-houses for the poorer classes, charging them a moderate rent; these buildings to be according to approved sanitary principles, with sufficient space for ventilation. They must not be higher than two storeys, exclusive of the ground-floor, four feet above the level of the ground, and not less than twelve feet high from floor to ceiling. These quarters to be periodically inspected, and the bathing-sinks never allowed to be polluted. Fourthly, revision of the Building Act, with an eye to sufficient light and ventilation of houses.

THE Health Department of the Bombay Municipality seems prepared to adopt the policy of the Russian Government in 1812 to keep out the French Army from taking their winter quarters at Moscow, for driving away Bombay's most unwelcome visitor. Dr. Jelovitz's method is certainly much less costly than partial or wholesale demolition or burning of infected houses and quarters.

The doctor has also some words for a correspondent of the *Statesman*, who, hiding himself under "Light," doubts his method as not supported by known specialists. Dr. Jelovitz replies:—

SIR,—"Light" remarks as a matter of fact that heat for the purpose of extinguishing epidemics has never been proposed by specialists in Europe or America, but does not say whether his specialists knew anything about bubonic plague and how it disapp-

parts. In my first letter (5th December) I said that the malady has been known to abate and ultimately to disappear from a place when the temperature rises. Indeed, I know of no other disease in an epidemic form, to yield to heat as bubonic plague. "Light," I fear, either misinterprets or does not understand me. He says that "man is the foremost agent and recipient of infection." Exactly so, and it is that infectious atmosphere that must be cleared, and, from experience, I do not know of any other agent but heat (I here speak of infected atmosphere in connection with bubonic plague.) Heating the atmosphere does not increase the temperature in man, as it is well known that the perspiratory glands, besides doing other duties, perform the function of keeping down the temperature of the body during exposure to heat. He also tells us that "drinking water is another well known agency for conveying infection." This I admit, but he forgets that in bubonic plague the digestive and assimilative tracts are rarely affected and when they are, that is only a complication. In cholera and typhoid the gastro-intestinal disorders are the prominent symptoms. He remarks that "men could not easily quench their thirst in an atmosphere of 120°F (?) by drinking water of the same degree of heat." The heating of the atmosphere in a room, say 120°F., is surely not capable of raising to the same degree the temperature of the water, still less that in underground pipes. In a Turkish or Russian bath, both cold and hot water are found. In Russian baths, you always see the barrels of cold water in a room heated from 70 to 75°F.

THE Maharaja of Tippera, Bisam Samarvijay Mahamahodayi Pancha Sri Srijut Maharaja Bir Chandra Deb Barman Manikya Bahadoor, has not survived his banishment long. Yesterday, at his Calcutta residence in Little Russell Street, he drew his last breath. When on the 1st of August last we wrote of Tippera and him, there was no public intimation that he was ailing, away from home and his kingdom. Yet he was dying a slow death and it was the interest of no party to let him know that his days were numbered. He had once shaken off a gradual decay. From Calcutta, he went to Kurseong and came back to Calcutta to die. His has emphatically been the crowned head that lay uneasy from start to finish. And who could have thought that the home-loving Bir Chandra who got the kingdom because he was not permitted to leave home, would, towards the close of his career grow so fond of Calcutta and die there? He began in troubles, lived in troubles and dies in no peace of mind. For all that, he was an accomplished prince, had a kind heart and a loving soul and patronized the arts. Unless there is any ambitious design in any quarter to divert the usual course of succession, the heir-elect Sula Srijut Jubaraj Goswami Rudra Kisor Deb Barman Bahadur assumes full authority in the State of Tippera. The selection of the next Burra Thakur will, we hope, introduce no fresh trouble into the principality, and that the new Maharaja will reign in peace.

THE Secretary, Medical Board has, under date Calcutta, the 9th December, 1896, addressed the following letter to the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation:—

"Sir,—In continuation of my letter No. 43, dated 30th November, 1896, suggesting the early adoption of certain measures of conservancy, I am directed to address you further on the subject of the inquiry which the Board are now conducting into the sanitary condition of the town of Calcutta. The Board commenced that inquiry under the authority conferred upon them by the Government Resolution No. 937T.—M., dated Dujiling the 10th October, 1896, when it was believed that an outbreak of bubonic plague was imminent. In order to determine what steps should be taken to guard against such a disaster, the Board deputed a number of medical officers to examine the actual condition of the town and report on its sanitary requirements. The report of these officers has disclosed the existence of very serious evils, into the causes of which the Board have been directed by Government to make a full and searching inquiry, the results of which will complete their general inquiry into the liability of Calcutta to an invasion of the plague which is now rapidly gaining strength in Bombay.

The facts may be summarised as follows:—

I.—Overcrowded and badly built houses.—In many parts of the town both pukka houses and busti huts are dangerously overcrowded, and are built in a manner which renders proper ventilation and efficient conservancy almost impossible.

II.—Defects of public latrines.—The public latrines are deficient in number, faulty in construction and imperfectly cleaned.

III.—Defects of private latrines.—The private latrines are in many cases so constructed that they cannot be properly cleaned, nor can the Conservancy officers get access to them; and consequently many of them are choked with accumulations of filth.

IV.—State of house-drains and down-pipes.—The house-drains and down-pipes are in many cases broken, choked, and out of repair.

V.—State of surface drains.—The surface drains are blocked with foul matter, latrines are allowed to discharge into them, and the drains themselves are often used as latrines.

VI.—Neglect of road scavenging.—The scavenging of the roads is imperfectly carried out; the staff is inadequate for the work; and the sunnil has become dangerously polluted.

VII.—State of compounds and court-yards.—The condition of the compounds and court-yards of houses is in many cases extremely filthy.

VIII.—Pollution of wells.—Wells in court-yards are contaminated by the percolation of sewage impurities from the soil.

IX.—State of cowsheds and stables.—Cowsheds and stables are situated in thickly populated places; their construction is faulty; they are

greatly over-crowded, and their flooring is soaked with sewage which pollutes the wells on the premises.

X.—State of hackney carriage stands.—Hackney carriage stands are badly constructed and not properly cleaned.

XI.—Condition of bustis.—Bustis are badly drained and imperfectly ventilated; the huts are too close together; the latrine arrangements lead to the pollution of the soil, the roads and lanes are too narrow, and conservancy is imperfectly carried out.

In view of these facts, I am to ask that, with the permission of the Commissioners, you will furnish any information that may be forthcoming in explanation of the apparent failure of the Health Department to deal effectively with the state of things described above; and will forward that information to the Medical Board, with an expression of the opinion of the Corporation, and with such remarks by yourself as may appear to be called for. Copies of all papers referred to should be annexed. The points to which the Board desire especially to invite attention are indicated in the following questions:—

(1) Are the facts correctly stated in the reports of the Sanitary Officers and the Civil Surgeon of the 24 Parganas?

(2) Have those facts been reported to the Commissioners by the Health Officer, and with what results?

(3) Is the law as it stands sufficient to enable the Commissioners to deal with the facts reported?

(4) Is the law enforced, and if not, why not?

(5) What duties have been assigned to the Health Officer under section 41 of Bengal Act II of 1888? Have these duties been duly carried out?

Finally, I am to express the hope that the Commissioners, who have already shown a laudable desire to co-operate with the Medical Board in respect both of special measures of conservancy and of the regulations recently passed under section 334 of the Act, will furnish the Board at as early a date as possible with all the information necessary to enable them to complete the present inquiry."

We hope the Commissioners, like their Health Officer, will not resent the enquiry, with a view to avoid it. If the constitution of the Board is bad, it should be rectified.

THE late Dr. Robson Scott, the first Secretary to the Medical Board, who was deputed to Bombay to study the plague there and the arrangements made to combat it, in October 1896, reports:—

"It is believed that it (plague) began insidiously in the end of July or the beginning of August, and as the nature of the malady was not detected until the beginning of September, it was found impossible to trace out the origin of the infection."

Regarding preventive measures, he says:—

"The large godowns in the ground floors of the buildings in which the disease has appeared have been closed, the goods stored in them are not allowed to be sold. Disinfection is carried out by washing the walls, etc., with chloride of lime, phenyle, and a mixture of sulphur and tar is allowed to smoulder day and night for six consecutive days inside.

A native policeman is placed in charge of each affected block of buildings to see that these measures are carried out.

2. Isolation.—Patients whose consent can be obtained are sent to the isolation hospital. A resolution was passed by the Bombay Government permitting enforced removal to hospital for those cases which could not be properly segregated in their houses. It was found impossible to carry this plan into effect owing to the strong objections of the relatives. On several occasions riots were nearly caused by the medical attendants pressing their patients to go to hospital.

3. Segregation of cases in their own houses. This may be said to have appeared only upon paper. The relations and friends of the patient are allowed to pass and into the infected rooms as often as they please. There are no means taken to prevent any one from passing into the quarters where cases are, no sheets soaked in antiseptics are hung over the doorways, and in fact nothing seemed to have been done to prevent the disease spreading with the exception of burning sulphur in the passages. In some single-roomed shops on the ground floor in which cases had occurred, the patients were left lying, and no precautions were taken at all to prevent the spread of the disease.

When a case dies, the room in which the death takes place is shut up, all apertures are closed, and the apartment is fumigated day and night for six consecutive days. The occupants at the end of six days are allowed to return and live there again. All infected tenements are washed down inside and outside with phenyle and water (5 to 2 per cent). This is applied by means of a fire hose. This is more applied to the outside of the house than to the inside; in other words, it is not done thoroughly. Wooden staircases are scraped down, and so are the floors.

Pure phenyle is poured into all the seething places in each story, and also into the house, pipes and drains. The prices in each story are treated in the same way. Bichloride of mercury was used in some of the dirtiest houses. The Municipal Inspectors make a house to house visitation daily in the affected area for the purpose of detecting concealed cases. Private practitioners have been warned to notify all cases of plague. The inhabitants in the affected districts have been asked to report all cases of fever to the Municipal authorities. All reported cases are seen by a medical man in Municipal employment. In cases of death all the clothing and bedding is burned. The sweepings and refuse from the affected houses are removed by the municipal carts, and the only precaution taken is to disinfect the carts."

HIS remarks about Calcutta are:—

"During last May I was engaged in making enquiries into the results of the preventive method of dealing with cholera by inoculation, and when carrying out my investigations, I visited all the wards in Calcutta, and I could not help noticing the most disgraceful state of unsanitary

tation into which the town has been allowed to drift; mainly, I should say, from the deplorable want of strict supervision. I was brought into contact with the ward Medical Inspectors: most of them looked as if they did not over-work themselves, and when they made inspections, they must have done so with their eyes shut. I very nearly reported two or three of them to the Health Officer, and I wish I had done so now.

Medical Inspectors should not be allowed to keep private dispensaries or to carry on private practice, as private professional work is so apt to interfere with official duties."

DR. J. O'Brien writes on the 15th November to the Secretary, Medical Board:—

"Comparing the infected localities in Bombay with our Burrabazar would be a serious injustice to the former. The part of Calcutta most nearly resembling the infected quarters in the Mandvi district is the Harrison Road. The houses infected are nearly all palatial edifices of from three to six storeys. The chief sanitary defects in them when the plague broke out were (1) over-crowding, (2) defective removal of faecal matter."

While thus condemning, he gives a certificate of health to Calcutta:

"With regard to our prospects in Calcutta, we may, I think, feel confident that anything in the shape of a serious outbreak of this dread disease will be rendered impossible under the system of quarantine and strict sanitary supervision which has been recently introduced by Government and the Municipality. We may also obtain comfort from the thought that Calcutta does not appear to have been subject to invasions of the plague for long years past. From my own knowledge of the history of the town during the present century, and from enquiries that I have made among the senior medical practitioners, I cannot discover that there has been any epidemic within the past hundred years, though it has prevailed in many other parts closely connected by trade, &c., with the metropolis."

MR. F. H. B. Skrine, in his Memorandum on the Material Condition of the Lower Orders in Bengal during the ten years 1881-82 to 1891-92, writes of the Bhagalpur Division which includes the districts of Malda, Purnea, Bhagalpur, Monghyr and the Sonthal Parganas:—

"The necessity of feeder roads linking the railway with the centres of commerce is even more felt here than in other Divisions, and the paucity of the resources at the disposal of the District Boards is a great drawback to the development of trade. The latter is indeed at a very low ebb at present. In ordinary years a large export of wheat, pulses, and oil seeds, takes place in all the districts; while Malda and Purnea export silk, indigo, jute, gunny, and hides. Owing to a succession of inferior harvests, the outward movement of food-grain and oilseeds declined as a whole, though high prices and depressed exchange tempted holders of old stocks of wheat in Bhagalpur and Malda to unload for the benefit of the English market. The shrinkage of the export trade has made itself felt on the imports. Monghyr, which ordinarily imports rice, took less than usual; and what is more significant of a reduced purchasing power, the imports of salt, declined."

* * * The trade with Nepal has been stimulated by this addition of our railway system. We take grain, fowls, ghee, orange, cattle, timber, blankets, and wollens from the Nepalese, and send them metals, salt, piece-goods, kerosine oil, and sugar. * * * Prices rose in response to failures of supply and a large demand for exportation; but the upward movement was not so marked as in some other districts. Wheat sold for 32 lbs. per rupee in 1889-90, and for 25 lbs. during the current year. Rice rose from 36 to 24, and pulse from 37 to 33. It is worthy of note that the prices of wheat and rice are the same in both Divisions of Bihar, and that the average price is identical in Divisions so remote as Bihar, Chittagong and Rajshahi. The Chota Nagpur rayyet alone is precluded by its miserable roads and vast and thinly-peopled country from participating in the gain from high prices."

The Patna Division includes the districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Siran, Patna, Gaya and Shahabad, and is more thickly peopled than the Bhagalpur Division. Of this Division, Mr. Skrine says:—"With a large roadless income, cheap labour, and a plentiful supply of nodulous limestone, one of the best of materials, the Patna Division is better supplied with roads than any other portion of the province. Trade has thus greater facilities in this Division than in any part of Bengal, the eastern districts alone excepted, and the advantage to the cultivators of cheap communication and a choice of markets, cannot be overrated. * * * The imports into the Division are pulses and food grains, salt, spices, piece-goods, kerosine oil, oilseeds, coal, iron and hides. A considerable increase is noticeable as regards the first, and a decrease in that of salt. * * * The rise in imports of food grains, and the heavy drop in salt, piecegoods and kerosine oil, indicate a diminu-

tion in the purchasing power of the masses. Exports include rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, indigo, sugar, hides, and clarified butter.

* * * The year 1891-92 was one of deficient and badly distributed rainfall, the divisional average having been 28.55 as compared with a normal of 45.13 inches. As in 1873, the year prior to the Bihar famine, the rains ceased prematurely in August, and during the two succeeding months, the fall was less than half the average, the result was ruin to the *dhadot* harvest of inferior grains, most valuable in south Bihar, and to the great rice crop in areas unprotected by canals; drought succeeded which lasted from October to February, and did immense damage to the cold-weather crops, opium, sugarcane, oilseeds, potatoes, and pulses."

WE have selected these districts, because they are to be the greatest sufferers in the present famine. The Bhagalpur division has an area of 20,511 square miles and a population of 8,063,160 or 418 to the square mile. The Patna division comprises an area of 23,675 square miles, with a population of 15,811,014 or 667 to the square mile. The rainfall during this year has been as scanty as in 1891-92, other things remaining almost the same. But the sufferings this year threaten to be greater because of the general scarcity in the surrounding districts. The price of common rice and wheat is almost the same, averaging 8 seers per rupee. In 1891-92 rice sold at 12 seers per rupee and wheat at 16 seers. The bordering districts of the North-West Provinces are as bad as regards prices of food-grains. West Bengal fares a little better, where scarcity bordering on famine may be said to have taken place. We do not yet know what would be the supply from Nepal. Perhaps the recent renewed friendship between the two Governments will facilitate exports from Nepal and that there will be no occasion for that Durbar to prohibit export of rice. The present distress is distinguishable from previous famines in that there is not only want of food-grains but of money too to buy them. Russia has already begun collecting it, but our own Government is still hesitating.

AFTER an end of reports and consultations, preparation of statistics and expenditure of stamps and stationery and employment of extra clerks, the Bengal Government have come to the conclusion that there is a total failure of crops throughout the non-irrigated parts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Champaran. It has also been decided to form, at once, in these affected areas, relief charges. Relief will come by and by.

THE total of stocks of rice in and around Calcutta in the first week of December 1896, according to the report issued by the Statistical Department of the Government of Bengal, was 11,70,499 maunds. In the same period of 1895, it was 16,06,373. Deducting 1½ lakhs maunds for probable exportation by sea, there remains 10 lakhs maunds for home consumption. There is thus no diminution in the stock reported for the last week of November.

DURING the week ending the 21st November 1896, 60,055 maunds of food grains were imported into Calcutta, from the Indian ports, while the exports to Indian ports amounted to 33,268 maunds. The foreign ports took away from Calcutta 1,08,691 maunds, and gave it only 11 maunds.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 12, 1896.

SANITATION OF CALCUTTA,

OR,

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST.

ACCORDING to Captain Hamilton, it was Job Charnock who selected the site that has developed into the capital of the British Empire in the East. The attraction the place possessed was "a large shady tree," although, in other respects, as Captain Hamilton adds, "he could not have chosen a more unhealthy place on all the river." In Pinkerton's *Voyages and Travels* there is an account of the city given by Captain

Alexander Hamilton who visited India between the years 1688 and 1733. The Captain says :

"One year I was there, and there were reckoned in August about twelve hundred English, some military, some servants of the Company, some private merchants residing in the town, and some seamen belonging to the shipping lying at the town, and before the beginning of January there were four hundred and sixty burials registered in the clerk's book of Mortality."

To this, Mr. James Ranald Martin, subsequently, after a summary, added :—

"In more recent times it was the custom of the European inhabitants of Calcutta to meet on the 15th of December of each year to congratulate each other on their escape from the period so emphatically marked by Captain Hamilton ; but though this is no longer considered necessary on account of the insalubrity of the place, still I think it will not be difficult to shew that we are far indeed from having effected for our 'emporium' all that might, or ought to have been done for it."

Again :—

"In Calcutta we have no longer such terrible epidemics as those of 1757 with its cold stage of 12 hours, and that of 1762 which carried off 50,000 Blacks and 800 Europeans. * * * Stavorinus speaking of the sort of sickness and fever which prevailed among the inhabitants of Calcutta during his visits (1768-71) says that it generally sweeps away those who are attacked by it in the space of three days. * * * Of Major Kilpatrick's force of 240 men stationed at Fulta, not 30 of the whole detachment, according to Mr. Ives, were left alive between August and December, 1756, by one of these epidemics. The same authority adds that the number of men buried in Bengal amounted to more than half of all who died in the several hospitals in India during the whole term of General Watson's command, a period of three years and one month. * * * Dr. Bogue, who also served in Watson's Fleet, says that out of three ships of the line and a twenty gun ship, and those not fully manned, they lost in six months upwards of 200 men, most of whom died of these fevers ; so much worse was the climate of Bengal in those times than that of any other port in our Eastern possessions."

The first step taken to sanitise Calcutta was made by the Marquis of Wellesley. By a minute, dated the 10th June 1803, he appointed a Committee with special instructions, viz.,

(1) To take the level of the town. (2) To examine the relative level of the river during the rainy season. (3) To prevent the stagnation of rain water in Calcutta and to cleanse the town. (4) To consider the establishment necessary for cleansing the drains and water courses. (5) To take into consideration all places of interment. (6) To examine the condition of bazars, markets of meat and slaughter houses in Calcutta. (7) To enquire into all existing nuisances in the town and vicinity of Calcutta. (8) To examine the situations for opening new streets and roads. (9) To suggest other plans and regulations to promote health, convenience and comfort of the inhabitants of Calcutta. (10) To submit an estimate of the expense required to complete all such improvements.

It does not appear how the enquiries were made and how they ended. It was not, however, till 1835 that a regular movement was started in that behalf. In April of that year Mr. (afterwards Sir) James Ranald Martin addressed a letter to the Governors of the Native Hospital for establishing a Fever Hospital. He sent his "Note on the Medical Topography of Calcutta and its suburbs, chiefly with reference to the condition of the native health" on the 24th February 1834, pointing out what he called the worse than Batavian condition of the city. The Governors took up the subject and met to consider it on the 20th May 1835. At this meeting Mr. Martin submitted a further explanatory note. Other corroborative statements were forwarded by Dr. Vos, the Police Surgeon, and Mr. Bramley. A joint note, the production of Dr. Jackson and Babu Ramcomul Sen, was also sent. The Governors accepted the suggestions and formed a sub-committee, consisting of Sir Edward Ryan, the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, Sir J. P. Grant, C. W. Smith, Esq., Chairman, Babu Ramcomul Sen, Babu Raj Chunder Dass, Babu Radhakanto Deb, S. Nicolson, Esq., J. R. Martin, Esq., and Dr. A. R. Jackson.

On 1st June 1835, agreeably to their resolution, the Committee sent Mr. Martin's paper to Sir C. T.

Metcalf. Mr. Martin's paper was printed and circulated among the Magistrates of the town and suburbs, with directions to report thereon. On the 18th June the sub-committee convened a public meeting in the Town Hall, presided over by C. W. Smith, Esq., to consider the formation of a Fever Hospital.

At this meeting Radhamadhub Bannerjee, Russomoy Dutt, Rustomjee Cowasjee, Agakurboli Mahomed, Mothooranath Mullick, Raja Rajnarain Roy, Mahomed Mahedy-Muskey, Muttylal Seal, Bissonath Muttylall, and Dwarkanath Tagore were made members of the committee. On the 12th August a second public meeting was held.

We refer to the details of the Fever Hospital Committee, because this was the first occasion when Europeans and Natives combined to collect subscriptions for a public cause and the first time when a regular investigation was made into the sanitary condition of the town and its suburbs. On the 30th April Mr. Martin addressed a letter to Lord Auckland, enclosing the proceedings of the committee. On the 24th May his lordship acknowledged the communication, approving of the suggestion to establish a hospital with dispensaries attached and the extension of medical education.

In a further communication on the 21st June he recommended the formation of a more general committee not only to consider the question of the Fever Hospital but also the general question of the sanitation of the town. The enlarged committee consisted of Sir E. Ryan, Sir J. P. Grant, C. W. Smith, Esq., Chairman, Babu Ramcomul Sen, S. Nicolson, Esq., J. R. Martin, Esq., Dr. A. R. Jackson, Rustomjee Cowasjee, Esq., Dwarkanath Tagore, Esq., Russomoy Dutt, Esq., H. H. Cockerell, Esq., and A. Rogers, Esq.

There were also on the committee Babu Raj Chunder Dass who died in 1836, the Lord Bishop and Babu Radhakant Deb. On Mr. Roger's going home, Mr. R. S. Thomson was appointed in his place, while Babu Prossonnocomar Tagore succeeded Babu Ramcomul Sen resigned. The name of Mr. J. Young was added to the list. Dr. Jackson went to Europe on the 3rd February 1838, and on the 7th August 1839 Mr. Cockerell died. On Mr. Smith's

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Monday, the 14th Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject : Oxy-acids and Phosphorus (concluded.) Silicon and Boron.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Tuesday the 15th Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject : Classification of the Metals and their Metallurgy.

Lecture by Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., Wednesday, the 16th Dec., at 6 P.M. Subject : Atwood's Machine.—Balance and Laws of Pendulum.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Thursday, the 17th Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject : Lead and Silver.

Lecture by Dr. D. N. Chatterjee, B.A., M.B., C.M., Thursday, the 17th Dec., at 5-15 P.M. Subject : Circulation.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Friday, the 18th Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject : Mercury.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Saturday, the 19th Dec., at 3 P.M. Subject : Copper.

Lecture by Babu Girish Chandra Bose, M.A., F.C.S., B.A.S., &c. Saturday, the 19th Dec., at 4-30 P.M. Subject : Histology of Plants—Tissues.

Lecture by Dr. Nilratan Sirkar, M.A., M.D., Saturday, the 19th Dec., at 6 P.M. Subject : Histology—Nerve-Endings.

MA HENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,
Honorary Secretary.

Dec. 12, 1896.

proceeding to the Cape, Sir J. P. Grant was appointed Chairman. The Secretaries were successively G. J. Gordon, Esqre., W. C. Hurry Esqre., and Babu Russomoy Dutt. After five years, 1835 to 1839, the committee submitted their final report to Government. Containing a mass of testimony from medical and lay men, that report is an evidence of arduous labour.

On the 19th November 1836, two members, Sir John Grant and Mr Rustonjee Cowasjee, sent in their inspection report, from which we make the following extract :—

"We have passed through the greater part of the Roads and Lanes in the Native parts of the Town, bounded by Lall Bazar, Clive Street, Mutchooa Bazar, and College Street. Setting out from Tank Square, we passed through Old China Bazar, passed the Armenian Church up to Burra Bazar, through all the windings of which we passed as far as the Mint; from thence to the Portuguese Church, Moor-ghcehatah, along the Chitpore Road to Mutchooa Bazar, and back through Colootollah Road. Through several of the Lanes and Alleys we could not pass, the same not being wide enough for the admission of any wheeled carriage or cart. The whole of this space with the exception of some places near College Street, is most thickly, inhabited; the houses and shops adjoin; and though not lofty, are sufficiently high to exclude sun and air; the free circulation of the latter of which is effectually prevented by the extreme narrowness, sharp angles, and perpetual tortuosities of the Streets; few Streets being more than a quarter of a mile in length in the same direction, and many not so much; none of the Streets, except those to be presently mentioned, much exceeding twelve feet between the front walls of the opposite houses, many being much narrower; and of this space from one foot, to one and a half foot in width, being occupied by a kennel on each side. These kennels are apparently two or two and a half feet deep, with brick sides, the bottoms filled with perfectly stagnant water and filth; and the tops covered, at distances of from one foot to two feet and two and a half apart, with buildings from six to ten feet in length, which in a few places are the entrances to houses; but which in all other instances are the supports of the platforms used as shops; which platforms are erected immediately over the kennel, from one foot to three feet above it, the space between the bridge and the platform being closed to the front; so that no part of the kennel is accessible for the purpose of cleansing it but the above mentioned intervals of one, two, or two and a half feet in length, at various distances, of not less than six, or more than ten feet from each other; while the whole stench freely escapes into the streets and houses."

The mortality of the time can be guessed from the evidence of Pundit Madonsoodun Goopto Koberuttan. We retain the spelling of the reports to show what improvement has been effected in this direction under the impulse given by Sir W. W. Hunter. Pandit Goopto stated that the "fevers are the most prevalent diseases; bilious, remittent and intermittent; that enlargement of the spleen is the general termination of the two last descriptions of fevers; that diarrhoea, dysentery, dyspepsia, rheumatism and venereal disease are the most prevalent diseases in the town, among the Native population." The committee, after full consideration of the various matters of cleansing, drainage, water-supply, ventilation and the fever hospital, sent in their report, dated Tuesday, the 7th January 1840, signed by J. P. Grant (Chairman), C. W. Smith, J. Young, J. R. Martin, Prossonnoocomar Tagore, R. Scott Thomson, Dwarka Nath Tagore, Rustonjee Cowasjee and Russomoy Dutt. It is a volume of 245 pages, quarto, the concluding paragraph of which runs thus :—

"It is no small satisfaction to your Committee, that the main objects contemplated for the improvement of the Town by this accomplished statesman (Marquis of Wellesley), six and thirty years ago, as then demanding the immediate attention of the Government of this country, have been brought to your Honour's notice as forming part of the various subjects of this their Report, and they entertain no doubt that your Honour will agree with him in his opinion, that the state of the Capital of the British empire in India claims that the Government should bestow upon it its prompt and serious attention as constituting one of its primary duties, and that among these duties is included that of contributing, in a just proportion, to the expense, which may be requisite to render it a healthy, and convenient residence for those in health—to pro-

vide it with ample, well-endowed, and well-regulated Hospitals for the sick, and the poor—and to bestow upon it generally that 'degree of order, symmetry, and magnificence in its Streets, Ghats, Wharfs, and Public Buildings,' which may not only 'tend to meliorate the climate, and to secure and promote the objects of a just and salutary system of Police,' but may give to it, in all respects, the character befitting the station, which it ought to hold among the Cities of the world."

OUR LONDON LETTER.

November 20.

Great Britain. On the evening of the 13th instant when the last mail closed, three remarkable speeches were delivered, one by Mr. Chamberlain at a complimentary banquet given him by the Chamber of Commerce at Birmingham, the other two by Lord Lansdowne and Sir M. Hicks Beach at the annual Colston dinner at Bristol. Mr. Chamberlain's theme was Commerce and his remarks proved again, if it were necessary, that he is a far-sighted, clear-headed Imperial statesman. He pointed out with amazing vigour how when Great Britain expands itself, it does so for the benefit of mankind. His words were, referring to the jealousy of foreign nations, "we, in our colonial policy, as fast as we acquire new territory and develop it, develop it as trustees of civilization for the commerce of the world. We offer in all these markets over which our flag floats the same opportunities, the same open field to foreigners that we offer to our own subjects, and upon the same terms. And in that policy we stand alone, because every other nation, as fast as it acquires new territory, seeks at once to secure the monopoly for its own products by preferential and artificial methods." It is interesting to notice that we alone have been successful, astonishingly successful, in making these acquisitions profitable. Every addition to the colonial possessions of France or of Germany adds immediately and continues to add, to the latest date, a heavy burden upon the taxpayers of the mother country." He was exceedingly severe upon the fanatics, the possessors of the nonconformist conscience more especially, who agitate for the relief of the Armenians, while condemning the Dongola and Ashantee expeditions. And he added these expeditions have "I believe, diminished the sum of human misery by a greater amount than even if we had secured the destruction of the Turkish Empire." He went on to offer an energetic protest against those pessimists who are continually foretelling the decadence of English trade, with special reference to those who cry out that Germany is distancing us in the race.

From actual figures taken over a period of ten years from the Board of Trade returns and Consular reports, he proved to demonstration we are still far in the van, and are so far ahead of Germany, that practically she can never overtake us. He admitted however that "in certain branches of our trade, in particular industries, particular classes of goods, we have been outstripped by our competitors, and have lost trade which we ought to have maintained."

Then he found the cause for this in the "too great independence of our manufacturing population," including in that term "all classes, the manufacturers themselves, and their work people" and he pointed out with much force, that if we were to maintain our supremacy, our manufacturers must consult the taste of their customers, and not endeavour to thrust upon them goods they do not want. I am sorry to say this remarkably able speech has roused the wrath of the Radicals because of the reference to the Dongola and Ashanti expeditions, and even the "Westminster Gazette," usually so fair and temperate, attempts to cast ridicule on Mr. Chamberlain's Gospel of Commerce. The editor makes the common blunder of attributing the historic phrase "a nation of shop-keepers" to Napoleon the Great, whereas Napoleon borrowed it from Adam Smith who made use of it in his great work on the "Wealth of Nations."

Your late Viceroy at the Colston banquet made a very able speech. He dealt in a thorough and comprehensive fashion with the too much neglected subject of the "needs of our army." The only regret is he thought it necessary to contrast the money spent on the navy with the much smaller estimates allowed for the army. That arch-blunderer Lord Wolseley again put his foot in it, at the Guildhall banquet, by his reference to the navy. So the "Times" writes, "Nothing, indeed, that Lord Lansdowne said was calculated to offend naval opinion in the same degree as Lord Wolseley's unfortunate observation at the Guildhall banquet."

I enclose another most interesting speech of Mr. Chamberlain's at the Jubilee dinner of the Edgbaston Debating Society. Not that I ask you to incorporate it in this letter, but some week you might find room for it. It is a most interesting speech, and might be the means of stimulating the senior students of the Government and Missionary colleges to start one or more debating societies. Edinburgh University has long been famous for such societies. The oldest, founded in 1764, the "Speculative," has been the nursing ground of our Barristers and clergy. On its roll it bears the illustrious names of Walter Scott, Jeffrey, Cockburn, Lockhart, Wilson and many others. Besides it, there are the "Dialectic" and "Diagnostic." All these have had an

important bearing on the education of Edinburgh University students. It is so long since I left Calcutta that it is possible you may have more than one already established. If not, now is the time to begin. I feel sure some of your native friends of the long robe would be willing to lend a hand. Care would have to be taken to secure the help of a few seniors, so that order might be maintained in the course of the debates. I shall be glad to hear your views on this subject.

Dr. Temple, Archbishop designate. Mr. Labouchere has the following in "Truth":

"Bishop Temple's translation to Canterbury would seem to have been prompted by the rule of contraries. The late Archbishop was before all things courteous, mildmannered, and conciliatory; his successor is conspicuously brusque, high-handed, and overbearing. If Lord Salisbury's selection was not prompted by the desire to have an Archbishop as different as possible from the last, the appointment must then be taken as a recognition of Bishop Temple's right-about-face on the Education Question, and his activity in support of the Athelstan Riley movement, and of the abortive Education Bill of last session. Doubtless, the most potent motive was that of putting the Church's most prominent fighting man in the position where he can best render support to the Government in their next legislative effort on behalf of Church Schools.

Whatever qualifications Bishop Temple might have had for the Primacy twelve years ago are now more than counterbalanced by his age. To appoint any man, however hale and vigorous, to an administrative post of such weight and difficulty within a few weeks of his seventy-fifth birthday is undesirable on every ground, and more especially for the bad example thus set to the innumerable prelates and incumbents who are to be seen sticking to their posts for years after their powers have failed. Dr. Temple's abilities as a ruler and organiser are denied by no one, but his work both at Exeter and in London has been marked by conspicuous blunders, and his jobbery has been a scandal. It is to be hoped that he will at any rate not carry with him to Canterbury his free-and-easy ideas as to the use of parochial endowments for lightening the burdens of Bishops without reducing their emoluments."

The Archbishop with his cranks and fads about temperance, has ever since his nomination got himself into hot water with one fully as capable as himself to engage in controversy, Dr. Mortimer Granville. The latter writes: "I was honoured with a good deal of indiscriminating abuse in 1891; why am I now resurrected for the purpose of being misrepresented?"

Each year's experience deepens the conviction that Dr. Temple and those who see with him are doing well intentioned work in a wrong and mischievous way. The hypothesis that total abstinents live longer than rational drinkers is wholly groundless. The fact is Dr. Temple has been able to throw off the overbearing swagger he learned when headmaster of Rugby. In Archbishop Tait's life you can read a painful account of how in the grounds of Addington he attempted to ride roughshod over the then head of the Church of England. His treatment of the humbler laity in the Diocese of London was a scandal. A sycophant of any layman of title, he was never so happy as when snubbing and insulting churchwardens of humbler social status. Of course, as Archbishop he is withdrawn from the opportunity of displaying his harsh and overbearing temper. But I hope his episcopal brethren will know how to look after themselves. One at least will not tolerate any exhibition of impertinent arrogance, the Bishop of Hereford, Dr. Percival.

BOOKS.

"The Empire of Blood" by the Rev. E. M. Bliss (an American Missionary to Turkey) seems to give in moderate compass and with judicial impartiality, a sketch from his own experience both of Turks and Armenians. He does full justice to the good side of the Turkish character, and he endeavours to enlighten the fanatics as to some evil qualities of the Armenian. The fact is much of the ill-feeling existing between the Turk and Armenian is due to the latter being, as everywhere where he has the opportunity, the blood-sucker and usurer. Indeed, it is just an exaggeration of the anti-Semitic feeling in Germany. Were you to believe Lady Somerset, or Dr. Dykes of the Presbyterian College here, the massacred Armenians were all holy men martyred for their allegiance to the Founder of Christianity. Anything more absolutely contrary to the fact could not be maintained. Such fiction from Lady Henry Somerset, one is prepared for, because like Mrs. Chant, her fad is notoriety. To be before the public as the almoner of Claudius Clear and Hodder and Stoughton, is as the very "breath of her nostrils." "To do good by stealth" is not her role. How much more useful she would be to her Armenian refugee friends at Marseille if, instead of spluttering about with weekly letters in the "British Weekly," she would only bring hundreds of them to settle on her beautiful property at Reigate! But, while allowance must be made for her ignorance, the same cannot be said for Dr. Dykes. He is the Principal of the Presbyterian College here, which counts students all told, fourteen! He has two, if not three Assistant Professors. Let us say two. That gives an average of 4-2/3 of a student to each Professor. So they must have ample time at their

disposal to keep themselves abreast of current events. And yet Principal Dykes at the famous Conventicle at the City Temple, spoke the most arrant nonsense amid the deafening plaudits of the old women (many of them men) present.

"New Glosses on Gordon" by Mr. Boulger is making a sensation. Kinglake wrote of Gordon as a "really phenomenal man, whose romantic elevation above all that is base and common has made him a sort of warlike and heroic Redeemer." Mr. Boulger does not spare Lord Cromer or Lord Wolseley. Of Lord Cromer he writes: "Whoever was to blame afterwards, the first against whom a verdict of guilty must be entered, without any hope of reprieve at the bar of history was Sir Evelyn Baring," whom he accuses of "having from motives of personal spite and jealousy, retarded Gordon's departure by seven weeks, and that delay, I repeat it solemnly, cost Gordon his life." Then turning on Lord Wolseley he shows, to his own satisfaction, that Gordon was sacrificed to Wolseley's timidity and love of a "scientific" advance. Such men as Oatram or Havelock would have rescued Gordon, but Wolseley, thinking only of himself, as he has throughout his selfish career, cruelly sacrificed the immortal Gordon. Mr. Boulger's contention is, that if on January 3rd when Sir Herbert Stewart reached Jiddul, Wolseley had insisted on forced marches, the Nile would have been reached by the 7th or 8th and Gordon saved. But Wolseley has "no bowels of mercy" and although he has on his conscience (if he has one) his abominable treatment of Sir Birtle Frere at Natal, and the responsibility of leaving Gordon to die a martyr's death, he turned up at the Lord Mayor's banquet on the 9th covered with orders and his brutally cynical smile, and seemed to say "Look at me. I am the greatest soldier of all time, Marlborough, Napoleon and Wellington rolled into one, to make a Wolseley."

Napoleonic Literature. I do not know if your educated countrymen of Bengal take a lively interest in all that relates to the history of the most marvellous man of all time. He placed himself on a level with Caesar, Alexander and Charlemagne. One of the most remarkable of his sayings at St. Helena was "C. A. C. and I founded our kingdoms upon force. Jesus Christ founded his on love." Two remarkable books illustrative of his career have recently appeared, one in France the other in America. The former is the memoirs of Thiebault, published in five volumes in the original French but reduced to two in the English edition. It abounds in side lights not only on the character of Napoleon but also on the history of the Revolution, as Thiebault was a participant in the whole game from the date of Louis the 16th's flight until he and Marie Antoinette were brought back prisoners to Paris. It is a book of wonderful interest. The American issue is published by Macmillan and is called "The New Life of Napoleon." The "Times" in its review opens with the remarkable sentence, "It is curious that the most magnificent of modern lives of Napoleon should come from America, and that the costliest homage ever paid by literature to despotism should be the work of a Republican professor in a New England University." The book is magnificently illustrated, Professor Sloane and his publishers having put under contribution the Museum at Versailles, the Louvre and various private collections. The first volume now issued brings us down to the termination of the first Italian campaign, till 14th July 1797. "We can call to mind no popular history that gives so consistent and so clear an account of those early years, between Brienne and Lodi which are such a key to the character of the man." The only drawback to the Italian reader is the American spelling, "theater," "endeavor," "mold" for "mould," "brusk" for "brusque," etc.

Two works will be found of interest by the students of Philosophy, the "Literary Remains of Professor Croom Robertson," and the "Life of Professor Veitch."

The great event of the week has been the completion by Mr. Herbert Spencer of the monumental work of his life—a System of Synthetic Philosophy. It is an event of such historic interest that I give for the benefit of your University students the "Times" leading article (not a review) in full:

"We heartily congratulate Mr. Herbert Spencer on having at length completed the great work of his life—a system of Synthetic Philosophy. The third volume of 'The Principles of Sociology,' published to-day, brings the series to a close. It has been a task of no common difficulty which Mr. Herbert Spencer has accomplished. It has been nothing less than an attempt to exhibit in detail the unity of all knowledge, to show how the separate sciences all come under the same general laws, and can be rightly understood only when they are regarded as forming the constituent parts of one harmonious whole. This has carried him necessarily over a very wide range of work. A volume of First Principles, two volumes of Biology, two of Psychology, three of Sociology, and two of Ethics make up the ten volumes planned six-and-thirty years ago, continuously laboured upon since, and now at last finished. Mr. Herbert Spencer, in his preface to the concluding volume, confesses himself surprised at his own audacity in undertaking so vast a work, and still more surprised at having completed it. He has done it under grave difficulties, and with frequent interruptions from chronic ill-health. But the mind has triumphed over the body. Mr. Herbert Speu-

cer's energy and perseverance, and resolve to finish what he undertook have enabled him to carry to completion a task which would well have taxed the powers of the strongest; and, often as he has despaired of reaching the end, the end has at length been reached, and he has fulfilled the purpose of his life.

Very few English writers have attempted to go as fully as Mr. Herbert Spencer has done over the field of speculative thought. The unity of knowledge is pretty generally accepted as a point of faith, but it is suffered largely to remain as a point of implicit faith. It was comparatively easy for early writers to have a fairly adequate grasp of the science of their own time. What Aristotle did, and what Bacon and Hobbes essayed to do, was of more easy accomplishment in their day than in our own. The rapid and continuous growth of the separate science has made the work of co-ordination less impossible, perhaps, but it has brought with it enormous and ever increasing demands on the intellectual equipment of those who would seek to grapple with it. How far Mr. Herbert Spencer's latest volume fulfils the promise of 1860, what it does and what, by the author's own confession, it has left undone, and on what points it calls especially for remark, we shall endeavour hereafter in due course to show. Our present concern is with the fact that the system of synthetic philosophy has at length received its last touch and that this stupendous undertaking has, in spite of all difficulties, been finished and launched on the world. It is with no empty form of words that we congratulate the author on his success, and on the pleasure he can now feel in his well-earned emancipation.

Mr. Herbert Spencer has for many years taken high rank as a systematic and philosophic thinker. It was in 1842 that he published his first work, and, many and multiform as have been his literary labours since, all that he has written has been consistent in every way with the views which he then held and expressed. As a writer he has attained a reputation not only in his own country and has exercised an influence not only on English thought. In Germany and in Russia he stands even higher than he does here, and has been more thoroughly studied in the most abstruse and least popularly attractive parts of his books. To Englishmen he is best known as an ardent and uncompromising advocate of individualism as opposed both to State Socialism and to what he considers an undue extension of the ordinary functions of government. He will be thought by many to have pressed his views too far and to have sought to confine the functions of government within too narrow limits. But he has stopped far short of the extreme opinions of some of his professed followers; and just as Wilkes declared that he had never been a Wilkesite, he has a full right to disclaim many of the inferences which have been drawn from what he has written, and have been put forward with the assumed sanction of an authority which he has never given. In the present day, when Socialistic schemes are floating everywhere in the air, it is an excellent thing that the world should be compelled to see that there are two sides to the question, and that, in the judgment of one of our most eminent thinkers, Socialism in all its forms will do more mischief than it so much as attempts to cure. It is largely the spread of Socialism which clouds over Mr. Herbert Spencer's views of what the future is to bring. His confidence in the social progress of the race is not shaken. His doubt is whether any peoples who have suffered themselves to be socialistically organised will be found worthy to enter into the promised land.

Captain A. T. Mahan has completed his "Life of Nelson." It is expected to be ready for publication in March. It will be in two octavo volumes uniform with the author's works on the "Influence of Sea Power," and will contain about 18 photographic portraits and several battle plans.

Dr. Conan Doyle's new novel "Rodney Stone" is out. I believe it has been running through one of the magazines in serial form, but it is now published as a book. It is very highly reviewed. "Rodney Stone," says the "Times," "is distinctly the best of Conan Doyle's novels." It is a story of the days of the Regency, and the few extracts given only make one keenly anxious to secure the book itself.

A few notanda by the way of chit-chat: Mr. Lecky has finished his introduction for the new edition of Swift's Works. Admiral Fitzgerald's memoir of Sir George Tryon, is to be out before Christmas and we are promised a very full and picturesque description of the *Victoria* disaster. Messrs. Hutchinson are about to bring out a novel the scene of which is laid in Venezuela. The title is a curious one, "The Devil tree of El Dorado." Messrs. Sampson Low promise a study of Philip, Duke of Wharton, by Mr. J. K. Robinson, whom Pope immortalized as the "scorn and wonder of his age." In France, Rousset has completed his history of the Franco-German war, and is preparing, in one volume, a popular account of the most outstanding features of that extraordinary campaign. General Tréchu has left behind him two volumes which should possess no ordinary interest, dealing as they do with the siege of Paris, and with the circumstances attending the foundation of the Third Republic in which he took so active and leading a part.

The first volume of Victor Hugo's Letters has been published. Their interest consists in the singular light they throw on this extraordinary man known to the present generation principally as the arch satirist of the Second Empire and Napoleon the Little. One had always looked upon him not only as a staunch Republican, but what is more to his discredit he gave the imprimatur of his illustrious name to Socialists and Communists. And this too after having drawn a pension for many years from the Bourbons and was drawing inspiration from Chateaubriand.

The "Times" reviewer writes:

"There is scarcely a grander passage in his poetry than the following, taken from a letter written from Boulogne to his favourite daughter:—

'All day I was looking at churches and pictures, and then at night I gazed at the sky, and thought once more of you, my Didine, as I watched that beautiful constellation, the chariot of God, which I have taught you to distinguish among the stars. See, my child, how great God is, and how small we are. Where we put dots of ink, He puts suns. These are the letters with which He writes. The sky is His book. I shall bless God, my Didine, if you are always able to read it, and I hope you may.'

It would appear that at one time he coquetted with the Buonapartes, as shewn in a letter to Joseph Buonaparte, in which avowing himself a staunch Buonapartist he refers to the Duke of Reichstadt as the "coming man." He was in sober truth "the very weathercock of contemporary politics."

NEEDLESS ALARM.

Whether the suffering which people undergo from disease is more physical than mental is a point not easy to decide. It depends largely on the nature of the disease, and the make-up of the individual. Experience seems to show, however, that in one prevailing disease—indigestion or dyspepsia, the two kinds of suffering are very evenly divided, and both very great, the mental distress being chiefly due to the illusions and deceptions which attend it. For example, though dyspepsia is solely an affection of the digestive organs, it has power to set up disorders in others which always alarm the sufferer, and often perplex his medical advisers. These symptoms or sequences may relate to the head, the heart, the sight, the hearing, the lungs, or to other organs or functions. Take an illustration or two.

"In the spring of 1891," says Mr. Edward Tatham, "I fell into a low, weak state of health. I had a foul taste in the mouth, and was constantly spitting up a thick phlegm. My appetite was poor and after eating I had fulness and pain at the chest—the latter seemed to be puffed or swollen. What made me most anxious was my *breathing*, which came to be so difficult and short that at times I could only catch my breath by an effort. I was led to fancy that something must ail my lungs, especially as so great a quantity of mucus gathered in my throat and mouth. It was usually worse at night, and I got very little sleep on account of it; sometimes none at all. In a morning I would be quite worn out.

"As time went on I became very weak, and was much put to it to get about. I took all kinds of medicines and got no proper relief from anything. In February, 1893, Mr. William Beardsley, grocer, Cotmanhay, told me how he had been cured of a like trouble by Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. Acting on his advice I got a bottle of this medicine from Mr. Platt's Drug Stores, Ainsworth Road, and after taking it felt quite another man. My *breathing* was easier, and my food agreed with me. I continued using the Syrup, and got stronger and better every day. When I had taken four bottles I was as well as ever, being free from all pain or discomfort. My wife, who has suffered for years from *liver complaint*, has taken the Syrup with the same good results as in my own case. You are at liberty to make any use you like of this statement. (Signed) Edward Tatham, Tatham's Lane, Cotmanhay Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, March 21st, 1895."

"In October, 1888," writes another, "I began to feel weak, heavy, and tired. My appetite was poor, and after eating I had distress at the stomach, together with *shortness of breath*, and a good deal of pain across the chest. Sometimes I would be taken with sudden dizziness, as though I must fall to the ground. Cold, clammy sweats used to break out all over me and I trembled from head to foot. Finally, I got so weak I could scarcely walk to my work. Indeed, I had occasionally to leave my work; I have been away as long as a month at a time. In this way I suffered for about two years.

"In August, 1890, Mr. Thompson, the grocer in Church Street, urged me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup. After taking only one bottle I felt better. My food agreed with me and I was stronger. Continuing with this medicine, gradually all pain left me, and I completely recovered my health. Since then I have kept the Syrup in the house for use in time of need. You are free to publish this statement. (Signed) William Mallender, 71, Robinson's Buildings, Newhall, Walth, near Sheffield, October 11th, 1895."

Cases of supposed disease of the heart, of the nervous system, of the kidneys, &c., constantly prove to be, not organic affections of those parts at all, but merely local or functional disturbances caused by the toxic or poisonous principles thrown into the blood by the decomposition or fermentation of food in the stomach; or otherwise, by dyspepsia or indigestion. But until they are discovered to be so they are mistakenly treated; and serious, often fatal, results, follow. Until pronounced and undeniable symptoms of organic mischief show themselves (which is not the case once in a hundred times) you may take it for granted that your ailment is some form of dyspepsia, easily curable by Mother Seigel's Syrup, as demonstrated by the two instances cited above.

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Memorial

TO THE LATE

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A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Linton Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

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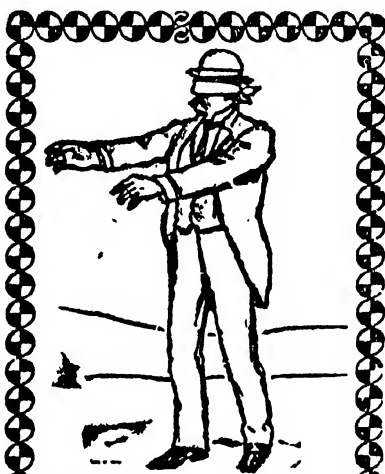
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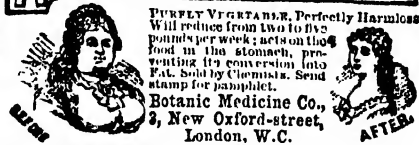
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 754.

THE PROMISE OF THE SUNRISE.*

[The Tarno Rye, on the anniversary of the mysterious disappearance of Rhona Boswell, who had caused the drowning of Herne "the Scollard," stands in the mouth of his solitary tent in Gypsy Dell. He looks towards the spire of Raxton Church in the distance, over which the dawn is gradually brightening into a gorgeous sunrise.]

I.

Death's year hath passed : again the new-mown hay,
As on that night, perfumes the Dell—that night
Whose darkness seemed more dear than Eden-light—
Fragrant of Love's warm wings and Love's warm breath—
Where here I left her doomed to treacherous death
By Romany guile that lured me far away ;
'Twas here—where petals of the morn are cast
'Mid night's wild phantoms from the spectral past—
'Twas here she made the vow I smiled at then
To show her face some morn when hill and glen
Took the first kiss of Day.

II.

But *now* not all the starry Virtues Seven
Seem strong as she, nor Time, nor Death, nor Night.
What saith the morn ? "Love hath such godlike might
That if the sun, the moon, and all the stars,
Nay, all the spheral spirits who guide their cars,
Were quelled by Doom, Love's high-creative leaven
Could light new worlds." If then this Lord of Fate
When Death calls in the stars, can re-create,
Is it a madman's dream that Love can show
Those eyes I seek within yon ruby glow,
And build again my heaven ?

III.

"The birds," she said, "they knows us *Romany chiest*—
Lenseways the 'Gypsy-maggie' † an' the jay—
They knows the Romany tongue—yis, all we say ;
So, if the Hernes should do away wi' me
'Cause o' the Scollard's death, the birds will see
An' tell the flowers where Rhona's body lies.
The Scollard's strong to strive wi' now he's dead :
Outside the tent o' nights I hear his tread.
You mind them stars reflected in the river
That seemed a snake o' fire ? I see'd you shiver :
It had the Scollard's eyes !

IV.

But when I'm dead, the Golden Hand o' love
Will shine someday where mists o' mornin' swim ;

* Among the Gypsies of all countries the happiest possible "Duk-keripen" (i. e., prophetic symbol of a natural phenomenon) is a hand-shaped golden cloud floating on the sky. It is singular that the same idea is found among races entirely disconnected with them—the Finns, for instance, with whom Ukko, the "sky god" or "angel of the sunrise," was called the "golden king" and "leader of the clouds," and his Golden Hand was more powerful than all the army of Death.

† Gypsy girls.

‡ Water-Wagtail.

You'll see me too, dear, when the sun's red rim
Peeps through the Rookery boughs by Raxton spire,
And makes the wet leaves wink like stars o' fire ;
Then, when the skylark wakes the thrush and dove,
An' squirrels jump, an' rabbits scrabble roun',
An' hares cock up their ears a-shinin' brown,
An' grass an' blossoms mix their mornin' smells
Wi' dingle songs from all the *chiriks*,*
You'll see me there above."

* * *

V.

I think 'twas here—though now I know not whether
Dead joy or living sorrow be the dream—
In this same tent—round which the branches seem
To stir their whispering leaves as if to tell
The Morn the dreadful secret of the Dell—
I think 'twas here we lived that life together.

[A shape that at one moment seems like a hand, and then a feather of gold, appears in the eastern clouds near the brightening wings of the Spirit of the Sunrise.]

My senses mock me : these wan eyes behold
What seems a hand, a mystic hand of gold,
Traced on the steaming canvas of the mist
Gilding the woof of pearl and amethyst—
A hand or golden feather.

[Beside the Golden Hand Rhona's face appears.]

VI.

Is that a picture in a mad man's eye ?
Or is it Memory, like a mocking elf,
Weaving Hope's tapestry to cheat herself ?
Or doth great Nature, she who garners all
The fleeting pictures Time can limn, recall
The face of her the Romanies doomed to die ?
Or is there glowing a face from brow to chin
Where yonder wings of Morn are widening thin,
Her very face, her throat, her dimpling cheek,
Her mouth—the mouth that love first taught to speak—
Smiling " 'Tis I, 'tis I " ?

VII.

THE LARK RISING FROM THE HAY-FIELD.

Birds of the Dell, the veils of morn are shaking !
And see the face of her, ye loving birds,
Who knew your songs—who gave them human words
In those sweet mornings when her breath would mingle
With breath of flowers, and all the dewy dingle
Greeted the Spirit of the Sunrise waking ;
Ye birds who saw her buried—ye who know
Where, conscious of the flowers, she lies below,
But cannot tell you mourner, for the spell
The monstrous deed hath cast about the Dell,
The man whose heart is breaking !

* Birds.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

VIII.

THE BIRDS OF THE DINGLE.

She keeps her promise, she who made the vow
 No Romany law, no Romany guile, should ever
 Divide their lives, nor Death's fell malice sever
 The chain the Sunrise forged 'twixt her and him ;
 She keeps her promise ; through the mists which swim
 Love's light is shed from her sweet eyes and brow
 Who vowed to show the lover's *dukkeripen**
 Of hope, the Golden Hand of promise, when
 Fate should fulfil the prophet-river's warning,
 And gaze from ruby-pillared domes of morning ;
 She keeps her promise now.

IX.

THE SPIRIT OF THE SUNRISE.

Though love be mocked by Death's obscene derision,
 Love still is Nature's truth and Death her lie ;
 Yet hard it is to see the dear flesh die,
 To taste the fell destroyer's crowning spite
 That blasts the soul with life's most cruel sight,
 Corruption's hand at work in life's transition.
 This sight was spared thee : thou shalt still retain
 Her body's image pictured in thy brain ;
 The flowers above her weave the only shroud
 Thine eye shall see : no stain of Death shall cloud
 Rhona ! Behold the vision !

X.

THE TARNO RYE.

As on that morn when round our bridal pillow
 The sunrise came and you cried : "Smell the whin !"
 And rose and oped the tent "to let it in,"
 Yon clouds—like molten metal, boiling brass,
 Brightening to gold—are crested as they pass
 With Love's own fire !—yes ! while each gleaming billow
 Rolls o'er the Dell, 'tis Love's own hand that launches
 The self-same Promise through the self-same branches !
 The Promise of the Sunrise !—Oak and ash
 And birch and elm and thorn pass on the flash
 Down to the river-willow !

* * *

THEODORE WATTS-DUNTON.

—*The Athenæum*.

WEEKLYANA.

DR. John Hopkinson is evidently an advanced pessimist, and offers a make-weight to the roseate views of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain.

"Dr. John Hopkinson, President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, speaking at the annual dinner of his society last night, said England owed her prominent position to the fact that she was the first to use coal on a large scale. If the employment of that material as a basis of power were to cease, British supremacy would go with it. The Falls of Niagara wasted more power every day than could be derived from all the coal raised in the whole world, and in the future it would be the work of electrical engineers to utilise it, and other waterfalls, for the transmission of power for purposes of traction and industrial undertakings. When that work was fully realised, there would only be two courses open to Englishmen : they would either have to live on their accumulated savings, or flit to countries having greater water power than their own. In either event, the supremacy of Britain would go."

Who is the "Indian Contortionist" that is now the admiration of England?

"An Indian contortionist gave a remarkable exhibition before a committee of medical men at St. George's Hospital yesterday. The performer, patient, victim, or whatever name he may be called, is Yoga, of the Westminster Aquarium, and his fame has become so noised abroad that from a passing show he has become an object-lesson to young doctors. Yoga was introduced in the theatre as a Brahmin of the high caste, who has forfeited his religious rights by coming to England. He is said to have spent forty years in a cave living upon goats' milk and dried fruits. He appears to be able to reverse the ordinary functions and uses of his joints and ligatures, and to twist and double his arms and legs about in any way he chooses,

* Symbol.

and all of the medical men present yesterday confessed themselves amazed at his marvellous performances."

Our London correspondent who sends the paragraph says the "Indian Contortionist" must surely be a fraud, for no high caste Brahmin would so demean himself. Not necessarily. The Indian is capable of the feat described and with Europeans, even the most knowing, every Brahmin is a high caste one.

THE British Museum have acquired the Wellington letters. We read

"Yesterday the autograph letters and documents belonging to the late Viscount Hill were sold by auction at Shrewsbury by order of the Official Receiver. The documents comprised autograph letters of the Duke of Wellington to his most trusted General, Lord Hill, the latter's own letters, those of Sir Richard Hill, M.P., and the Rev. Rowland Hill, as also letters from Royal personages and historical documents, the whole covering a period varying from 1792 to 1842. The letters and despatches of the Duke of Wellington, addressed to General Lord Hill, dealt chiefly with brilliant military operations, in which Wellington always found so able a coadjutor in Hill. Some of the letters were of a private character, and were written in a most free and friendly manner. They covered the whole of his official life, and were bought on behalf of the British Museum for £600."

LORD Armstrong justifies his name :—

"Lord Armstrong enters upon his eighty-seventh year to-day. His lordship's physical and mental activity is remarkable in a man of such advanced age. Though hydraulics, engineering, and gunnery have been so prominent in his lordship's studies and attainments, it will be agreeable news to many to learn that for a considerable period now (the *Newcastle Journal* announces) Lord Armstrong has been engaged upon electrical research, the result of which will be made known to the world in a publication that is likely to make a sensation in scientific circles. Not the least interesting and important feature of the new work will be the illustrations. These are from photographs made under Lord Armstrong's supervision at Crag-side."

THE next extract is interesting in another sense :—

"The children of a Birmingham suburb came in for an unexpected treat the other day, and made such good use of the golden opportunity that the doctors of the district are likely to have a busy time of it. A confectioner's van, full of Christmas stock, capsized, owing to the horse bolting, and there was a glorious smash. The boxes, says the *Sheffield Telegraph*, fell out of the van, and the sweets fell out of the boxes. Chocolates strewed the roadway. Father Christmases lay cheek by jowl with sugar pigs. The driver was thrown from his seat, and so badly hurt that he could do nothing to mitigate the ruin. The horse managed to get clear of the shafts, and fled. In a moment the street was alive with children, who with shouts of glee threw themselves upon the wreckage, and carried off all they could lay hands on."

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Daily Graphic* writes :—

"An amusing echo of the Tell legend has just come before the civil tribunal at Augera, in Southern Austria. It appears that one of the employés at a large sugar refinery in that town had an ambition to repeat the exploit of the Swiss hero, and chose for his living target a schoolboy of the name of Mellyba. In order to make things quite safe, he requested the young Mellyba to wear two hats for the occasion, a tall hat which he borrowed from a bystander, and the lad's own *chapeau de gala*, or Sunday hat. The whole edifice was surmounted by the traditional apple. The Tell legend was not quite realised either in costume or results, for the marksman missed the apple, but pierced the Sunday hat through and through, with the ignominious result that he was sued before the Civil Court to recover damages for the hat, and also had to satisfy a claim of ten gulden from the father 'for anguish and distress caused to him in his feelings as parent.' The boy who personified the young Tell received a severe reprimand and a caution to mind what he was about for the future."

ANOTHER correspondent writes :—

"The abolition of the Buckhounds is not a Ministerial question ; but it is a matter which the Queen herself can and must decide. The popular idea that there is an annual vote for the Royal Hunt is a mistake, for the expenses are defrayed out of the Civil List. About eight years ago the Queen appointed a secret committee to investigate and report upon the expenses of the Household, and the members sent up a private report to her Majesty, in which they strongly recommended the abolition of the Buckhounds ; but nothing was done, in consequence of the resolute opposition by certain members of the Royal Family. This committee consisted of the following thoroughly competent persons : Lord Cross, Lord Welby, the late Earl Sydney, and the late Sir Henry Ponsonby. The Queen certainly has no love for the hunt, but her Majesty is surrounded by persons who are saturated with a most obstructive indisposition to any changes of this description. A motion in both Houses of Parliament would probably strengthen the Queen's hands. It is inconceivable that Lord Salisbury, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Chamberlain, Sir William Harcourt, or Mr. Morley can regard the Royal Hunt with approval."

DEAFNESS. An essay describing a really genuine Cure for Deafness, Singing in Ears, &c., no matter how severe or long-standing, will be sent post free.—Artificial Ear-drums and similar appliances entirely superseded. Address THOMAS KEMPE, VICTORIA CHAMBERS, 19 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON.

THE Commissioners of Calcutta will specially meet on Monday next, "to consider the points raised in His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, delivered at Entally, on the 26th November, 1896."

IT is declared in the *Calcutta Gazette* that a piece of land measuring about 4 bighas is required for a public purpose, that is, for filling up the tank called Alankar Dighi of the Katwa Court compound and will be acquired under the Act. The purpose for which the Land Acquisition law is to be enforced is not very clear. Is it that the tank will be acquired to be filled up or that a new tank will be dug to fill up the old with the earth so obtained.

THE market rate of exchange for the fourth quarter of 1896-97 has been fixed at Rs. 2-25/32d., the percentage of salary admissible on account of Exchange Compensation Allowance in that quarter being Rs. 10-14-2 approximately.

FROM the 1st day of January 1897, the institution fees payable under section 71 (a) of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, when the amount or value of the subject-matter does not exceed five hundred rupees, will be annas 1½ in the rupee on such amount or value instead of annas two. Another concession to begin with the new year is the increase of double the weight for the same postage of privileged newspapers.

FOR selling adulterated barley powder, Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein has fined a shop-keeper in Harrison Road R. 5, and for selling adulterated arrowroot two other shop-keepers have also been similarly punished by the same Northern Division Magistrate.

THE ferry train carrying *bhoosa* carts, while crossing Sutlej Bridge, caught fire from a spark from the engine and in a few minutes was ablaze. Apprehending danger to the bridge, the train was run over it with full speed to Phillour. The wind was blowing high. Before the train could be brought to a stand the flames had extended to five carts. One cartman, in trying to scale the sides of the truck, was considerably burnt and is not likely to survive.

MR. J. Holt Schooling, in the *Pall Mall Magazine*, calculates that in England and Wales people die at the rate of more than 1,500 per day, or 65 in each hour of the day and night—or more than one per minute. As regards the age at which death occurs, the age-group under five years includes by far the largest number; and, as regards deaths of adults, the age-group 65-74 contains more than any of these other groups. Here are the figures:

Age.		Age.		Age.	
Under 5 years...	37'4	25-34 years...	5'8	75-84 years...	8'5
5-9 " ...	2'9	35-44 " ...	7'0	85 years & upwards	2'1
10-14 " ...	1'6	45-54 " ...	8'1		
15-19 " ...	2'3	55-64 " ...	9'8	Total ...	100'0
20-24 " ...	2'7	65-74 " ...	11'8		

"In a series of diagrams Mr. Schooling shows the respective killing power of ten of the English population's most deadly enemies. The most frequently fatal diseases are: *Diseases of the Respiratory System*, which thrust so deep into our thirty millions, and are largely made up of bronchitis, powerfully aided by pneumonia; *Diseases of the Nervous System*, which have about one-half the killing power of their mighty leader; and *Diseases of the Circulatory System* [nearly all diseases of the heart] and *Phthisis* [commonly called consumption] which are each of them nearly equal in killing power to the group of Nervous diseases just referred to. *Old Age* comes next, and claims every year about 1 per 1,000 of the population. In England and Wales 5 per 1,000 of the population are aged eighty and upwards; so that if we consider these five as aged persons liable to die of old age, we see that at present only one person 'wears out' in every five who should end in this natural and peaceful way.

THE first meeting of the 143rd session of the Society of Arts was presided over by Major-General Sir Owen Tudor Burne, chairman of the council. The opening address was devoted to "India: Its Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce."

"The Chairman alluded at the commencement of his address to the diversified character of the natural features of India, and pointed out that its vast population was as varied in character and thought as the Norwegian and the Italian, while, similarly, the climate had its extremes of heat and cold and of drought and rain. This great empire, he reminded his hearers, was protected by a military force which numbered about 73,000 European and 146,000 native troops, besides 30,000 Volunteers; it was irrigated by nearly 41,000 miles of canals, traversed by nearly 20,000 miles of railways (none of which might be said to have

existed half a century ago), and covered with a network of about 46,000 miles of telegraph line. Speaking of its natural features and products, he said that the mountainous tracts of the Himalayas produced all the plants and species of European grain, fruits, and flowers, and the vegetable produce of the plains of India was the same as in all tropical countries. Dealing with Indian art, he said that the fine arts, which should always follow the useful arts, and which were generally confined to painting, sculpture, engraving, and architecture, did not take a leading place in the present occupations of modern India. It was to architecture that we chiefly looked for the fine arts in India, and this was said to owe its development to Buddhist rather than to Hindu impulses. Nevertheless, Hindu art powerfully asserted itself in the Imperial work of the Moguls, and had left behind memorials which excited the admiration and astonishment of our age. But the great characteristic of all art in India was the obvious absence from it of intellectual power. Speaking of the manufactures of India, he mentioned, after dealing with the native art industries, that there were now 144 cotton mills (containing 34,000 looms and 3,700,000 spindles) in India, of which 100 were in the Bombay Presidency alone. These employed 140,000 hands. There were also 29 jute mills, with 10,000 looms and 200,000 spindles, employing 75,000 hands, and 2,500 rice, paper, tobacco, and other mills and factories, which employed some 300,000 more of the industrial population. Breweries also, of which there were 22 in India, were in a flourishing condition. The commerce of India was of an interesting character and of increasing importance. Before the English became the ruling power in India the country did not possess £1,000,000 a year of staples for exportation. She now sold to the world about £70,000,000 of such staples; and, taking merchandise alone, the average value of India's trade with England was some £22,000,000 sterling, or about one-third of her total exports. She received imports from the mother country amounting to about £28,000,000 annually. The internal trade of India greatly exceeded her foreign commerce."

NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

& THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

PRESIDENT Kruger, in closing the Volksraad, said he desired only to act on the defensive and never aggressively, and to preserve friendly relations with Great Britain in love and peace. In his address to the five thousand Boers at Krugersdorp on the occasion of the anniversary of Dangan Day, there was no trace of any Anglophobe feeling.

OWING to the mediation of the Board of Trade, the threatened Railway strike has been averted. The dismissed brakemen have been reinstated, and the London and North Western Railway Company will consider their grievances. The Hamburg strikers, getting discouraged are resuming work. At a meeting of the delegates of the Dockers and Seamen's Union, it has been decided to declare a general strike in London failing an advance in wages of ten shillings per week.

THERE is strong popular opposition in Venezuela against the agreement arrived at with Great Britain, but the President and Government approve.

THE *Daily News'* Olessa correspondent states that several Russian papers now strongly deprecate the Indian famine fund, and argue that charity begins at home. There are signs that the fund is becoming a fiasco. There is also the report that an ukase has been issued to the Directors of Russian Railways to convey corn collected for India free, and also orders its free storing until shipped in volunteer fleet. The *Times* regrets the impression formed at St. Petersburg that the object of the Russian famine fund for India has not been appreciated by Great Britain, and says that it is regarded as a genuine and spontaneous offering springing from the impulse of the Russian heart, but that caution is necessary in considering the bearing of such offers whether emanating from British or Russian sympathy. It praises the efforts of native charity whereon Government must mainly rely on such occasions, and is not for any foreign aid until all available Indian sources of charity are exhausted.

THE treaty published by the *North-China Daily News* at Shanghai between Russia and China, is denied at St. Petersburg. The railway scheme is confined to the construction of a short Chinese Railway in Manchuria connecting the West Siberian and Vladivostock lines.

THE St. Petersburg *Viedomosti*, in an article on the Armenian question which has been much commented upon, says that Russia will adhere to common European action and exhaust all means of conciliation before a resort to arms, but that if the Powers decide upon an active policy Russia must obtain the sole mission of executing the work of protecting the Christians in Turkey. The *Times* states that any intervention or coercion in the affairs of Turkey must be of an international character, conferring no exclusive advantages upon any one Power. Lord George Hamilton, speaking at Ealing, said that there was strong probability of a satisfactory settlement being shortly reached, which would put a stop to the Turkish misrule. The *Daily News* correspondent at Constantinople says it is understood that the Powers intend to coerce the Sultan in the matter of granting the promised reforms. The *Daily News* publishes a telegram from Vienna which states that, in the event of the Sultan refusing to grant reforms the ambassadors of the Powers will demand their passports.

It is expected that the negotiations between Great Britain and the United States relative to the arbitration treaty will be concluded within three weeks. It is believed that the treaty will be for a term of five years, and will provide for the formation of an arbitration court comprising three judges for each country to settle all differences except the Venezuela and Behring Sea questions, but to include the Alaska boundary dispute.

THE preamble submitting the naval estimates to the Italian Parliament deplores the condition of the Italian navy which, it declares, has fallen below the level of efficiency when compared with the navies of other Powers. It demands seven millions lire as an additional vote for the purpose of building new ships. The French Chamber of Deputies has rejected the proposal to expend two hundred million francs on the navy. Ministers admitted that there were various defects and abuses in the navy, and undertook to introduce remedial measures.

THE *Times'* correspondent at Athens telegraphs that an extensive revolutionary movement is being projected in Macedonia to take place in spring. The leaders propose to create a diversion by fomenting a revolt in Crete. Quantities of munitions have already been sent to Crete.

STUDENT disorders have taken place at Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kieff. Political documents have been seized, and several arrests made.

SAAD-ED-DIN, Governor of Crete, has been recalled in accordance with the wishes of the Powers. Under pressure from Italy and France the Porte has promised an amnesty to the Armenians.

THE Italian Government has formally denied in the Chamber of Deputies that Russia has occupied a strip of coast near Obok.

A SHARP shock of earthquake has taken place throughout the central, southern, and western counties of England and also in the suburbs of London. The shocks were most serious at Hereford, where the Cathedral and Railway station, besides many houses, were damaged.

THE Levée on Thursday night was largely attended. We give an analysis below with that of two previous years. The number of unavoidably absent is increasing and it is, we fear, due to the hour at which the ceremony takes place. Levée is a morning reception and is so in every court except in Calcutta. When will the anomaly cease and the old regular order re-established?

1896.	Private Entrée	... 125—Asiatics...	15...Europeans...	110
	Public Entrée	... 873—Asiatics...	262...Europeans...	611
	New Presentations	... 217—Asiatics...	58...Europeans...	159
	Actually present	...1,215—Asiatics...	335...Europeans...	880
	Unavoidably absent	... 435—Asiatics...	164...Europeans...	271
1895.	Private Entrée	... 103—Asiatics...	16...Europeans...	87
	Public Entrée	... 698—Asiatics...	226...Europeans...	472
	New Presentations	... 208—Asiatics...	63...Europeans...	145
	Actually Present	...1,009—Asiatics...	305...Europeans...	704
	Unavoidably absent	... 401—Asiatics...	139...Europeans...	262

1894.	Private Entrée	... 113—Asiatics...	24...Europeans...	89
	Public Entrée	... 951—Asiatics...	227...Europeans...	724
	New Presentations	... 205—Asiatics...	32...Europeans...	173
	Actually Present	...1,269—Asiatics...	283...Europeans...	986
	Unavoidably absent	... 369—Asiatics...	148...Europeans...	221

OUR private information from England by the last mail is that Sir W. C. Petheram, our retired Chief Justice, will be put on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

THE increase of plague in Bombay, which Dr. Jelovitz attributes to fall in the temperature, has been the occasion of a fresh notification by the Health Department. It is in these words:

"A disease of a peculiar nature characterised by fever and swelling of the glands, is prevalent in Bombay. This fever is propagated and increased by living in an insanitary way, especially in overcrowded and dark buildings, by taking an insufficiency of proper food and hence lowering the vital power, and by neglecting wounds or abrasions on the surface of the skin. In order to put a stop to this fever, it is necessary that the people should co-operate with the Municipal authorities by reporting at once to the Health Officer or the Ward Medical Officer every case of fever and swelling of the glands. This is necessary in order that the sufferer may be promptly treated and that precautions may be taken to prevent the disease spreading and infecting others. It is observed that the people who are most often attacked are those who live in dirty, overcrowded buildings, insufficiently lighted and ventilated, and who do not eat good food. The Municipal authorities are prepared to clean and disinfect all houses in which this disease has appeared, and people will best help by not putting any obstruction in the way of Municipal officers. Further, all people are warned that the best way of avoiding this fever is to clean and keep clean and admit light to every part of their habitations, keep all doors and windows open, burn all old rags and rubbish that may have accumulated, eat a sufficiency of good food including fruit, and carefully clean and cover all wounds or abrasions of the skin from dirt and the air."

In October last, the municipality made a grant of Rs. 1,00,000 for special sanitary measures. That sum being exhausted, the Standing Committee have made a fresh recommendation for another Rs. 1,50,000. The proposition to engage, if possible, the services of Dr. Yersin for a limited period, fell through, and the Committee decided that the Commissioners be asked to ascertain by telegram on what terms the doctor would come to Bombay and for what period in connection with the enquiries which were being made into the bubonic plague.

The panic due to plague has much increased. "The exodus," it is said, "during the Diwali was great, both by sea and land, but it was nothing compared to the migration from the city during last week to the suburbs and to Gujrat and distant parts of the country." Some of the streets in the affected localities are reported to present a deserted appearance. The number of people who have left are estimated at a hundred thousand. These are mostly of the lower classes, such as artizans, workmen and domestic servants. This exodus is not desirable, for it is said there have been several cases of plague in Cutch among arrivals from Bombay. A Borah lad has died from the same cause at Broach. Other towns in Gujrat have likewise suffered. The attacks so far are confined to the Bombay runaways. If they cannot escape by flight why then imperil the safety of others by going to them?

MR. R. D. Mehta writes to the *Englishman* :—

"Sir,—You will have noticed the enormous rise in the number of fresh cases of bubonic plague at Bombay reported in your columns, as well as in the mortality incidental to the plague. The figures are sufficiently alarming. But they do by no means give the public an accurate idea of the gravity of the situation. They are not exhaustive. I have been on a visit to Bombay recently and I had the opportunity of being present at the meeting of the Municipal Commissioners; and in that meeting I heard one of the Commissioners, who is also an eminent medical man, complain that all the cases of the plague were not reported to the Press, and it was impossible for the public to get accurate information on the point. Thus you will see the information is far from being complete and the figures are low. Add to this the fact that the plague is steadily, albeit slowly, expanding, and is victimising classes of people who are remarkable for the cleanliness of their habits and might consequently be expected to enjoy an immunity from all sorts of filthy diseases. Only a few weeks ago when I was at Bom-

DEAFNESS COMPLETELY CURED! Any person suffering from Deafness, Noises in the Head, &c., may learn of a new, simple treatment, which is proving very successful in completely curing cases of all kinds. Full particulars, including many unsolicited testimonials and newspaper press notices, will be sent post free on application. The system is, without doubt, the most successful ever brought before the public. Address, Aural Specialist, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

being confined among the lower classes of people, people who might be from their dirty habit of living suspected to be predisposed to it. But now Eurasians, Parsis, and Europeans—in fact, the very best men of the place, who habitually take every sanitary precaution, are falling victims to it."

He then asks the question :—

"I am not an alarmist, and do not wish to create any unnecessary alarm. But regard being had to the awfully insanitary conditions of life in Calcutta and the intimate relations between it and Bombay, is it too much to predict that, sooner or later, Calcutta will be visited by the plague?"

We hope our good friend brings no plague with him.

THERE were apprehensions of plague overtaking Bombay in 1833. The precaution taken to save the city was swift and effective. We read in an old journal of the 13th March of that year :—

"The plague in Bombay. There is now no doubt that the *Sophia* which recently came into Bombay from the Persian Gulf had the plague on board, and had carried off a large number of her crew. In the log-book of this vessel, the Captain who has also been carried off by plague, has stated, that in going from the beach at Bushire to a house to the vicinity, he discovered two hundred dead bodies lying in the streets. The reader will easily judge from this fact to what state that unfortunate city must have been reduced by the plague. In order to prevent infection, it has been determined to scuttle and sink the *Sophia* at Bombay; a measure rendered the more necessary as she had on board the clothes of those who had died of the plague."

BOMBAY, in public meeting under the presidency of the Governor, has declared that there is famine in the land, and that it is time when measures must be adopted for inviting subscriptions to alleviate the sufferings caused by the scarcity which prevails in many parts of the Presidency. The Governor-Chairman announced the receipt of subscriptions amounting to Rs. 40,000 and said "do not let any one be abashed because his subscription could only be the modest one of one rupee, eight annas, or even less; in this matter the poor might help the poor. True charity knew no race or caste."

THE *Pioneer* writes :

"But the general drought extended to Orissa and all over the Division the Commissioner reported a little time ago that outside the irrigated area the outturn would be very poor."

There are two canals in the Orissa Division. One from Bhudruck to Cuttuck, a distance of 65 miles; the other from Cuttuck to the river Subarnarekha, the northern boundary of the Division. The latter is called the coast canal, but as its water is saltish, it could not be used for irrigation purposes and crops on both sides of this canal dried up for want of rain. The only benefited area in the Division is that lying on the two sides of the Bhudruck canal.

WE would draw the attention of our readers to the letter of Mr. Skrine, Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, on the cry of prohibition of the export of rice as a famine relief measure. We too had been asked to swell the cry, but we knew that the prohibition was impossible. Lord Northbrook had decided the question during the famine of 1874. Mr. Skrine explains why the step is not necessary now. We are much obliged to him. If other high officials followed the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, the ruled would better understand their rulers and cease to grumble unnecessarily. In very few but pregnant words, Mr. Skrine points out generally the duties of citizens, their proper aspirations and the way to the desired goal, and in particular those to

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

210, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(Session 1896-97.)

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Monday, the 21st Dec., at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Bismuth, Cadmium and Tin.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S., Tuesday the 22nd Dec. at 4-15 P.M. Subject: Arsenic.

Admission Fee, Rs. 4 for Physics, and Rs. 4 for Chemistry; Rs. 6 for both Physics and Chemistry; Rs. 4 for Physiology; Rs. 4 for General Biology; Rs. 6 for complete course of Physiology and Biology. The charge for a single lecture is 4 annas.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

Dec. 19, 1896.

be performed at the present moment when there is famine in the land. His words may seem harsh but they are the outcome of a sympathetic heart. And there are few governing officials in the country who truly feel for the people like him and try to elevate their condition.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 19, 1896.

THE RIGHT OF AN UNCHASTE WIDOW UNDER THE HINDU LAW.

AMONG the ancient Hindu legislators, there is a deal of conflict as to the capacity of even a chaste widow to inherit the estate of her deceased husband. There is the same conflict in the modern digests. According to Vijnaneshwara, who lived in the 11th century of the Christian era, and whose commentary on the code of Yajnavalkya is accepted as an authority in almost every part of India excepting some of the districts of Bengal, succession to the undivided share of a deceased member of a joint family takes place by survivorship, and not by inheritance; and it is only upon the death of a person who was not a member of a joint family that his estate, in the absence of nearer heirs, can be taken by his widow. Jimutavahana, the author of the digest called the *Dayabhaga*, which is accepted as an authority in most of the Bengali-speaking districts of Bengal, tried hard to upset all the doctrines of the *Mitakshara*, and, among other matters, sought to establish that the chaste widow of a sonless person inherited his estate in all cases, and not merely where the deceased had no one associated with him as a member of a joint family. The *Dayabhaga* was accepted as an authority by the Pandits of Bengal in the 15th century of the Christian era. But the people of the country evinced great reluctance to recognise in practice the heritable capacity of widows, and even long after the acquisition of sovereignty by the English, cases very often came before the courts in which Hindu widows sought to establish their rights as against the undivided coparceners of their deceased husbands. In fact, it is the administration of the Hindu law of the *Dayabhaga* by the English Law Courts of Bengal that has led to the complete recognition of the heritable capacity of Hindu widows in the Province.

According to the plain meaning of the ancient texts favouring the claim of the widow and the commentaries of Jimutavahana, it is only the chaste widow that can inherit and enjoy the estate of her deceased husband. The kind of casuistry by which their sense has been distorted will be found in the judgments in *Srimati Matangini v Jai Kali*, 5, Bengal Law Reports, 466; *Keri Kolitani v Moni Ram Kolita*, 13, Bengal Law Reports, p. 1; *Indian Law Reports*, 5 Calcutta, p. 776. The method of interpretation followed therein may be regarded by the expounders of our laws in these days as unexceptionable. But it has given a far greater shock to Hindu feelings and sentiments than perhaps anything else ever done by our present rulers executively or judicially. Hindu law gives a very inferior status to remarried widows, and, in practice, the remarriage of widows is quite unknown among the higher classes of Hindus, while even among the lowest classes of Bengal it is very rare. Ordinarily, a Hindu widow will live either under the protection of her husband's relatives or under that of her parents.

Rarely a widow brings disgrace on her relatives by eloping with some young man, and afterwards openly living a life of shame in a town. In such cases her kinsmen try their best to ignore their connection with her altogether, and her own sense of shame generally leads her to keep away from her relatives and friends. To avoid having to see her or to be known to be connected with her, the relatives would willingly give her anything excepting a share in the family dwelling house and the ancestral lands. But by recognising the right of an unchaste widow to enjoy the estate of her deceased lord, our courts have made it impossible for her kinsmen to oust her from the family dwelling house or from her husband's share of undivided lands. The disgrace that she might now inflict upon her coparceners by insisting upon the right given to her by our judge-made law, and misconducting herself while living under the same roof with them, can be better imagined than described, and this result is due to a view of our ancient laws for which there is hardly any justification whatever.

The most important of the holy texts cited in the *Dayabhaga* as favouring the right of a chaste widow to succeed to the estate of her deceased husband, are those of *Vrihaspati* and *Vridhdha Manu*. The ordinances of the former are not correctly translated in *Colebrooke's Dayabhaga*, and the following passages containing a more correct version are cited from the Sacred Books :—

"In the revealed texts (of the Vedas), in the traditional law (of the Smritis), and in popular usage, the wife is declared to be half the body (of her husband), equally sharing the outcome of good and evil acts.

Of him whose wife is not dead, half his body survives. How should any one else take the property, while half (his) body lives ?

Although kinsmen (*Sakulyas*), although his father and mother, although uterine brothers be living, the wife of him who dies without leaving male issue shall succeed to his share.

A wife deceased before (her husband) takes away his consecrated fire (*Agnihotra*), but if the husband dies before the wife, she takes his property, if she has been faithful to him. This is an eternal law." Sacred Books of the East, vol. XXXIII, chapter XXV, vs. 46-49, cited in the *Dayabhaga*.

The law on the subject is similarly laid down by *Vridhdha Manu* in the following text cited in the *Dayabhaga* :—

"The widow of a childless man, keeping unsullied her husband's bed, and persevering in religious observances, shall present funeral oblations and obtain his entire share."

On the authority of these and other texts, it is admitted on all hands that it is only the chaste widow who can succeed to the estate of her childless husband. In the cases cited above the question was not as to the right of an unchaste widow, but the effect of unchastity after the death of the husband, and the vesting of the estate in the widow. The shastric law is contained in the following text of the sage *Katyana* :—

"Let the childless widow, preserving unsullied the bed of her lord, and abiding with her venerable protector, enjoy with moderation the property until her death." *Dayabhaga*, chapter XI, I. 56.

With reference to this text, the late Mr. Justice Mitter, in his order of reference in *Keri Kolitani v. Moniram Kolita*, said :—

"This passage shows clearly not only that the widow's right is a mere right of enjoyment, the word 'enjoyment' being understood in the sense explained above, but that the exercise of that right is absolutely dependant on her 'preserving unsullied the bed of her lord.' The participial form of the word 'preserving,' i. e., continually preserving, which is also the form used in the original (*palayanti*) proves conclusively that the injunction is one in the nature of a permanently abiding condition, which the widow is bound at all times, and under all circumstances, to satisfy; and the right of

enjoyment conferred upon her being expressly declared to be subject to such a condition. Every violation of the right must necessarily involve a forfeiture of that right. It has been already shown that the widow's right of succession is dependant solely and exclusively on the authority of special texts, and it would not certainly lie in her mouth to say that she is entitled to enjoy that right without being bound by the conditions which these very texts have imposed upon her. It has been said that the same reasoning would apply with equal force to the other portion of the text which requires her to abide with her venerable protector. But this is not a separate condition by itself. It is, in fact, merely that of preserving unsullied the bed of her lord, and is simply as a means to an end. Indeed, it was at one time a matter of grave doubt whether a widow, who has voluntarily left the protection of her husband's kinsmen, is entitled to retain his estate. The question was ultimately settled in the affirmative by the Privy Council. But the decision in the case of *Cossinaut Bysack v. Hurrosoondery* was expressly put upon the ground that the widow, in that particular case, had not changed her residence for unchaste purposes."

Considering the wording of the text of *Katyana*, these observations appear to be quite unexceptionable. In fact, one of the Judges, who favoured the claim of the unchaste widow, observed that the text at first sight appeared to require chastity as a condition of enjoyment. The main ground of the decision under consideration was that there was no text expressly laying down that unchastity on the part of a widow could make her forfeit the estate inherited. But there are in Hindu jurisprudence, as administered at the present day, a very large number of well accepted propositions for which it would be simply impossible to find any direct authority in any original text or in any digest, and which are founded either on inferences, or on sheer ignorance of our Judges. There was certainly in the text of *Katyana* a very broad basis for the view taken by the dissentient Judges, and, as their view was favoured by the sentiments of the Hindu community, there is very little justification for the decision by which the majority of the Judges overruled them and outraged the feelings of the Hindus as a nation.

As an instance of the other fallacies on which the decision of the majority of the Full Bench in *Keri Kalitani v. Moniram Kolita* was based, the following passage from the judgment of the Chief Justice Couch may be cited :—

"The widow, chaste at her husband's death, takes as 'half her husband's body,' and for performing works efficacious for his soul. The daughter, unmarried at her father's death, takes because she is 'as it were himself' (*Dayabhaga*, chap'er XI., S. 2, V. 1), and because she is, equally with the son, 'a cause of perpetuating the race,' and (V. 7) confers benefit on her father by means of her son." It is clear from V. 30 that the issueless widowed daughter, in whom as a spinster the estate had vested, would retain it until her death, although after her husband's death she would be wholly inefficacious to confer the benefits, for which she had been selected to take." 13 B. L. R. 79.

The part of the reasoning of Mitter J. that is commented upon in the above passage is clearly erroneous. His reading of the *Dayabhaga* had led him in *Guru Gobindo Shaha v. Ananda Lal* to lay down that the law of inheritance as propounded in the *Dayabhaga* was based solely on the principle of spiritual benefit and that heritable right had its origin in every case in the capacity of the heir to confer some benefit on the soul of the deceased. This view is rendered very plausible by a very considerable part of the observations made by the author of the *Dayabhaga* in the different parts of his great work. But in one of the concluding passages of the chapter on collateral succession, *Jimutavahana* has himself admitted that his theory is untenable, and that heritable capacity is founded upon special texts, and not on any principle of reason. This being the true principle of the *Dayabhaga*, it is not correct to say that, according to it, the widow or the daughter

succeeds because of her capacity to confer spiritual benefit, or that, if after inheriting she forfeits the capacity to confer such benefits she loses also the estate. Under the circumstance, the criticism of Couch C. J. touches only the reasoning by which Mitter J. sought to establish his view of the law, but not the point at issue.

If the text of Katyana be sufficient to support the view that the widow incurs forfeiture by unchastity, then it cannot be said that such forfeiture is protected by Act XXI of 1850. The only provisions of Hindu Law that the Act abrogates are those that inflict the penalty of forfeiture

(1) On account of voluntary renunciation of the Hindu religion.

(2) On account of exclusion from the communion of the Hindu religion.

(3) On account of loss of caste.

There is nothing in the Act to support the doctrine that it can save forfeiture brought about by any other cause, as, for instance, unchastity in a widow. The Judges who favoured the claim of the unchaste widow Keri Kolutani, were apparently led to do so not so much by an earnest desire to administer Hindu law according to the Hindu codes of law, as by a mistaken view of public policy. Jackson J., who was one of the majority, said:—

"From unascertained causes, immoveable property is notoriously, in some parts of Bengal, to a very great extent in the hands of Hindu widows whose relation with the families of their deceased husbands are not always amicable; whose personal liberty is now, it may be said, unlimited and whose enjoyment of the estate not merely defers, but often seriously impairs the prospects of reversioners. If therefore it be recognised as a rule of law by this tribunal that a Hindu widow forfeits, by unchastity, the estate which she had taken as the heir of her husband, then I apprehend, not only will a fruitful cause of domestic discord be largely extended, but a motive will be afforded, to say the least of it, for publishing and bringing into court the most deplorable scandals."

This apprehension may appear reasonable enough in a foreigner. But it must appear to be quite unreasonable to every one knowing anything about the stringency of the Indian law as to libels in these days, and the social ignominy caused to every member of a Hindu family by the misconduct of any one connected with it. A Hindu cannot easily change his residence, and whenever there is a scandal in a Hindu family it becomes the usual topic of conversation among his castemen and fellow-villagers. If the misconduct is of a serious nature, the whole family may be put out of caste. In any case, they are made very miserable indeed.

The judgment delivered in the case of Keri Kolutani v. Moniram Koluta by the late Mr. Justice Mitter was not, as shown already, such as can be supported in all points. But it was evidently based upon the opinions of some of the most learned Pandits of the country, and a very considerable part of the reasoning by which it was sought to be established was quite unassailable. The overriding of such a decision by foreign lawyers, unacquainted with our sentiments and ignorant even of the language in which our legal codes are written, is however not the only instance in which the self-sufficiency of our Judges has got the better of their common sense and sense of justice. The appointment of the works of Messrs. Mayne, Macnaghten and Cowell as text books for Hindu boys, are acts which are still less justifiable, and the climax was reached when Dr. Jolly was brought from Germany to teach the descendants of the Rishis the laws given to their nation by their ancestors.

THE PROHIBITION OF THE EXPORT OF RICE.

TO THE EDITOR, *Reis and Rayyet*.

SIR,—I have been inundated with petitions and letters suggesting that Government should forbid the export of rice from this Division: and the general feeling that some such measure should be adopted has found a vent in some places in a most unwarrantable interference with the course of trade by subordinate officials and the police. Your paper circulates widely in Eastern Bengal, and is largely copied by your native contemporaries. I venture, therefore, to ask permission to explain in your columns the reasons which evidently prompt Government to maintain an attitude of vigilant neutrality as between the producer and consumer.

The nineteenth century will go down to posterity as the era of developed communications. Old men can remember the time when India had no railways, steamers, or telegraphs; no roads, except a few trunk lines maintained for military purposes; and no post offices save those which existed for the benefit of official correspondents. Twenty years ago there were not half as many carts in the whole district of Tippera. Now the familiar *bail ghari* may be counted by thousands there.

The result of the amazing improvements introduced in the means of locomotion and intercourse is that the whole empire, nay the entire civilized world, shows a solidarity as regards supply and demand. In Moghal times and, indeed, in the earlier days of the British *raj*, one district might starve while the cultivators of a neighbouring one were groaning under a glut of grain: and as to supplying deficiencies by importations from foreign countries, why, half the population of Bengal might—and indeed did on one occasion—perish before Europe could learn or relieve the wants. In our times the range of prices over tracts of immense area is very small indeed: and India lays the uttermost ends of the earth under contribution. This dead level in market values of food grains is, perhaps, the most salient economic feature of the day. It is due to the fact that the Post Office, Telegraph and Press are speedy to proclaim deficiencies: and roads, railways and steamers enable those who have a surplus stock to come to the rescue.

Thus a universal sympathy has grown up, making the whole world kin and war daily more and more of an anachronism. But there is nothing so sensitive as the complicated and automatic mechanism of commerce which thus annihilates time and space. To interfere rashly with its workings in any detail is to wreak far-reaching and perhaps irreparable mischief. So complete is the consensus of opinion amongst educated men on this point that Governments are constantly endeavouring to narrow the sphere of their action in economics.

In well-ordered States the central power now concerns itself only with the preservation of peace, the conservation of health and with organisations for promoting convenience which are on too vast a scale for private enterprise. There is in India far too little recognition of the great principle of *laissez faire*. The constant clamour for the intervention of an overtasked Government in social and commercial affairs is degrading to those who raise it, and is a standing obstacle to the building up of a national spirit—a consummation which I desire as ardently as any one. "Only by blood and tears are nations saved." I would rather see a people toiling slowly upwards towards their redemption at the cost of many mistakes and much individual suffering than one dragooned and policed into a semblance of civilization.

So much for the general principles which animate a good Government in its dealings with the commercial classes. Now a few words as regards that which should be taken up by the people themselves. I have pointed out the amazing solidarity of modern social life. This implies a sympathy which should be more than skin-deep. If, for instance, rice is in demand for export hence, the fact shows that others need it more than we do: and we should cheerfully give of our surplus to relieve their necessities. This we can do with a light heart where means of communication are well organized. In the Chittagong Division, for instance, the Assam-Bengal Railway and the B. T. S. N. Company are about to quote through rates for rice to any station on the former's line from Lower Burma, which will have a surplus of nearly one and half million tons for export. In February

next, rice may be placed in every part of this Division at prices lower than those now ruling.

There is another weighty consideration, based on the working of the laws of supply and demand—that it is a policy fraught with disaster to depress prices artificially. For instance, suppose rice is selling at Chittagong in December at 9 seers per rupee. Exportation is prohibited. The price falls to 12 seers per rupee. Result, increased consumption, a depletion of stocks with no cash return enabling dealers to replenish them, and probable starvation for the masses in March. There is no greater incentive to economy than dear food.

The only course open to a civilized Government at such times is one of vigilance and preparation for relieving local suffering. All that is possible in these directions is being done: and to ask for more is equally foolish and futile.

I have been on special duty in two famines and could say much from personal knowledge of the culpable extravagance which characterized our dealings in Behar in 1874 and the equally culpable want of foresight shown in Madras two years later. Let us learn by our predecessors' blunders and keep our heads cool.

And the educated and wealthy section of the community have duties not less pressing than those which devolve on Government. The first should inculcate, by precept and example, moderation, economy and sound principles: the second must remember that riches, like power, are a trust for the public good. There is an infinite sphere for true philanthropy in this Division and a greater one in other parts of Bengal which have not its advantages of soil, rainfall and communications. I have, &c.,

F. H. SKRINE.

Chittagong,
15th Dec., 1896.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

November 27.

Great Britain. Mr. Balfour did a good day's work on Thursday the 19th as Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh. Early in the forenoon he opened a bazaar to assist the scheme for providing a new ground for the students' athletic society. Principal Sir William Muir presided over a large attendance of the public.

"Mr. Balfour, after explaining briefly that they had already collected and expended £10,000 on an athletic field, and that they now wished to raise another £2,000 to equip the ground, said that they might ask him why this great effort should be made for what to some might appear little better than a luxury. But he was there to plead, not for a University luxury, but for a University necessity. To hear some people talk, they would almost suppose that athletics were a kind of parasitic growth upon modern educational institutions. He did not take that view, and he never had taken that view. If that were the place or the time, above all, if that were the audience, he thought that he could demonstrate that there were some subjects of academic study of great repute, of historical standing, which would not claim to be equal in educational efficiency to some of the athletic pursuits now so ardently followed both in Scotland and in England. (Cheers.) While patience, sobriety, courage, temper, discipline, subordination, were virtues necessary for the highest excellence either at cricket or football, there was a higher point of need. No doubt a University existed largely to foster that disinterested love of knowledge which was one of the highest of all gifts, and to give that professional training which was an absolute necessity in any modern civilized community. But he did not think the duties of a modern University ended there. A University gave a man all through his life the sense that he belonged to a great community in which he spent his youth, which, indeed, he had left, but to which he still belonged, whose members were not merely the students congregated for the time being within the walls where they were pursuing their intellectual training, but who, though scattered, never lost the sense that they still belonged to the great society which gave them their education." (Cheers.) That feeling was not the least valuable possession which a man carried away with him from a University life. That feeling might be fostered—was fostered, no doubt—by a community of education, by attending the same lectures, by passing the same examinations, but no influence fostered it more surely and more effectually than that feeling of common life which the modern athletic sports, as they had been developed in modern places of learning, gave to all those who took an interest in such matters, whether as performers or as spectators."

He then took a special train to Sheffield which he reached about 5 p.m. Later he was present at the Annual Cutlers' Dinner, and delivered a long non-political speech, vigorous and racy. He chaffed Mr. Mundella on Free Trade, and Sir Howard Vincent (both guests at the feast) on Fair trade. He pointed out there were only

two Powers in Europe that went in for Free Trade, Great Britain and Turkey. He scouted the pessimistic views, so prevalent, as to the future of British commerce, and maintained it could hold its own, not only against Germany, but against the world. The "Times" in a leader had a sly hit at his silly boast of never reading newspapers, and pointed out that many things that now appeared as striking novelties to Mr. Balfour, were months ago within the grasp of those who took the trouble to keep themselves abreast of current events from reading the daily journals.

The Archbishop-designate. Some of your readers will be interested to read the quaint old English in which the "letter recommendatory" to the Chapter of Canterbury is couched:

"The *congé d'élire* sets forth that 'supplication having been humbly made to us on your part, that whereas the aforesaid Church is now void and destitute of the solace of a pastor, we would be graciously pleased to grant you our fundatorial leave and licence to elect another Archbishop and pastor, permission is hereby given, we requiring and commanding you by the faith and allegiance by which you stand bound to us that you elect such a person for your Archbishop and pastor as may be devoted to God and useful and faithful to us and our kingdom.' This document bears the Great Seal of the United Kingdom. The letter recommendatory is a much more interesting and quaintly-worded document—'Victoria Regina. Trusty and well-beloved. We greet you well: Whereas the Archbishopric of Canterbury is at this present void by the death of Dr. Edward White Benson, late Archbishop thereof, we let you weet that for certain considerations us at this present moving, we of our princely disposition and zeal, being desirous to prefer unto the same Archbishopric a person meet thereunto, and considering the virtue, learning, wisdom, gravity, and other good gifts wherewith the Right Rev. Father in God our right trusty and well-beloved counsellor Frederic Temple, Doctor in Divinity, now Bishop of London, is endued, we have been pleased to name and recommend him unto you to be elected and chosen unto the said Archbishopric of Canterbury.' The execution of the writ being accepted, the meeting decided to proceed to the election on Wednesday, the 25th inst., and directed the issue of the customary mandate. In pursuance of this decision, citations have been posted in the stalls occupied by the Dean and other prebendaries, requiring their attendance at the Chapter-house, between 9 and 10 o'clock on November 25, to proceed with the election. The enthronement will probably take place in the first week of January next."

Sir Gerald Fitzgerald. The following refers to Sir G. Fitzgerald who was the pet of Calcutta society in the far back days of Lady Mayo. His career has been a singularly fortunate one. He was a junior clerk in the War Office, when he was selected by the late Sir Charles Trevelyan (then your Chancellor of the Exchequer) as one of the four Government clerks to go out to Calcutta, and assist the Financial Department, in inaugurating the system of book-keeping that held good in the Government offices in London. Without in any way derogating from Sir Gerald's financial ability, I am within the mark when I say he owed much of his advancement to his supremacy in the ball room. He was in those days irreverently called "Frizzle," and a capital story is told of him. He was boasting to a well-known and very popular lady of the Government House set, that during the London season his button-holes cost him £80 a year. The answer was very pert, "Pray then, Mr. Fitzgerald, on what did you live?" seeing his salary as a junior clerk at the War Office was only £80. In course of time, Lord Cromer (who, as the Hon. Evelyn Baring had known Fitzgerald in Calcutta) had him promoted to Cairo. One winter the late Lord Houghton (better known as the *Monckton Milnes* of Carlyle and other literary celebrities) spent at Cairo with his two daughters, one of whom Fitzgerald married. This high connection no doubt paved the way for his removal to London to hold the high and well paid post of Accountant-General of the Navy.

"We learn with regret that Sir Gerald Fitzgerald, K.C.M.G., Accountant-General of the Navy, will retire from the Admiralty at the end of the present month after completing more than 41 years in the public service. His duties during that period have been remarkably varied, since he has worked at the War Office and in India and Egypt, as well as in the Admiralty. He began his career in 1856 as a junior clerk in the War Office, and was sent to India in 1863 to assist in organizing the Finance Department. He held various important posts, receiving on several occasions the thanks of the Indian Government, and in 1876 he went to Egypt to take in hand a similar task there. The system of accounts which he established has been proved thoroughly sound and efficient, and has won high praise from such authorities as Lord Cromer and Sir Alfred Milner. Sir Gerald received the appointment from which he is now retiring in 1885, in which year also he was made a K.C.M.G. During his tenure of the post many important changes have been carried out in the department, the Navy Estimates have been remodelled, and the financial difficulties presented by the Naval Defence Act have been surmounted with entire success."

London County Council. After all Mr. Burns' boasting of this immaculate Council, it has just been discovered that in the "Works Department" (Burns' special pet) there has been a systematic

the cooking of the accounts. There is no charge of personal dishonesty against any of the officials, but a systematic cooking of the accounts, so as to blind the members and lead to the supposition that all work was being done within the estimates as approved by the Council. The *modus operandi* appears to have been this. One contract has been worked out, let us say at £1,000 under the estimate. Another has shown an overoutlay of £1,000. So the book-keepers transferred the saving on the one contract, to balance the excess on the other. The matter is still under investigation, but last Friday a preliminary discussion took place in which Burns displayed his usual vulgar truculence. The "Times" writes: "Figures are awkward things and cannot be got over by Mr. John Burns' facile vituperation." It accuses him of "using the most obvious sustian." It is high time this redoubled plumber were relegated to private life, to earn his living by the sweat of his brow, and his colossal arm. His latest exploit has been knocking a man down in broad daylight on the embankment, because he said "I know you John Burns, a precious man you are to be a member of Parliament. I could tell a lot about you." I think the honest workingmen of Battersea are getting very sick of him. The substance of all his speeches is vulgar abuse of every man better born and better bred than himself. If he is turned out in favour of another Radical candidate, it will only be paying him back in his own coin. A dirtier trick than the one he played to secure the seat will not be found in electioneering annals. Battersea was represented by a thorough Gladstonian, the late Mr. Vaughan Morgan, whose large works lie in Battersea. There was no ostensible reason for superseding him, only the innate conceit of Burns had to be gratified, and poor Mr. Morgan was sacrificed. The better class of the workingmen of Battersea now see it was a bad day for them when they exchanged a worthy gentleman like Mr. Morgan, for a brazen-faced vulgarian like John Burns.

The above was written before the Council's weekly meeting on Tuesday. Sheltering himself under the protection of "privilege," Burns made one of his foul-mouthed attacks on a fellow Councillor, Mr. Gurden, and grossly libelled the "Globe" newspaper. Under the heading "A Challenge to John Burns," the "Globe" of Wednesday evening has the following:

"In the course of yesterday's debate Mr. John Burns, M.P., saw fit to prefer certain serious charges against those responsible for the conduct of this journal. Having regard to the part which 'The Globe' has played in unveiling the scandalous malpractices in the Works Department, we are not surprised that Mr. Burns, who takes so warm an interest in that Department, should make us the target of his invective. Mr. Burns is a past-master in the arts of the demagogue, and he is not unmindful of the ancient maxim which urges those who have a bad case to 'abuse the plaintiff's attorney.' We do not, as a rule, attach any undue importance to the words of Mr. Burns. 'The fittest answer unto such is silence when they brawl.' At the same time, there are limits even to our forbearance, and when a member of the London County Council sees fit to charge us with assailing the Works Department because we are deprived through its agency of certain mysterious advertisements, we have no hesitation in informing Mr. Burns, in the homely Saxon which he loves, that he is telling a downright lie. There are other statements made by him in reference to this journal to which we give an equally categorical denial. His allegation as to the source of the information which we have published was sufficiently refuted by Mr. Walter Emden. Mr. Burns has chosen to make certain calumnious charges against us under the shelter of his privilege as a member of the London County Council. If he will leave his entrenchments and come out into the open, we guarantee him the opportunity of justifying his statements on a charge of criminal libel. If, on the other hand, he declines to repeat outside the Council the charges which he has publicly and deliberately made within its walls, we brand him as the coward and the liar that he is, and leave him to the contempt of all honest men."

"Pretty well for a member of Parliament to be denounced as a 'coward and a liar!' But Burns is both, and it remains to be seen whether the respectable members of the Society of Amalgamated Engineers will continue to pay this vulgar skunk £150 a year, merely to pose as a 'coward and a liar.' Better far, as I have said, to send him back to the sphere from which he should never have been withdrawn. As an unknown entity, working for his daily bread as an artisan, he would be left to the contempt of all his brother workmen, who must be thoroughly disgusted to have such a man representing their interests in the House of Commons. On the 'lucus a non lucendo' principle, he has hitherto been familiarly known to his pals as 'Honest John,' but the epithet will now convey such a world of contrary meaning that it will either be dropped or used only in the way of bitter irony."

The great drink test. The Radical party deserve commiseration. Not satisfied with their endless differences over Lord Rosebery and Armenia, the drink question has to be added as one full of anxieties for the future. The question has long been simmering, but what has given it a peculiar vitality is the action of Mr. Johnson

Ferguson, the member of Parliament for the Loughborough division. He is a man of independent character, and presided not long ago at a dinner of the local "Licensed Victualliers." His speech on that occasion has been gall and wormwood to the caucus. The "Westminster Gazette," by far the ablest of Gladstonian papers, says "the correspondence that has arisen has an interest far beyond the particular matter at issue, for it raises the entire question of the limits of tolerance in the Liberal party." That notorious temperance faddist and whilom Indian globe-trotter, Mr. Caine comes in for comment. He has issued his shibboleth, and announced *orbi et urbi* that "every Liberal who did not approve of the prohibition clause of the Local Veto Bill must be closed among the beerhouse vote." Writes the "Westminster":

"In all electioneering we really know no more disagreeable spectacle than that of a candidate who habitually drinks the best claret at dinner, denouncing liquor as the cause of all evil to an audience of workmen who as habitually take beer or strong waters, when both are aware that it is a piece of 'business' for the conciliation of teetotalers. It is the insincerity which lies beneath performances of this kind which is largely responsible for the evil plight into which Temperance legislation has fallen. The excessive lip-service which the extreme Temperance Party have exacted from Liberal politicians has created a wholly wrong conception of public opinion on this matter. It has led to the introduction of a Local Veto Bill, which, it is discovered at the last moment, has no real enthusiasm or conviction behind it, and it has wasted the force which might have been expended upon a more moderate measure."

But the Liberal moderate drinker who dares to speak his mind on this matter has to meet Mr. Caine's charge that he contributes to the 'beer-house vote.' He must put up with that as best he can. Mr. Caine, after all, supplies only another instance of that peculiarity of political colour-vision which we discovered the other day in Mr. Tom Mann. The law of that, if we may repeat it, is that to every being of very pronounced colour in politics all other beings of less pronounced colour seem indistinguishable. To Mr. Mann as a Socialist, there is no distinction between Liberals and Tories; to somebody else as an Anarchist, there is no distinction between Mr. Mann and Liberals; to Mr. Caine as a Local Veto advocate, everyone who does not support that particular method of reform belongs to the Beer-house Party. To Mr. Caine as to Mr. Mann it can only be said that we must each act according to our vision, and that if he will insist that the Temperance reform which falls short of Local Veto is indistinguishable from beerhouse legislation, then there will be no Temperance reform at all. The whole question will be irrevocably shunted into that limbo of tabooed questions which neither party will touch because a few extremists insist upon an all-or-nothing policy."

Indian Sanitary Statistics. The report on sanitary measures in India for 1894-95 forms painful reading. Apart from diseases incidental to young recruits suddenly transported from a temperate climate to one subject to the conditions of India (such as cholera and enteric fever) the two great factors in paralysing our European army in India are "contagious disease and ague." These two alone are answerable for 61% of the total sickness in the three Presidencies. Admissions into hospitals were at the enormous rate of 15.8 per 1,000. Looking at the conditions favourable to the growth of ague, the "Times" pointedly remarks "it is difficult to resist the conclusion that large bodies of our troops have not been quartered on the most healthy spots that could be found for them." As to contagious disease, "it is permitted to rage willnigh unchecked, with grave injury both to the effective strength of the European garrison, and to the permanent health of the majority of those whom it attacks." There is an instructive tabular statement embodied in the report "showing the number of soldiers who on 15th July 1894 had suffered, at one time or other, from some form of the disease." It would appear that on that day out of 70,642 British soldiers present in India not fewer than 44,395 had contracted the disease in one form or another. The figures are truly appalling. It is to be hoped the present Government will insist on India being differently treated from England and Scotland. Here let the fanatics, the Butters and Stansfields, the Streads and Stuarts, have their full fling, but forbid their intermeddling with the Indian Government, and let us have no more female spies, with their ferret eyes and unsavoury predilections, acting the part of detectives. I have always strongly felt that our poor soldiers, when dragooned to celibacy, have a right to demand of the fanatics that they at least will set an honest example. But what are the facts? The principal offender, Sir James Stansfield, has been twice married. Stread and Stuart are both married men. I can understand a pure-minded celibate like the late Cardinal Newman making the appeal to our soldiers with some effect, but what of our Archbishops and Bishops, all married men, while the venerable Bishop of Liverpool, Dr. Ryle, so well known for his unctuous tracts, has been privileged to have three wives. The late Bishop Terrot of Edinburgh beat him however, for he had four! No doubt when the House of Commons legislates on this matter leaving the Government of India a free hand, the

fanatics and the nonconformists will start an agitation, under the guidance of Stansfield and Stuart. As they are both violent Gladstonians, they may win a few votes at the new general election, but the intelligent workingman of London will have none of it. The Hughes and Cliffords, the Rogers and Hortons may scream and roar to their hearts' content, but the sound sense of the working classes will keep them on the side of their poor comrades, who in a most trying climate are ever ready to shed their blood in defence of their country's honour.

An obituary notice in the overland "Englishman" of the 4th instant reminded me of old days, when there subsisted between the British merchants and their employees, a bond of mutual respect and sympathy. I refer to the death of Babu Kristo Chunder Dhur on the 28th October "for 20 years the faithful and much esteemed cashier of Messrs. Friulay and Co."

The United States, Spain, and Cuba. There is a growing feeling of uneasiness in the United States as to the intentions of Spain. There is a noisy jingo party in the States eager to help the Cuban revolutionaries, and nothing would please them better than were Spain to declare war against the Government at Washington. But so far there is no tangible evidence of such an intention on the part of Spain. No doubt were President Cleveland to recognize the rebels, Spain would not hesitate for a moment. But, as President Cleveland resigns office in March, it is very unlikely he will stir the embers of such a conflict. Nevertheless, his hand may be forced when Congress meets next month. The "Times" points out that there are difficulties in the way of the United States hardly less critical than those with which Spain is now confronted. It would appear there is a black population in Cuba of some 7,00,000 "just about the very worst possible sort of population to govern upon Anglo-Saxon principles. The Cuban population has been thoroughly demoralized by a long spell of what can only be described as anarchy. It has found rebellion much more interesting than work. There is no burning desire to increase the Negro element in the Federation. On the other hand were Cuba treated as a territory it is extremely probable that the difficulties which now perplex and baffle Spain would survive to tax the far smaller military resources of the United States."

Germany. The draft Budget for 1897-98 was laid before the Imperial Diet yesterday. It has roused the wrath of the Radicals, as all the profits accruing from posts, telegraphs and railways are absorbed by the expenditure on the army, navy, and military pensions. And after all it shows a deficit of 57,000,000 marks which will have to be met by the issue of a loan to that amount. The Imperial debt of Germany now represents two milliard marks. The total military estimates amount to 486,460,645 marks.

The separate Prussian Budget shows a large credit balance, which is to be devoted to increasing the pay of the judges, as also of the clerks in the Government offices.

The debate in the Imperial Diet on the question of duelling appears to have been of great interest. By far the ablest speech seems to have come from Herr Lenzmann, a member of the Extreme Radical party. Appealing to documents which he produced, he proved the new War Minister (General von Gossler) was entirely in the wrong, when, in his speech the previous day, he endeavoured to make out that the character of Lieutenant von Brusevitz had been comparatively faultless. He proved the Lieutenant had killed the workman Siepmann deliberately, and exclaimed amid the ringing cheers of the Radicals, and some of the Centre party, "such an act is not open to so moderate a construction as manslaughter, it is murder". Nevertheless, the Lieutenant gets off with only six years' imprisonment.

BOOKS.

A most interesting volume of the late Lord Blackford's (formerly Sir Fred. Rogers, permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies) letters has been published. He was a first class Oxford man and subsequently Fellow of Oriel. His intimate friends were the late Cardinal Newman, the late Dean Church and Mr. Gladstone. One only regrets so few letters have been given to the public. A second volume would be welcome. He was a remarkable man and one of the finest specimens of our permanent civil servants.

"Professor Nichol's Life," by Professor Knight of St. Andrews, is a book well worth reading. He enjoyed through life the affectionate intimacy of Dr. Jowett, many of whose letters are given.

"The Abbe de Lamennais and the Liberal Catholic Movement in France," by the Hon. W. Gibson, is a good book. The Abbe was a "man of extraordinary genius, whose life by reason of his genius, was one long tragedy." His celebrated work "Paroles d'un Croizant" was a strange medley of "Anarchism and ideal Catholicism" wittily described by Rogers-Collard as "'93 going to its Easter communion." Another epigram on it was "the Cross surmounted by the Red Cap." Mr. Gibson's work throws side-lights on Lamennais' two celebrated colleagues Lacordaire and Montalembert.

"A Cycle of Cathay," by an American Missionary to China, Dr. Martin, appears to be a book of the deepest interest to all who follow the wonderful upheaval going on in China.

"It is perhaps the most valuable contribution that has been made to our knowledge of China in recent years. The length of a Chinese cycle is, roughly speaking, about 60 years, and it is with the last 60 years of the history of China that Dr. Martin deals."

Dr. Martin's great gifts as a linguist soon enabled him to conquer the Chinese language, and so exceptional were his acquirements that Mr. Reed, the United States Minister, employed him in conducting the negotiations that led to the opening of Peking to foreigners. Dr. Martin writes "Truth is not a point of honour with the Chinese and adroit lying is, with them, admitted to be one of the prime qualifications of a mandarin." It is a book full of instruction and should be read by all who take an intelligent interest in the future of the Chinese Empire. Here, I may say, we are puzzled to know the truth about our late visitor Li Hung Chang. The latest report is that he has determined to retire into private life, because of the unworthy treatment to which he has been subjected, since his return, by the court party.

"A New History of Philosophy," by Professor Weber of Strasburg demands a passing notice. It is said to "exhibit the best features of French and German scholarship," and gives a clearer exposition of Hegel than any of his predecessors. The one fault appears to be the undue space he devotes to Spinoza, Kant, and Schopenhauer, while others about whom we would wish to be better informed are hurriedly passed over, such as Lotze, Wundt, Steinthal, Fiske, James and Bain. As the "Times" truly remarks students wish to have a history of speculation during the last half of this century. A true friend of India, Professor Duesen of Kiel, one of the greatest Sanskritists of the day and author of the "Elements of Metaphysics" might undertake the task. It could not be entrusted to abler or more worthy hands.

LOOKING FROM THE LONELY ROCK.

THE island of St. Paul is merely a great rock in the Southern Ocean. It is the top of a volcanic mountain. There are no means of sustaining life to be found on it. The nearest inhabited land is Australia or Africa. To that ugly and desolate refuge came a boat containing nine persons—two of them women. They had food—on short allowance, for perhaps a week. In less than three days they were half insane from anxiety. Water, water, water everywhere, but no help. On the fifth day, at dawn, a brig hove to off the island. They saw her. Shouting, praying, weeping, they stumbled to the beach, and were rescued. It was one chance in a hundred. I'll tell you *why* some other time.

But, alas! isn't it as bad or even worse on land? Look at the physical wrecks in homes, in hospitals, and answer me. One perishes of privation from shipwreck. A *thousand* perish of privation in the midst of plenty. It isn't food they long for, but *power to use it*—worst and deadliest of all wants.

"My food seemed to give me no strength," says one of this army of unfortunates, "and as the hopeless, starving days passed slowly by I grew weaker and weaker. By-and-by my legs trembled and bent under me, and I could no longer get about."

"The ailment which reduced me to this fearful condition began in the spring of 1892. At first I hardly recognised it for what we commonly call a disease. I felt tired, heavy, and languid, as one often does on the approach of warm weather. I fancied it would pass away, but it did not. I lost my appetite, and only ate from habit and to keep me going. I had no pleasure in it, and no warmth or glow followed it, as happens always when one is well. No matter how light and simple the repast was, or how careful I had been to select things that would not be apt to hurt me, the result was the same. No sooner had I swallowed it than my stomach was distressed, and my chest and sides full of pain. If you will allow me so to put it, *my food appeared to strike back at me*, as though I had no right to use it."

"There was a nasty bitter flavour in my mouth, more or less headache, and a kind of nervousness, which was new in my experience, as it was depressing and cheerless."

"Home remedies failing to help me, I consulted a doctor, but his prescriptions benefited me no more than our domestic medicines had done. My flesh and strength grew less, and I felt like one who has missed his way and looks in vain for a guide to point the road home."

"Finally I commenced attending the Leamington Hospital, and continued to do so for twelve months, but the treatment they gave me had no better effect than all the rest. You can hardly understand how weary I got of taking drugs. I turned almost with loathing from every new dose—not because of the taste, but because they deceived my hopes; they were of no use to me."

"In this state I was, when in March, 1894, a friend urged me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup. On account of the very reasons I have mentioned, I hated to experiment with any more medicines. But I overcame this aversion (most fortunately for me) and got a bottle of Mother Seigel's Syrup from Mr. Judd, the chemist, in Leamington, and after taking it I felt a marked and great improvement. I had no pain after eating and my food felt right, digested, and gave me strength. And as I grew stronger my nerves ceased to trouble me. I can only say that by the continued use of the Syrup I got better daily and was soon as vigorous and well as ever. I have had no relapse, and have every reason to think my cure a permanent one. You are welcome to publish my letter. (Signed) (Miss) Lucy Eden, Tachbrook, near Leamington, September 26th, 1895."

We hope Miss Eden's recovery may indeed prove permanent, and if it does she will find no words too strong when she speaks of the remedy which wrought it. But oh, the vast multitude who still stand, like the shipwrecked people on the island, looking for rescue!—victims of that most obdurate, common and baneful of diseases, chronic dyspepsia. It is for their sakes Miss Eden kindly writes her statement, and for their sakes we print it. May it reach many of them!

Sir George Chesney Memorial Committee.

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Memorial

TO THE LATE

SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir Henry Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The form the Memorial should take was left for the future consideration of the Committee, as it would depend on the amount subscribed, but the suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for valuable contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

Subscriptions will be received by Lieutenant-General McLeod Innes, 9, Lexham Gardens, Cromwell Road, London, W.

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Subscriptions will be received, in India, by Messrs. King, King & Co., Bombay; Messrs. King, Hamilton & Co., Calcutta; and by the Alliance Bank, Simla, and its branches at Calcutta, Cawnpore, Agra, Ajmere, Durrut, Lahore, Murree, Mussoorie, Rawal Pindi and Umballa. Subscriptions are limited to a maximum of Rs. 32 in India.

By order of the Committee,
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Simla, 18th July, 1896.

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The Rev. Dr. Abbot, formerly Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, late Head Master of the City of London School, says:

"I have examined it from the point of view of a schoolmaster accustomed to teach English literature, and not unfamiliar with the needs of learners; and I have been, on the whole, agreeably surprised to find how far a work intended principally for the general readers meets the difficulties that present themselves in the study of those great English classics which are read, or should be read, in our public schools. . . . Taken altogether, the International Dictionary appears to me, considering its manifest value, almost as cheap as it is valuable. It should be possessed by every school library and by every English boy who, after leaving school, finds himself in the fortunate position of being able to buy it."

Prof. J. W. Hales, Professor of English Literature of King's College, London, says:

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all its lights and shadows, is pregnant with
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REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

VOL. XV.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 755.

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

A TRANSLATION, OR RATHER ADAPTATION, FROM A SWEDISH TALE
BY ANDERSEN.

LITTLE Gretchen, little Gretchen,
Wanders up and down the street ;
The snow is on her yellow hair,
The frost is at her feet.

The rows of long dark houses
Without look cold and damp,
By the struggling of the moonbeam,
By the flicker of the lamp.

The clouds ride fast as horses,
The wind is from the north,
But no one cares for Gretchen,
And no one looketh forth.

Within those dark, damp houses
Are merry faces bright,
And happy hearts are watching out
The old year's latest night.

The board is spread with plenty,
Where the smiling kindred meet,
But the frost is on the pavement,
And the beggars in the street.

With the little box of matches
She could not sell all day,
And the thin, thin tattered mantle,
The wind blows every way,

She clingeth to the railing,
She shivers in the gloom—
There are parents sitting snugly
By firelight in the room ;

And groups of busy children
Withdrawing just the tips
Of rosy fingers pressed in vain
Against their burning lips,

With grave and earnest faces
Are whispering each other
Of presents for the new year, made
For father or for mother.

But no one talks to Gretchen,
And no one hears her speak ;
No breath of little whisperers
Comes warmly to her cheek ;

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No little arms are round her ;
Ah me ! that there should be,
With so much happiness on earth,
So much of misery.

Sure they of many blessings
Should scatter blessings round,
As laden boughs in autumn fling
Their ripe fruits to the ground.

And the best love man can offer
To the God of love, be sure,
Is kindness to his little ones,
And bounty to his poor.

Little Gretchen, little Gretchen
Goes coldly on her way ;
There's no one looketh out at her,
There's no one bids her stay.

Her home is cold and desolate,
No smile, no food, no fire,
But children clamorous for bread,
And an impatient sire.

So she sits down in an angle,
Where two great houses meet,
And she curlth up beneath her,
For warmth, her little feet.

And she looketh on the cold wall,
And on the colder sky,
And wonders if the little stars
Are bright fires up on high.

She heard a clock strike slowly,
Up in a far church tower,
With such a sad and solemn tone,
Telling the midnight hour.

Then all the bells together
Their merry music poured ;
They were ringing in the feast,
The circumcision of the Lord.

And she thought as she sat lonely,
And listened to the chime,
Of wondrous things that she had loved
To hear in the olden time.

And she remembered her of tales
Her mother used to tell,
And of the cradle songs she sang
When summer's twilight fell,

Of good men and of angels,
And of the Holy Child,

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Who was cradled in a manger,
When winter was most wild ;

Who was poor, and cold, and hungry,
And desolate and lone ;
And she thought the song had told
He was ever with his own.

And all the poor and hungry,
And forsaken ones, are his ;
" How good of him to look on me,
In such a place as this ! "

Colder it grows and colder,
But she does not feel it now,
For the pressure at her heart,
And the weight upon her brow.

But she struck one little match
On the wall so cold and bare,
That she might look around her,
And see if He were there.

The single match has kindled,
And, by the light it threw,
It seemed to little Gretchen
The wall was rent in two.

And she could see the room within,
The room all warm and bright,
With the fire-glow red and dusky,
And the tapers all alight.

And there were kindred gathered
Round the table richly spread,
With heaps of goodly viands,
Red wine, and pleasant bread.

She could smell the fragrant savour,
She could hear what they did say,
Then all was darkness once again,
The match had burned away.

She struck another hastily,
And now she seemed to see,
Within the same warm chamber,
A glorious Christmas tree.

The branches were all laden
With such things as children prize,
Bright gift for boy and maiden,
She saw them with her eyes.

And she almost seemed to touch them,
And to join the welcome shout ;
When darkness fell around her,
For the little match was out.

Another, yet another, she
Has tried, they will not light,
Till all her little store she took,
And struck with all her might.

And the whole miserable place
Was lighted with the glare,
And lo, there hung a little child
Before her in the air.

There were blood-drops on his forehead,
And a spear-wound in his side,
And cruel nail-prints in his feet,
And in his hands spread wide.

And he looked upon her gently,
And she felt that he had known
Pain, hunger, cold, and sorrow,
Ay, equal to her own.

And he pointed to the laden board,
And to the Christmas tree,
Then up to the cold sky, and said,
" Will Gretchen come with me ? "

The poor child felt her pulses fail,
She felt her eyeballs swim,
And a ringing sound was in her ears,
Like her dead mother's hymn.

And she folded both her thin white hands,
And turned from that bright board,
And from the golden gifts, and said,
" With thee, with thee, O Lord. "

The chilly winter morning
Breaks up in the dull skies,
On the city wrapt in vapour,
On the spot where Gretchen lies.

The night was wild and stormy,
The morn is cold and gray,
And good church bells are ringing,
Christ's circumcision day.

And holy men were praying
In many a holy place ;
And little children's angels
Sing songs before his face.

In her scant and tattered garment,
With her back against the wall ;
She sitteth cold and rigid,
She answers not their call.

They have lifted her up fearfully,
They shuddered as they said,
" It was a bitter, bitter night,
The child is frozen dead. "

The angels sang their greeting,
For one more redeemed from sin ;
Men said, " It was a bitter night,
Would no one let her in ? "

And they shuddered as they spoke of her,
And sighed : they could not see,
How much of happiness there was,
With so much misery.

WEEKLYANA.

WE cannot make a better Christmas present to our readers than the piece of poetry with which we open this number. Old readers of this journal are familiar with it, and may like to renew their acquaintance. It is good reading and an instructive story. In the present season of joy and want from scarcity throughout the Indian world and an unusually cold weather, the sufferings of little Gretchen ought to open the purse-strings of the rich. For,

Sure they of many blessings
Should scatter blessings round,
As laden boughs in autumn fling
Their ripe fruits to the ground.

And the best love man can offer
To the God of love, be sure,
Is kindness to his little ones,
And bounty to the poor.

There is no enjoyment like true charity. It, like mercy, is twice bless'd. It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes.

WE are glad, therefore, to read in the *Calcutta Gazette* of this week, that the following subscriptions have been made and works undertaken in the district of Pabna, in the Rajshahi Division :

I.—Rai Bonomali Roy Bahadur, Rs. 1,000 to the Lady Dufferin Fund, and Rs. 4,000 for the excavation of four tanks in Ullapara and

Aganjan thanas. Rupees 1,000 have already been sent to the Lady Differin Fund, and sites have been fixed for the excavation of the tanks.

II.—Babu Sarat Chandra Chowdhuri, of Parsadanga, Rs. 15,000, for a tank in Pabna bazar. Rupees 5,000 have already been deposited for land acquisition proceedings, which are in hand.

III.—Srimati Krishna Kumari Chowdhurani, of Taras, Rs. 6,000, for founding a scholarship.

IV.—Srimati Sasi Mukhi Chowdhurani, of Payda, Rs. 4,000, for the re-excavation of a large tank at Payda. This work will soon be commenced.

V.—Chowdhuri Fasi Uddin and brothers, of Pabna, Rs. 2,000, for the construction of a Muhammadan boarding-house in connection with the Pabna zilla school. This sum has already been deposited.

VI.—Raphikonnessa and Fakarennessa Chowdhuranis, of Pabna, Rs. 2,000, for a new tank in north-west of Pabna town. Land acquisition proceedings are in progress for this.

VII.—Babu Tarak Nath Pramanik, Rs. 2,000, for the re-excavation of a large tank in the Pabna bazar, known as Amir Khan's tank.

VIII.—Babu Hara Sundar Mazumdar, of Pengua, Rs. 2,000, for excavation of a tank at Pengua. Land acquisition proceedings have commenced.

IX.—Babu Jogesh Prasanna Bhaduri, of Porjana, Rs. 1,000, for the excavation of a tank and the opening of a dispensary at Porjana. The site of the tank has been fixed.

X.—Babu Durga Sundar Roy, of Haturia, Rs. 1,500, for the excavation of a tank in his village.

XI.—Babu Robindra Nath Tagore, of Shazadpur, Rs. 1,000, for the excavation of masonry wells in his zamindari.

XII.—Babu Sri Gobinda Chowdhuri, Rs. 1,000, for completion of a Natmandir of the Pabna Kulbari, and Rs. 300 to the Public Library.

XIII.—Babu Bhobani Charan Chowdhuri, of Haripur, Rs. 1,000 for the re-excavation of a tank.

XIV.—A. Chowdhuri, Esq., of Haripur, Rs. 800, for a Sanskrit tol-house.

XV.—Babu Durga Kanta Chakrabarti, of Saidabad, Rs. 500, for the re-excavation of a tank in his village.

XVI.—Babu Juanoda Gobinda Chowdhuri, Rs. 200, to the Public Library.

XVII.—Babu Bijoy Chandra Banerjee, of Shazadpur, Rs. 500, for masonry wells.

NOTICE has been published under sec. 6 of Act V (B.C.) of 1864 that the concessions in respect of tollage granted to Steamer Companies for their transport services on the canals in Bengal are to be abolished from the 1st April 1898.

MR. E. V. Westmacott, Commissioner, Presidency Division, notifies for general information that "I appoint Nilu Biswas, son of Nardi Mondal, of Ghoneswampore, in thana Shamsheergunge, to be a member of the Dhulyan Union Committee, in the Jangipur sub-division of the district of Murshidabad." Mr. Westmacott takes particular care about the identification of his nominee. What strikes us is how does the son of a Mondal become a Biswas? Either the father is not properly described or the son is given a higher social status by the appointment.

NOTES & LEADERETTES, OUR OWN NEWS

&

THE WEEK'S TELEGRAMS IN BRIEF, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS.

NOTWITHSTANDING the opposition of Mr. Olney, Secretary of State, the Committee of the Senate on Foreign Relations has adopted a joint resolution requiring President Cleveland to recognize the autonomy of Cuba. The adoption has caused a semi-panic on the New York Bourse. Mr. Olney has announced that the resolution does not affect the policy of the Government. He denies the power of Congress to recognise the autonomy of Cuba. This foreshadows a grave dispute between the Legislature and the Executive if the Congress persists. Governors of several American States declare that they are ready to raise volunteers to fight Spain if necessary. President Cleveland approves of the position taken up by Mr. Olney. Senor Jose Maria Beranger, Spanish Minister of Marine, has been ordered to hasten the completion of the warships now building. Don Antonio Canovas Del Castillo, the Spanish Prime Minister, in an interview with Reuter's representative, said he relied on the statesmanship of President Cleveland and Secretary Olney and the good sense of the more sober Americans to prevent a war between the two countries, but Spain was determined to uphold her dignity, and was making preparation against all eventualities. Senor Canovas states that Spain would rather succumb than grant Cuba her inde-

pendence, but is sincerely disposed to grant a satisfactory autonomous administration providing the rebels submit.

GENERAL Kitchener has arrived at Dongola. Part of the Kordofan army has arrived at Omdurman, where many camels have been collected, it is believed, for the purpose of raiding cattle. The telegraph between Suakin and Tokar has been cut. It is believed that the Khalifa will continue to act on the defensive, except in the matter of raiding.

REUTER'S correspondent at St. Petersburg says that the question of the passage of the Dardanelles will only be raised in the event of the Turkish crisis compelling the Powers to resort to coercive measures. M. Nelldoff will submit to the other Ambassadors at the Porte certain proposals comprising those made in Lord Salisbury's programme recently submitted to the Powers. The *Times'* Constantinople correspondent states that before considering their plan of action the Ambassadors there will collect information which will probably occupy several weeks. Lord Salisbury has not prepared any project regarding the Turkish reforms, but has simply proposed to the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople to draft a report dealing with the situation, and to submit the same to the Powers. This proposal has been accepted, and is now being done. Reuter's special correspondent at Constantinople states that the Ambassadors of the Powers are empowered to concert fresh proposals to ameliorate the Turkish situation, and will refer the same to their Governments before submitting them to the Sultan. All the Powers including Russia are agreed in principle as to the necessity for coercive measures if the Sultan is unyielding. The Sultan has issued an irade granting an amnesty to the Armenian prisoners except those condemned to death for murder, and they will be imprisoned in provincial fortresses.

THE cargo of the German steamer loading at New York, with maize for India, under Government orders, is intended both for food and seed purposes. The *Times'* Odessa correspondent states that the appeal of the Russian press in aid of the sufferers by the Indian famine has had little or no response in the south of Russia.

IT is estimated that there is a deficiency of seven million bushels in the Australian wheat crop.

A COURT-MARTIAL held at Barcelona has sentenced to death eight Anarchists concerned in the bomb outrage in June.

FORTY men have been killed by a fire damp explosion in a colliery belonging to the Austro-Hungarian State Railway. Twenty-seven others are missing and access to those entombed is impossible.

LORD George Hamilton has written to the Lord Mayor stating that he has just received a telegram from Lord Elgin advising that until the situation is more fully developed nothing should be done in England to raise funds. No definite opinion can be formed until the results of the winter rains are known. Lord George Hamilton has given a similar reply to the offer from the Lancashire Cotton Duties Committee to raise an Indian Famine Fund.

SIR Henry Norman, Sir Edward Grey and Sir David Barbour have been appointed Commissioners to enquire into the West Indies sugar industry.

IT is officially stated in Paris that General Gallieni, commanding the forces at Madagascar, has completely subdued the rebels at Imerina, and is now hunting down the scattered remnants.

DR. Granier, convert to Mohamedanism, has been elected Radical member of the French Chamber. The Doctor wears a turban. This toleration is unknown to the English, who are given to tradition and precedent.

MR. Rhodes and Sir Frederic Carrington, with a number of Imperial troops, have arrived in Durban. Mr. Rhodes in an interview, on his return, said the war was now over, and only a few petty Mashonas were now giving trouble. All Imperial troops will now be withdrawn, except two hundred Hussars.

A Russian ukase has been issued sanctioning the formation of a company to construct and work a railway from a point on the Western Frontier of

Heilungchiang to a point on the Eastern Frontier of Kirm and connect with the Trans-Siberian line. The capital is five million roubles. The shareholders must be Russians or Chinese, the work to be completed in six years. The Russo-Chinese Bank is promoting the company.

THE Tsar has sent a band of Russian musicians, and also a quantity of instruments including an organ and piano to King Menelik.

FRANCE has resolved to reorganise her artillery and introduce a new field gun. Germany, therefore, also proposes a similar measure.

It is officially announced at Lisbon that the Portuguese Governor of Lorenzo Marquez will visit the German Consul who will return the call, and that the Portuguese warships will salute the German ships which will return the salute, thus settling the difficulty in that quarter.

THE Mint having ceased to coin rupees (the Calcutta Mint would turn out one crore annually) and thus there being no bullion reserve, the Government of India, for these and other reasons, at the sitting of the Supreme Legislative Council on Thursday, the 17th December, took power, by amendment of the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1882, to increase the Government Currency reserve from 8 to 10 crores. For one thing, the new investment in Government securities, makes an addition to the Public Treasury in the shape of interest.

THE Drawing Room, as was expected, was a brilliant one. The attendance was under 300. Thus :—

Private Entrée	...	...	52
Public Entrée	...	...	142
New Presentations	...	...	95
Actually Present	...	...	289
Unavoidably Absent	...	...	98

The numbers for 1894 (we have no record for 1895) are :—

Private Entrée	...	...	40
Public Entrée	...	...	166
New Presentations	...	...	104
Actually Present	...	...	310
Unavoidably Absent	...	...	127

The publication of the Supplementary Levée List, necessarily alters some of the figures given by us last week. The corrected figures are:—

Private Entrée	...	125—Asiatics...	15...Europeans...	110
Public Entrée	...	874—Asiatics...	262...Europeans...	612
New Presentations	...	226—Asiatics...	59...Europeans...	167
Actually Present	...	1,225—Asiatics...	336...Europeans...	889
Unavoidably Absent	...	476—Asiatics...	174...Europeans...	302

THE Bengal Legislative Council opened its session on Saturday last, the Lieutenant-Governor presiding. In opening the proceedings, the President remarked that

"he desired to say a few words regarding the position of the Legislative business which would engage their attention during the present session. First on their list was a 'Bill to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885.' Hon. members would remember that the Hon. Mr. Risley had mentioned at the last session that it was not intended to proceed with the smaller measure then before the Council as it had been suggested that a larger measure should be introduced. This latter had been in circulation and many opinions had been received regarding it and certain other opinions were awaited. The Local Government were in correspondence with the Government of India, and he was not in a position yet to say when it would be possible to lay the measure before the Council. It would have to be carefully considered, especially as it might be found necessary to add to it clauses dealing with the better sanitation of Bengal and the matter of water-supply. He hoped, however, that the Bill would be introduced and taken up in the course of this session. Then there was a 'Bill to amend the law relating to the Partition of Estates.' The Government had received valuable opinions in regard to this measure, and he thought that it would be found necessary to introduce very material changes in the Bill which had already been introduced. The Bill had been referred to a Select Committee, and he could not say what chance there was for its early introduction. The only other Bill before the Council was the 'Bill to amend the Public Demands Recovery Act of 1895.' This Bill too had been referred to a Select Committee. A mass of evidence had been received in regard to it which demanded very careful attention. The above were the measures actually before the Council. Regarding projects of law the first measure would be a 'Bill for amending the Bengal Tenancy Act.' He assured the hon. members that this measure would not have been undertaken but for actual pressure. The Governments of India and Bengal, he was happy to say, were at one regarding the provisions of the amending Bill which was now before the Secretary of State. He was not prepared at this stage to state the nature of the measure, but he was confident that when it was introduced it would command the support and assent of not only officers of Government engaged in Settlement work, but also of those interested in land and those interested in the welfare of the rayyets of Bengal. The Government proposed shortly to introduce a 'Bill to consolidate and amend the law in force in Bengal relating to the Excise Revenue.' That measure had yet to be submitted to the Government of India for approval, but he had no doubt that before the close of the session it would be placed before

the Council and the public. There was also a small Bill to amend the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act of 1888. The Government had sanctioned the introduction of the Bill, a draft of which was referred back to the members of the Municipal Corporation for opinion so far back as July last, but that body had not yet pronounced on the measure. The main object of the Bill was to amend some of the licensing schedules and to correct some slight ambiguities in the building regulations. It was perhaps not a matter for regret that the Commissioners had not yet taken any notice of the Government's request for opinion, for it was possible that it would be found necessary to make very considerable and important amendments in the Bill. Further, a revised draft 'Bill to amend the Salt Law in Bengal' had been submitted to the Government of India. He hoped shortly to receive the assent of that Government to the introduction of the measure. The Secretary of the Council also proposed to draft a 'Bill for further shortening the language used in Acts of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in Council and for other purposes.' Hon. members would remember that this was an ancient measure, dating so far back as 1887, and the measure was a meagre one. Its object was to enact once for all certain definitions and clauses likely to be used frequently in Acts of the Bengal Council. It would supersede the Act of 1887. The Government of India had a similar Bill under consideration, and it was intended that members of this Council should see that Bill before introducing their own. Then there was a small 'Bill to enlarge the scope of the Charitable Trust created by the Will of the late Mrs. Sally Murray,' the object of which would shortly be explained to them by the hon. member in charge of it. The Government had also ready, or nearly ready, for introduction a 'Bill to regulate the enhancement of rents, the commutation of predial conditions or services, and the registration and resumption of dependent taluks and tenures in parts of Chota Nagpur.' For years past there had been constant disputes between landlords and tenants in the parts referred to in consequence of the excessive demands of the former for labour and the refusal of the rayyets to render any service at all. The chief object of the Bill was to remove the subject of the most frequent disputes. It also provided for the registration of small tenures and other matters, in accordance with local customs. When the Bill was passed it was proposed to extend the Bengal Tenancy Act with certain modifications to Chota Nagpur. The Council was fortunate in having the H.C. Mr. Grimley as a member. He had been Commissioner of Chota Nagpur for many years and was thoroughly acquainted with local conditions and was able to take charge of the Bill in a manner none other of them could pretend to. Lastly, there might be a 'Bill for the suppression of rain gambling.' Opinions differed as to the expediency or possibility of legislation in this matter. Nevertheless a draft Bill which the local Government had drawn up had been submitted to the Government of India. There was a strong body of opinion in Calcutta, as in Bombay, in favour of such legislation on the lines of that adopted in Bombay. When the draft received the Government of India's sanction it would be submitted to the public for opinion."

THE brilliant success of the Bengali at the last competitive examination for the India Civil Service has attracted the attention of the New World. We read in the *Nation* of New York :—

"The latest development of Lord Macaulay's scheme of competitive examination, as applied for recruiting the high-salaried and much coveted India Civil Service, is of interest, in a general way, not only to Englishmen. At present the subjects recognised for the examination in question, with the maximum of marks assigned for each, are as follows: French, German, English, Sanskrit, Arabic, English Composition, 500 each; Greek, Latin, 750 each; Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics, 900 each; Elementary Chemistry and Physics, Higher Chemistry, Higher Physics, Geology, Botany, Zoology, Animal Physiology, 600 each; English History, 500; Greek History, Roman History, 400 each; General Modern History, Political Economy, and Economic History, 500 each; Logic and Mental Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, 400 each; Roman Law, English Law, Political Science, 500 each. None of these subjects are obligatory. For the Open Competition of August, 1896, the Report on which has recently been issued, there were 193 candidates for 62 vacancies. The age of a candidate was fixed at above 21 years, and under 23, on the first of last January. Of the 62 successful competitors, as was likewise the case with the unsuccessful competitors, a large proportion also competed for less eligible appointments, namely, 8 for Eastern Cadetships, 10 for the Home Civil Service, and 32 for both. Out of the 62, at least 38 are said to have qualified themselves at Oxford, and there are no more than three natives of India. Only two of the candidates who passed, and five of those who failed to pass, brought up Sanskrit as one of their subjects; and, with the exception of a single unfortunate (presumably a Muhammadan) who was rejected, No. 94, no one brought up Arabic. The selected candidates will now, enjoying a stipend from the Government, devote themselves to certain prescribed studies till next October, when, on testifying to the Civil Service Commissioners a sufficient acquaintance with them, and satisfying the Medical Board of their physical fitness, they will enter on the performance of their duties as servants of the State. By no means, however, should the fact remain unnoticed that the list of successful candidates mentioned above is headed by a Bengalee. This remarkable Oriental who was not a twelvemonth past his majority at the beginning of the year, bears the name of Chatterjee, as it is the fashion to write Chatterji, which is substituted, by corruption and otherwise, for the scholastic Chattopadhyaya. His ten subjects and the marks he scored for them are given as: English, 324; Sanskrit, 279; English Composition, 405; Mathematics, 179; Advanced Mathematics, 27; English History, 365; General Modern History, 423; Political Economy and Economic History, 249; English Law, 211; Political Science, 389. While his marks reach the total of 2,851, those of the sixty-second candidate amount, for eight subjects, to only a trifle more than four-sevenths of that number, viz., 1,648."

We have not seen any account approaching this in any English or Indian newspaper, although all have expressed their satisfaction at the feat achieved by the Bengali. We are reminded of what a brilliant graduate of the Calcutta University, the first M. A. in Mathematics, our Professor in the Presidency College, the late Babu Ramanath Nandi, remarked when the age for the Civil Service Examination was reduced. He was not sorry for the reduction, for the Bengali youth would, he said, be prepared for any examination and beat the English youth even in their own country.

THE Municipal Commissioners met specially on Monday to consider the Governor's rebuke for negligence and tardiness and the threat to abolish the municipality unless they proved better boys. It commenced with opposition.

"Mr. Simmons moved that the meeting should be adjourned, as there had not been sufficient time allowed for them to consider the resolutions which were to be submitted. He had only received a copy of them some forty hours before the meeting, and that according to provision 53 of their charter was not in order. The amendment was seconded.

Babu P. Mullick opposed the motion and said there had been ample time for the consideration of the whole question considering that three weeks had elapsed since the delivery of the speech. Those who had not had time to digest it would never find time and would never be ready to discuss it.

Babu Kally Nath Mitter said that if the members were not prepared to discuss resolutions four and five, he was willing for the other three to be considered. Mr. Simmons could not accept the last speaker's suggestion. The whole of the resolutions must stand or fall together.

Mr. Braunfeld said to adjourn the discussion would be but to keep alive feelings which could not conduce to harmonious working.

Mr. Farr had had no authentic account of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech beyond what had appeared in the daily press, and he thought the discussion should be adjourned until they had all been placed in possession of an authentic account of the speech.

Babu N. N. Ghose said delay would serve no purpose, but to enable Mr. Simmons and his friends to prepare a reply to the resolutions. He (the speaker) and his friends had come prepared to speak to and vote upon the resolutions (hear, hear and applause).

Ultimately the motion was put and lost by 16 votes to 30.

At this point Sir John Lambert, the Hon. Mr. C. C. Stevens, Mr. Baker, Mr. Farr, Mr. Rustomjee, Mr. P. McGuire, Mr. Simmons and Moulvi Ahmed rose and quitted the meeting."

The obstructionists having left, the unionists had had their own way and they recorded, without any opposition, two resolutions, namely,

"That the Commissioners in meeting, hereby record their respectful but emphatic protest against the condemnation passed upon them by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on the occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of the New Drainage Works as being unmerited and inappropriate to the occasion, as involving a grave misapprehension of the facts of the case, and as amounting to a severe censure of the municipal administration of the town without the commissioners being allowed the opportunity of explanation or defence."

"That the introduction of the elective system into the municipal administration, apart from the stimulus which it has given to the public spirit of the citizens of Calcutta and the wider public interest it has created in the municipal affairs of the city, has been attended with great sanitary reforms, and that the improvements effected since the introduction of the system would bear favourable comparison with similar improvements made during any corresponding period in the past history of the municipality when it was under Government control or under the control of the Justices entirely appointed by the Government."

The proposer of the second resolution, Baboo Kally Nath Mitter, the first being moved by Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee,

"confined himself principally to reading lengthy extracts from past health records showing that the sanitary condition of Calcutta had widely improved since its government had been in the hands of elected commissioners.

Mr. Phelps supported the resolution observing that his experience had led him to the conclusion that the elected commissioners did their work infinitely better and took more real interest in the welfare of the city than did the nominated commissioners.

Mr. Braunfeld alluded with feelings of surprise to the fact that such sentiments as those given expression to by Sir Alexander Mackenzie about restricting the elective powers of the corporation should have come from one who took Birmingham—one of the most liberal cities in England—a voice 'Unionist' as his model. The elective system was one of the grandest institutions of Englishmen. (Applause.)

The chairman said he thought a wrong construction had been placed by some of the members on Sir Alexander Mackenzie's words. He (the speaker) did not believe the latter had for a moment intended to convey that there had been no progress. They all knew there had been (applause) although he was speaking only a short time ago to some one who said that Calcutta was in a worse state to-day than it was twenty years ago. That, however, was not the general opinion."

The discussion of the remaining resolutions was adjourned to 7th January.

There might be some justification for Mr. Simmons' motion for adjournment. But sufficient time having elapsed since the condemnation, the Commissioners were in no mood to further postpone its consideration, unless they chose to pocket it coolly. Mr.

Farr had not even the show of reason for his protest against the meeting. The Governor's speech was spoken direct to the Commissioners and who was to supply a correct version of it? Mr. Risley's explanation might well be taken exception to as not being addressed to the Commissioners. It transpired in the course of the meeting that it was at one time thought, by way of protest, to resign the office of Commissioners, but better counsel prevailed, and the mistake of 1884 was repeated.

REGARDING the letter of Mr. Skrine, Commissioner, Chittagong, on the Prohibition of the Export of Rice, published in our number, we have received the following:—

"I entertain no doubt that the high level of price is to a large degree due to a combination amongst the *bunniah*s, who use our postal telegraphs with effect and have formed a vast 'ring' extending over the three Presidencies. But how are we to fight them, and within the power of Government to break down this organization? I think not, and further that an attempt to do so would convert a scarcity into a real famine. Precisely the same thing has happened in England itself, where the bakers have formed a ring, and keep up the price of bread to a level nearly uniform, not varying it when the price of wheat falls, and only raising it when the latter rises. 'If such things are in the green tree what shall be done in the dry?' Government is powerless in such matters, which show a decay of the spirit of help and the aggressive 'John Bullism' which used to be so powerful an engine making for happiness and liberty."

THE Scotch Professor of Divinity, Glasgow, has expressed the following opinion on Dr. Jogender Nath Bhattacharya's "Hindu Caste and Sects":—

"I have now looked more carefully over Dr. Bhattacharya's book on Caste. It is very useful and valuable as a clear and reliable statement of the castes and sects, but my estimate of its value as a contribution to the philosophy of religion is not high. Its standpoint is too narrow; its attitude too negative.

But the author promises a fuller exposition, and we must wait for it in justice. It is intelligible enough that educated and emancipated Hindus should turn upon the priestly and hierarchic system with such things like scorn and indignation, but a longer historical training and deeper insight into what is good even in the traditional system would modify that."

THE new Additional Member of the Governor-General's Legislative Council is Babu Joy Gobind Law. He is a practical man of business with experience in the mercantile world, and we hope he will give general satisfaction.

SIR Alfred Croft having resigned his office of Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, Mr. Justice E. J. Trevelyan has been appointed in his place. The Convocation has been fixed for Saturday, 10th February, 1897, at 3 P.M.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 26,

SANITATION OF CALCUTTA.

THE FIRST STEP—THE LOTTERY COMMITTEE.

THE memorable minute of the Marquis of Wellesley, as we pointed out in our issue of the 12th December, laid the foundation of the sanitary improvement of Calcutta. On the 16th June 1803, he wrote:—

"The increasing extent and population of Calcutta, the capital of the British Empire in India, and the seat of the supreme authority require the serious attention of Government. It is now become absolutely necessary to provide permanent means of promoting the health, the comfort, and the convenience of the numerous inhabitants of this great Town."

The Committee appointed for consideration of the ten recommendations on that behalf consisted of Major-General Fraser, Major-General Cameron, Mr. P. Speke, Mr. T. Graham, Mr. W. A. Brooke, Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. R. C. Birch, Colonel Pringle, Mr. Davis,

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(2) For the lottery they said that "We are aware of the objections which are usually urged against raising supplies in that way, but whatever force those objections may have in other countries, it does not appear to us that any ill consequences are likely to result from the establishment of a Lottery in India. The habits and conduct of the Natives, effectually exclude them from any participation in a Lottery conducted on a large scale. Even in England the evil does not arise so much from the purchase of tickets as from the Offices which are opened for ensuring them which would of course be entirely prevented in this country. At all events, if Lotteries be necessarily injurious to the morals of people, the evil at present experienced in Bengal is of as great a degree as it could be if the plan now proposed by us were to be adopted, as Lottery tickets are regularly sent round for sale from Madras." (3) As for other supplies, they can be done without much inconvenience to the Government.

(4) The Committee could have proposed addition to taxes, for the improvements in contemplation on but they are unable to do them for restrictions existing by law on raising taxes within the town.

(5) For the improvement of the environs of Calcutta they received an additional report, which pointed out the necessity of constructing new roads, widening old roads, and maintaining ditches in proper order in Garden Reach, Allypore, Cally Ghaut, Russapugla, Baloo-gunge, Boitacannah, Bally Ghau etc.

It will be seen from these reports that advantage was taken of the fire to open new roads in the town south of Dhurmtolla. The great plague of London in 1665 was checked by the fire of 1666 and the conflagration led to the sanitary improvements of the city. It was so with Chicago.

The two offices for improvement of the town were the Lottery Committee's and the Chief Magistrate's. They evolved order out of chaos and greatly improved the sanitation. The Lottery Committee were foremost in the construction of new roads and tanks and the improvement of the streets. The Committee started with the object given in the resolution passed by them on the 18th December 1817:—

First. That the health of the town ought to be considered as the first object to which the attention of the Committee ought to be directed, and that with this view their first object ought to be applied in the first place to the filling up of all the existing tanks and wells, and the deepening and cleansing of the same, and the second place, to the most populous parts of the Town, to the means of new Drains, common venting the accumulation of filth, and the third place, to promote Ventilation, as far as can be effected, by pulling down high and spreading trees, and by increasing as much as possible the number and size of Streets or Roads running in a straight line from South to North.

Secondly. That next to the health of the inhabitants, the Committee should direct their attention to their improvements to the personal safety of passengers in the streets, with a view to which the object it would be highly desirable to have the narrow parts of the most frequented Streets, where the commodious Roads in a parallel direction cannot be opened, and particularly to round off sharp angles. The safety of foot passengers should also be considered, and Footpaths formed by the Wall and Kennel, wherever the width of the old Streets will admit of this, and in all the new Roads that may be opened, the Committee.

Thirdly. That convenience and the Committee be appropriated to purposes where these are the only objects proposed, until all the foregoing objects have been accomplished, as far as may be in the power of the Committee.

Fourthly. That a preference be given to such plans of improvement as will secure the greatest number of the important objects, at the smallest expense.

Mr. H. J. Shakespear recorded a minute on the 13th January 1820 and wrote at Mr. John Trotter, Secretary to the Lottery Committee, recommending the construction of roads in the northern part of the town north of Burra Bazar, between Circular Road, containing a dense population. In another memorandum dated 7th February 1820, he proposed the appropriation of a considerable sum of money without which substantial improvements would be hopeless. But with all the evils of the time he had "reason to believe that the town was never kept more free from an accumulation of dirt or the Drains less uncleanly than they have been during the

last six months." He also submitted a statement of the number of Hindus taken to Kashee Mittee Ghat for cremation. Here it is:

	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819
Fever ...	645	442	493	668	839
Dysentery, Diarrhoea, &c. }	1081	852	1269	951	1080
Coughs and Pulmonary Complaints }	223	153	147	149	140
Various diseases ...	465	235	326	227	142
Cholera morbus ...	182	141	1323	2776	889
Total	2596	1823	3558	4771	3090

Babu Rupnarain Ghosaul, Sheristadar of the Lottery Committee, in his deposition before the Fever Hospital Committee, stated that the Lottery Committee were always gainers by sale of lands after improvements. The dearest portion of their acquisition was in the Strand and Clive Road and the cheapest in Loudon Street and Short's Bazar. In Amherst and Cornwallis Streets they made also many improvements. Chitpore Road, Wellington Square, places near the new mint also shewed progress as other portions. During the course of their acquisition the Lottery Committee were involved in a long and heavy litigation with Gopee Mohun Deb, the father of Raja Sir Radhakant Deb, who, in April 1824, proceeded against the Committee for forcibly and against the will of the complainant, breaking and entering upon divers lands partly in the possession of the complainant and partly in possession of tenants, and commencing to make public roads, and blocking up ghauts and destroying them. He, therefore, prayed that the defendants might be restrained by injunction from making the roads and from committing trespasses, and that a decree be given against the Committee for the damages done. The Hon'ble Sir Edward Ryau, Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Grant and Mr. Justice Seton delivered judgment on the 5th June 1840 by dismissing the case. Though the Committee triumphed, the triumph may be said to have exhausted their efforts and resources. At any rate, the body had ceased to be useful. For, in a letter addressed to the owners and occupiers of premises in Calcutta by Mr. D. M'Farlan, dated the 1st December 1833, we find that "The Lottery Funds may now be said to be extinct for all purposes of improvement in Calcutta."

On the 2nd March 1837, Mr. Joseph de Hezeta, Secretary to the Lottery Committee, gave a statement for the twelve years from 1825 to 1836, from which we find that the profits were Rs. 12,72,193 and the expenses Rs. 2,43,709. On December 15, 1836, the inhabitants of Boitackhana petitioned C. Trower, C. R. Barwell, J. Master, D. MacFarlan and G. J. Gordon, Esqs., Members of the Lottery Committee, for a public tank in that quarter. The application was refused on the ground that they had no power to entertain it.

THE CONGRESS.

The next may be said to be the Congress week in Calcutta. The President-elect, the Honourable Rahimtula Muhammad Sayani, M. A., LL.B., who had declined the honour last year, has arrived, and the preparations by the Reception Committee, let us hope, are complete. The working committee, for the nonce, have made up their differences and special arrangements have been made to avoid the repetition, if possible, of past years' scandals. We give a cordial welcome to the delegates and wish every success to the 12th sitting of the National Assembly. The Congress, though as old as twelve years, has not yet a regular constitution of its own. That question will be discussed in the present sitting. In the mean-

to oust the contractors, and maintain the interests of trades' unionism, the Council. No one supposes for a moment Mr. Holloway, were guilty of tampering with the accounts. They

You will have noticed the motor car boom. Here is a cutting to show the state of public opinion. It is an unfortunate man, going underneath a car to effect some repairs, knocked his back against the pipe containing the motive power, with the result that having a lighted candle in his hand, he was nearly burned to death!

"Mr. H. W. Lucy has no belief in the future, or at least in the immediate future, of motor cars. He says that the recent performance was a melancholy *fiasco*. On the motor car people have, so to speak, to ride on the engine, while it must take its chance with rough roads and smooth. That, as passengers to Brighton found, is a terrible experience which will have to be averted before motor cars can compete with existing street-cabs and buses. There is as yet no sign of such a triumph. I have not seen a single motor car at work in London, and nobody whom I have asked has seen one, but certainly the public is very anxious to assist in the new departure, and will be very glad to use the motor cabs if they are cheaper and better than our hansoms and growlers."

An Editor's Retrospect by Mr. Cooper of the "Scotsman" is a book of abounding interest, but, postponing for the present a fuller reference to it, I take some notes of the "Scotsman" itself from "Famous Newspapers." The first number appeared on 25th January 1817. It was described by Lord Cockburn as the "first Scottish paper that combined independence with intelligence, and moderation with zeal. It was a success from the first, though in these ante-reform days it was frowned upon by the Government and aristocracy." The two first years of its existence it yielded the proprietors dividends of 25%. The circulation rose to 1,700 copies after 1823. The first price was 10d of which the Government annexed 4d as stamp duty. In 1836 this duty was reduced from 4d to 1d and that of the paper to 4d, the result being a rise in the circulation to 2,400 copies. In 1855 it appeared as a penny daily. During the Crimean war it rose to 6,000 a day, but fell back to 4,000 on the conclusion of peace. In 1859 it stood at 10,000, in 1862 at 15,000, and in 1868 at 17,000.

In 1865 a bold experiment was made of having agents in all the centres of population—large and small—throughout Scotland. In a few months the country agents rose from 80 to upwards of 1,000. In 1870 the circulation rose to 30,000 copies daily, three years later to 40,000 and in 1877 to 50,000. It is now close on 60,000. Another bold experiment was made in 1872. By an arrangement with the North British Railway, a special engine with a packing carriage attached runs daily (bar Sundays) from Edinburgh to Glasgow without stoppage, thereby enabling the paper to be delivered in Glasgow at 5 in the morning, so as to catch the early trains from Glasgow to the western centres. The publication is therefore practically simultaneous in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Again, in February 1866 the proprietors of the "Scotsman" arranged with the Electric Telegraph Company to have a wire from London exclusively at their disposal from 6 p. m. to 3 a. m.

The success of this arrangement was so great that the "Times" followed the example, and now has a "special wire" of its own connecting its office in London with Paris and Vienna. The "Scotsman" again rendered a signal service to the Provincial Press, by leading the way in obtaining admission for its reporting staff to the gallery of the House of Commons. The growth of its advertisements has been most striking. In 1817 there were only six in each issue. In 1820, 16. In 1825, 40. In 1854, after the repeal of the paper duty, 150. Recently a single issue contained 3,913, and the number printed in 1884 was 434,000. These are marvellous figures. The "Scotsman" from its first start down to 1886 was a splendid force on the Liberal side. In that fatal year Mr. Gladstone drove it, as well as the Glasgow "Herald," out of the Radical fold, and both papers have since 1886 done yeoman's service in fighting the Unionist cause against the Separatists. The "Scotsman" in Edinburgh has no rival. The Free Kirkers have more than once started a paper of their own, but the issue has ever been a dismal failure. I rather think your ex-colleague of Serampore, the Rev. Dr. George Smith, at one time acted as Editor of one of these papers, but, with his wide experience as Editor of the "Friend of India," he fretted under the intolerable control of the Edinburgh Ecclesiastics. When Dr. Smith would endeavour to instruct them in imperial questions, they flouted him, caring far more for trumpery local news about church squabbles and old women's fables. But, it is said, Lord Tweedmouth is going to face the breach once more, and next year we are promised a Radical journal to oppose the influence of the "Scotsman" in Edinburgh, and Scotland generally. Whether the resignation of Lord Rosebery may have interfered with the speculation, I do not know. The party can always depend on the money-bags of Lord Tweedmouth and of Lord Overton who has still to contribute to the party funds in recognition of his peerage. Writing of him reminds me you have just narrowly escaped the infliction of a visit from the

American windbag, Dr. Pentecost. This excellent arrangement for escaping our London winter and enjoying your grand cold weather season has been frustrated by the inability of Dr. Pentecost to secure competent men to fill his pulpit during his absence. He has the ridiculous idea—without knowing anything of India beyond a short residence and a cold weather scamper—that India is, to use Bible language, "to be born in a day." He wishes to have a hand in the harvest, and pious, heavy Lord Overton guaranteed his expenses to the tune of £1,000. Good wages, indeed, seeing it would keep three if not four missionaries for a twelvemonth! Dr. Pentecost, although not a Presbyterian, is in charge of the Marylebone Presbyterian Church, said to be the richest in London, but that Church must be weak indeed that has to fall back on an American congregationalist to fill the pulpit, in spite of Dr. Dykes' eleven students.

However, Dr. Pentecost knows how to make good terms, for while the bulk of the clergy of the Presbyterian Church of England have to content themselves with an income of £200, he would not undertake to save souls unless an income of £1,500 a year was guaranteed, in addition to £250 for house rent. At least, such is the story. But I have drifted far away from the "Scotsman." It is an illustration of the "association of ideas." Lord Rosebery suggests Lord Overton, he again suggests Dr. Pentecost, and now your readers have before them a brief history of one of the most remarkable developments of the Presbyterian Church of England for which it is indebted to the lay Archbishop of the Church, Mr. H. M. Matheson, the great China merchant.

Coventry Patmore. This singular man has gone over to the majority. He began life as a humble clerk in the British Museum, and he added to his financial difficulties by marrying a daughter of Dr. Andrews, a Congregational minister at Walworth. She brought him no dowry beyond her personal beauty and a sweet disposition. Patmore immortalized her in his "Angel in the House." But she was a victim to consumption, and met with an early death. He joined the Roman Church and soon after wedded a rich wife, which enabled him to abandon the British Museum, and assume the role of the country gentleman. On the death of this second wife, he encountered matrimony for a third time. He was evidently determined to face the wrath of St. Peter. You remember the story of the man who knocked at the gates of Paradise, when the gate was unlocked by Peter. To Peter's question as to whether the visitant had been married, the glib answer came, "I have been married twice." Thereupon the apostolic answer came in a stern refusal. "Once we forgive," quoth St. Peter, "but never twice." Let us hope Coventry Patmore met with no such repulse!

The Dockers' Strike at Hamburg. This has been brought about by the restless intrigues of two notorious "birds of evil omen"—J. H. Wilson and Tom Maun. The number of men who have struck work is put down at 12,000. It is anticipated the strike will extend to Bremen and Kiel as well as to the most important continental and English ports. Maun has been quietly deported to Grimsby. What a pity German law could not have kept Maun and Wilson in prison for five or six years! It was the Dock strike here some seven or eight years ago which inflicted a blow on the Thames shipping interests from which it has never rallied. That strike was engineered and fomented by John Burns. In fact, it was by it he fought his way into public life. But now that he is an M. P. and LL. C., you will not see him facing danger as do Maun and Wilson, thereby proving himself worthy of one of the epithets the "Globe" has attached to his name. When one thinks of the poor workmen (and their wives) of Battersea denying themselves of actual necessities to support this demagogue in luxury, (if it is luxury compared to his former artisan life) one marvels at their forbearance.

Spain and Cuba. I have kept you fully informed from time to time of the state of things in Cuba. So far there has been no improvement, indeed things are going from bad to worse for the mother country. General Weyler is evidently not competent for the guerrilla warfare in which he is enmeshed. He has 60,000 troops to the rebels' 10,000, and were it a pitched battle on open country, no doubt his task would be comparatively easy. But the rebel leaders are far too sagacious to risk a pitched battle. Better informed by the country people of what the Spanish troops are doing than is General Weyler of the tactics of the rebels, the latter draw him on and on into difficult ground, and when he reaches the rebel camp with his half-starving soldiers, it is only to find the place deserted, and nothing to welcome him but the ashes of the camp fires. The result of those marches and countermarches, with a badly worked commissariat, and disease hovering about, is that the Spanish General has had to send 6,000, sick and wounded into hospital at Havana, where his sick list, by the last advices to hand, now exceeds 16,000, or let us say 6,000 more than the effective fighting force of the rebels!

West Indian Sugar Trade. Cuba naturally suggests our own West Indian possessions, and the deplorable state into which their staple industry—sugar—has fallen. The matter has become one of such clamant urgency, that Mr. Chamberlain is about to send an Imperial Commission to enquire, on the spot, what is the present

condition of the industry, and what remedies, if any, of a practical character can be suggested for the adoption of the Home Government. We are apt to overlook what our West India possessions are. So high an authority as Mr. D. Morris writes: "We have in British Guiana alone an area of country equal to two Ceylons quite untouched; in British Honduras we have more than the area of the Fiji Islands; to Trinidad we could add the wealth of the Straits Settlements, and with the resources of the unworked soil of Jamaica we might emulate the prosperity of at least four colonies of the size of Mauritius." These are striking words and deserve to be laid to heart by every one who prides himself on being a loyal subject of the great Queen-Empress. Of the exports of British Guiana, sugar and its accompanying products may be calculated roughly to yield 92% of the total exports, Barbados 94%. In Jamaica itself 60%. In 1880 the total production of sugar for the world was 3,830,000 tons. Last year it had risen to 7,879,000. But then sugar is of two kinds, cane and beet. In the year 1880 of cane sugar 2,200,000 tons were produced, while of beet only 1,630,000. Last year all this was changed, cane showing 2,904,000 tons, against 4,975,000 of beet. The West India planter is sadly handicapped by the bounty system of foreign Governments, and not only so, but the severe protective duties on the continent of Europe handicap him still more. It is one of the strongest points in favour of Free Trade, for whereas in Great Britain the consumption per head of the population comes to 73lbs, in France, where there is a duty of £24 a ton, it falls to 28lbs per head. In Germany it is 26lbs and in Austria 17lbs. The one hope is that the bounty system will be modified. "Last year's crop involved a cost in round numbers of nearly £5,000,000" (five millions) to the bounty-giving Governments and the poor tax payers in France, Germany, and Austria are beginning to make their voices heard. They complain bitterly of being taxed for one set of the community only, and there are signs of an uprising such as the most autocratic Government on the Continent will be unable to withstand.

The appointment of an Imperial Commission will so far prove acceptable to the West India planter, but can he hold on in the meantime, until the Commission reports? If it takes as long as some recent ones any time between three and seven years may elapse, the longer term certainly if Sir W. Wedderburn and Mr. Dadabhai Naorojee are among the members. But fortunately for the West India planter, these wordy cranks are reserved for Commissions on India, where time being of no object to them, they squander it as only cranks and fanatics can.

Rhodesia. Lord Grey, the Administrator of Rhodesia, has addressed a long letter to the Board of the British South African Company. In it he sketches the new policy recommended by himself and Mr. Rhodes, to be adopted in administering that vast tract of country. It is an acknowledgment that on the defeat and death of Robengula, it was most erroneously "supposed that the native power of resistance had been definitely destroyed." It was assumed the Matabele, after the complete conquest to which they had succumbed, would, like the Sikhs, loyally accept the result. Among other measures, a force of native police was formed, consisting principally of the members of two of Loben's crack regiments. The principal recommendation of such a force was its economy. The cost of a native policeman was £30 a year, while that of a white averaged £200. In the future it is proposed to govern mainly through the native rulers. The more important chiefs are to receive a monthly salary and the tribal divisions of the country are to be restored.

These startling innovations are not unaccompanied by serious misgivings. As the "Times" well says, "the partial restoration of the old state of things may suggest to the Indumas how desirable a more complete revolution would be, and the re-establishment of tribal limits, tribal organization, and tribal authority can hardly fail to make such a step seem easier than when the only government was the government of the white man." The native police were foremost in the rebellion themselves, and the complaint is general that the oppression practised by them upon others was one of the main causes of the outbreak. The company have had a bitter experience, and, as those who control it are men of marked ability, we may trust with some confidence that they have not failed to understand and to take to heart the lesson of the past.

Turkey. By a strange fatality the first disagreement between Russia and France, on the Turkish question, has come to a head, just after the marvellous reception given in Paris to the Czar and Czarina. The French Bondholders, I believe, have the largest interest in the terribly depreciated public debt of Turkey. So M. Hanotaux drafted a scheme for ameliorating Turkish finance, which would eventually benefit the French monetary classes.

The minister in charge of the Russian finances, what we would call Chancellor of the Exchequer, M. de Witte, has the reputation of being one of the ablest and keenest masters of finance to be found in all Europe. So when the scheme of M. Hanotaux came before him, he mercilessly dissected it, and carried the Emperor entirely with him, in declining to have anything to do with the arrangement proposed by France. But in order to soothe French

susceptibilities, the declination was on the ground of the unwillingness of Russia to allow British intervention in the settlement of Turkish finance. The Czar, through his minister, insisting that the settlement of the Eastern question concerned, of the Great Powers, Russia and Austria only. But although M. de Witte's iron hand has been shielded by the Emperor's velvet glove, nonetheless, has it been a slap in the face to France.

The three tailors of Tooty Street have resurrected in the person of Messrs. G. Russell, Claydon and Tara. This ridiculous triumvirate has put itself forward to form a Radical association for working the Armenian agitation on strictly party lines, and for superseding Lord Salisbury as Prime Minister, to make way presumably for Mr. G. Russell. His name is the only one of the three I remember to have heard of. He is a cadet of the noble house of Bedford, with every member of which—always excepting that precious crank, Earl Russell,—he has quarrelled. He is a most bump-tious man, a sort of Christian Socialist, who, while boasting of his loyal adherence to the Church of England, does not scruple to appear on nonconformist platforms, to abuse it, and get intoxicated by the easily won plaudits of members of the Liberation Society. He is a man that would never have been heard of but for his slavish sycophantish flunkeyism of Mr. Gladstone, who rewarded him with £1,500 a year, in his last Ministry as Under Secretary for India. Like Mr. Caine, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Balfour, and others, he lost his seat at the general election last year and so relieved the House of Commons of the presence of the "Prince of Prigs" as he is called. The whole scheme is so fragrant of Hanley and Colney Hatch, one wonders if the three are not qualifying for an investigation by the Commissioners in lunacy!

LOOKING FROM THE LONELY ROCK.

THE island of St. Paul is merely a great rock in the Southern Ocean. It is the top of a volcanic mountain. There are no means of sustaining life to be found on it. The nearest inhabited land is Australia or Africa. To that ugly and desolate refuge came a boat containing nine persons—two of them women. They had food—on short allowance, for perhaps a week. In less than three days they were half insane from anxiety. Water, water, water everywhere, but no help. On the fifth day, at dawn, a brig hove to off the island. They saw her. Shouting, praying, weeping, they stumbled to the beach, and were rescued. It was our chance in a hundred. I'll tell you why some other time.

But, alas! isn't it as bad or even worse on land? Look at the physical wrecks in homes, in hospitals, and answer me. One perishes of privation from shipwreck. A thousand perish of privation in the midst of plenty. It isn't food they long for, but power to use it—worst and deadliest of all wants.

"My food seemed to give me no strength," says one of this army of unfortunates, "and as the hopeless, starving days passed slowly by I grew weaker and weaker. By-and-by my legs trembled and bent under me, and I could no longer get about."

"The ailment which reduced me to this fearful condition began in the spring of 1892. At first I hardly recognised it for what we commonly call a disease. I felt tired, heavy, and languid, as one often does on the approach of warm weather. I fancied it would pass away, but it did not. I lost my appetite, and only ate from habit and to keep me going. I had no pleasure in it, and no warmth or glow followed. One is well. No matter how light and careful I had been to select things that would not be apt to hurt me, the result was the same. No sooner had I swallowed it than my stomach sides full of pain. If you will strike back at me, as though I had no right to use it."

"There was a nasty bitter flavour in my mouth, more or less head-ache, and a kind of nervousness, which was new in my experience, as it was depressing and cheerless."

"Home remedies failing to help me, I consulted a doctor, but his prescriptions benefited me no more than our domestic medicines had done. My flesh and strength grew less, and I felt like one who has missed his way and looks in vain for a guide to point the road home."

"Finally I commenced attending the Leamington Hospital, and continued to do so for twelve months, but the treatment they gave me had no better effect than all the rest. You can hardly understand how weary I got of taking drugs. I turned almost with loathing from every new dose—not because of the taste, but because they deceived my hopes; they were of no use to me."

"In this state I was, when in March, 1894, a friend urged me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup. On account of the very reasons I have mentioned, I hated to experiment with any more medicines. But I overcame this aversion (most fortunately for me) and got a bottle of Mother Seigel's Syrup from Mr. Judd, the chemist, in Leamington, and after great improvement. I had no pain after eating, and my food felt right, as I grew stronger my nerves that by the continued use of the Syrup I got better daily and was soon as vigorous and well as ever. I have had no relapse, and have every reason to think my cure a permanent one. You are welcome to publish my letter. (Signed) (Miss) Lucy Eden, Tachbrook, near Leamington, September 26th, 1895."

We hope Miss Eden's recovery may indeed prove permanent, and if it does she will find no words too strong when she speaks of the remedy which wrought it. But oh, the vast multitude who still stand, like the shipwrecked people on the island, looking for rescue!—victims of that most obdurate, common and baneful of diseases, chronic dyspepsia. It is for their sakes that Miss Eden kindly writes her statement, and for their sakes we print it. May it reach many of them!

Sir George Chesney Memorial Committee.

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Memorial

TO THE LATE

SIR GEORGE CHESNEY, K.C.B., R.E., M.P.

A Meeting was held, on the 24th April, at the Royal United Service Institution, of some of the friends of the late Sir George Chesney, to consider the question of the commemoration of his distinguished services as Soldier, Administrator, Statesman, and Author. General Sir John J. Norman presided, and was supported by Field Marshals Sir Lintorn Simmons and Sir Donald Stewart, and other friends of Sir George Chesney. To carry out the object of the Meeting, a General Committee was formed, which included the gentlemen then present, and in addition, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, General Sir George White, Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir H. S. King, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Meredith Townsend, General Richard Strachey, Mr. William Blackwood, and others.

The Memorial should take as its basis the future consideration of the Committee, and should depend on the amount subscribed, but suggestions tended towards a bust of Sir George for the India Office, and a medal for his contributions to Military Literature. It was resolved to limit each subscription to a maximum of three guineas.

Subscriptions will be received by Lieutenant-General J. J. Innes, 9, Lexham Gardens, Cromwell Road, London, W.

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Hon. the Secretary:
I would be glad to have your advice.
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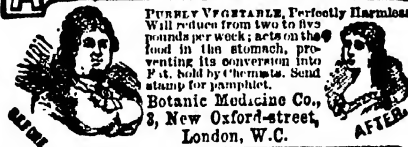
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